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June 21, 2025 / Vol. 3 No. 84 www.justliberationnews.com @justlibnews Justliberationnews @justliberationnews Justliberationnews ₦200

FROM THE ARCHIVE

Silence and smile are two powerful tools. Smile is the way to solve many problems and silence is the way to avoid many problems.

Decay at UNICAL: Female students bemoan deplorable facilities at 'Malabo Republic' hostel

Benue: Nigerians don't need peace without justice



Anxiety as armed herders overrun communities in Plateau, Taraba, kill 15, raze houses

Benue: Nigerians don't need peace without justice



Everyone is crying out for peace, yes,
None is crying out for justice.
I don't want no peace,
I need equal rights and justice.
Got to get it! Equal rights and justice.
I'm fighting for it! Equal rights and justice. - Lyrics from the 1977 album title song, Equal Rights, of Jamaican reggae legend Peter Tosh (1944-87).

BY IKEDDY ISIGUZO

WHAT informs the tardy, ticky-tacky, trite policies of governments when Nigerians are attacked, hundreds killed and their farms are devastated?

Are there policies, in these instances, what instruct that the President must ignore the attacks, drag his feet until people start shouting at him, and he makes the trip with obvious reluctance?

Does Nigeria have a play book from where Presidents, notably elected on the All Progressives Congress platform copy this distressing behaviour?

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu had no business being around Benue State if all he had to tell the people with, all the sorrow, depression and uncertainties around them, was nothing.

Tinubu was exception for haranguing President Goodluck Jonathan with social media tweets after tweets blaming him for doing nothing about insecurity. Has Tinubu forgotten?

Here is the summary of Tinubu addressing a people who have lost so many lives, and know that the show in Makurdi was not a guarantee that another attack was not looming:

a. I had to cancel my scheduled visited to Kaduna State, to commission projects by the state government, to be here.

He possibly expected a round of applause. Such great sacrifice that the President made. Coming really inconvenienced him. He must have trekked from Abuja to Makurdi, where school children lined the streets, under the rain, waiting for his arrival. Some of those children could be sick now.

Why did it take the President five days after the killings to visit? He was busy in Abuja commissioning water and road projects - Benue could wait, someone reasoned, justifying it with the fact that the President had no powers to raise the dead. Why the hurry?

b. Live in peace and harmony with each other. Reconcile with each other.



Tinubu could have copied those lines from Buhari who in 2018 visited Benue 12 weeks after New Year killings that that lasted 11 days and claimed more lives, according to villagers, than the 73 buried in Makurdi.

"Your Excellency, the Governor, and all the leaders here, I am appealing to you to try to restrain your people. I assure you that the Police, the Department of State Security and other security agencies had been directed to ensure that all those behind the mayhem get punished. I ask you in the name of God to accommodate your country men. You can also be assured that I am just as worried, and concerned with the situation,' Buhari told Benue leaders in Abuja, two weeks after the killings.

Note that the duty of restraint was imposed on those who were mourning their dead.

Something worse happened. Buhari's spokesman Femi Adeshina schooled Benue people on another occasion, "Ancestral attachment? You can only have ancestral attachment when you are alive. If you are dead , how does the attachment matter? The National Economic Council that recommended ranching didn't just legislate it; there were recommendations.

"So, if your State does not have land for ranching, it is understandable. Not every State will have land for ranches. But, where you have land and you can do something, please do for peace. What will the land be used for if those who own it are dead at the end of the day?"

The same Benue is still the issue today.

In 2025, Tinubu compares our lives with cattle and came to the sound judgement that Nigerian lives were more important than cattle.

The event on Wednesday was a show once an official announcement by Benue State Government asked support groups to turn up in their colours to give the President a colourful and rousing reception. It was a political party rally. Was it a surprise that the condolence visit was bereft of the sobriety of mourning more than 200 people?

"The value of human life is greater than that of a cow. We are here to govern, not to bury," Tinubu told the stakeholders meeting. To Governor Hyacinth Alia, "Your political enemies don't want you to succeed. Are you just realising that?". Politics, always politics

Great as Tinubu's sudden wisdom seems in realising the importance of human life, he may be re-starting the human life-cow debate.

June last year, a ranking Senator debated on the floor of the Senate that cattle were citizens of Nigeria and have constitutional rights. He was pained at the denial of citizenship rights to cattle. The debate was on a bill for ranching.

Look at his pedigree, my assumption is that pedigree still has meaning. He was Governor of Kebbi State for eight years, was elected a Senator in 2007, a position he left to be President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's Minister of Federal Capital Territory for two years. He has had an uninterrupted tenure in the Senate since 2015.

His name? Adamu Aliero.

Aliero is well-educated. The 1980 graduate of political science knows Nigeria well enough and the damage that open grazing of cows has done around the country.

His service in the Nigeria Immigration and in the Customs and Excise Service took him to different parts of Nigeria. He wasted the experience in preference for a parochial, dim debate on shared citizenship with cows.

"Cows are not citizens of Nigeria, Senator Aliero, are you arguing with me? The Section you are referring to is talking about citizens of Nigeria. And cows are not citizens of Nigeria. Cows can come from Niger, Chad or anywhere," Senate President Obong Godswill Akpabio, shouted.

Tinubu has the likes of Aliero to contend with as ranching is proposed again as a solution to the wasting of lives that is hinged on open grazing.

In the light of these staged confusions, Nigerians are not asking for equal rights, as Peter Tosh sang 48 years ago. equal rights with cows?

What we want is justice. The emptiness of peace and harmony stares us daily in the face. How do the living reconcile with those they killed?

The face of the woman tending her child in the hospital, a child who will grow up with one hand chopped off by those who kill and maim without hinderance, speaks of disdain and anger at the Tinubu crowd that flooded the hospital in the false sympathy that cannot provide solutions to the killings. She simply turned her face away from the visitors, attired as if they were celebrating the event.

Nigerians, everywhere, want justice. The killings are very wild spread. Words will not bring about justice.

Too many reasons are given for the attacks that started as farmers-herders clashes to genocidal attacks, and are also by terrorists. No reasons are enough to allow their persistence and the patience of the government.

Having known the reasons for the attacks, what is the government doing? Waiting for the same attacks to repeat the same message with the same sentiments?

For starts, Tinubu can punish those who refuse his orders to arrest the killers. There are too many excuses that are being turned to reasons.

The criminals perpetuating these mayhems no matter who they are, or where they issue from, should be arrested, and punished for their crimes? Or do we now have laws that refuse to punish criminals because they are foreigners or herders?

Nigerians are tired of these tragedies being turned to comedies with upscaled expertise. Now that Tinubu has spoken of the importance of human beings, we want to see his deeds reflect it.

ISIGUZ0 is a major commentator on minor issues

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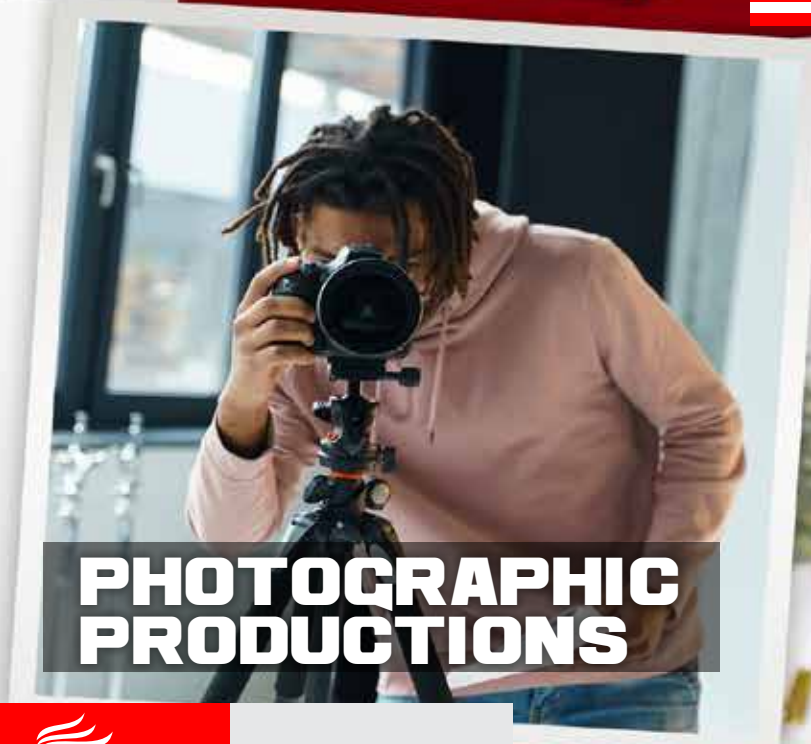
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Anxiety as armed herders overrun communities in Plateau, Taraba, kill 15, raze houses

BY ORIAKU IJELE (LAGOS) & DAVID DACHEN (JOS)

As the nation grappled with the shocks of attacks by gunmen on communities in Benue State a few days ago, it woke up Friday, with reports of fresh attacks in communities in Plateau and Taraba states, leading to loss of over 19 lives, aside destruction of homes, and displacement of vulnerable citizens.

The Daily Monitor on Saturday gathered that communities in

in Bokkos and Mangu Local Government Areas were affected in Plateau State, while Bali LGA was affected in Taraba, primarily as a result of a conflict over source of water.

It was reported that, "The deadly attack on Juwan in the Tangur District of Bokkos Local Government Area occurred on Thursday night, with ten persons killed and some others sustaining serious injuries.

"In Manja, Chafem Chiefdom of Mangu Local Government Area, three persons were killed on Thursday evening.

"They were on the farm tilling the grounds and tending their farmland when the attackers caught them unaware and killed them. Others escaped with injuries after the intervention of security operatives following a distress call from those who escaped the onslaught."

According to the Chairman of Bokkos Local Government Council, Amalau Samuel, the incident was barbaric and inhuman.

"The attackers came late at night and started killing innocent people. They were going from house to house, and where they could not gain entrance, they broke through the ceiling.

"Those affected mostly are the aged and children who could not run, while those agile fled for safety".

The terrorists in the other attack in Manja, Chafem Kingdom of Mangu, killed three persons on the farm with over twenty houses burnt before the intervention of security operatives.

Mathew Kwarpo, said the terrorists invaded the community and killed three people before they were repelled by security men in conjunction with the youths.

"In the second attack, there was no casualty, but the people are already displaced. So, we are appealing to both the state and federal governments to come to our aid.

"The attacks in recent times on our communities are just too much. Anytime they issued notice of an attack, they would fulfill it.

"The security men are no doubt trying their best, but they are being overpowered. This is a calculated attempt to seize our land from us and to occupy our land illegally. So we are calling on President Tinubu to intervene," he said.

In Taraba, Aboki Dauda, the LG boss of Bali bemoaned such attacks, ruing over the massive destruction on livelihoods in the area following the attacks.

According to him, "What happened here was terrible, you can see houses burnt, people displaced, but thank God that there was no life lost.

"Trouble started at the pond where the Tiv people were fetching water, the Fulani herders brought their cattle there, destroyed the area, and a woman who went to fetch water confronted them for spoiling the water by asking their cattle to drink from where they fetch to also drink," he said.

"There and then, they attacked her with their sticks and she fell, cried, and called the husband and neighbours to assist her, and from there the crisis escalated all over the two communities.

"I took a bold step and summoned the leaders of the herders at the local government secretariat. We have identified them and warned that if such is repeated, they will be held responsible."

An eye witness, who is a farmer said: "While running, I pulled out my phone and called our Tiv leader, who instructed me to run to the police station immediately. While escaping, I couldn't go further. I stopped, and they pounced on me; they were about 30, hitting me with sticks and cutlasses, and that was how they inflicted injuries on me."

In response, Taraba State Government says it will not tolerate any breach of peace in the form of communal clashes or any farmers vs herders conflicts to scuttle its peace efforts.



Nigerian Navy Ship PATHFINDER deactivatING an illegal connection to a wellhead, 2 illegal refining sites with 3 refining ovens and 4 dug out pits laden with unspecified quantity of illegally siphoned crude oil in Egbema, Rivers State.

NEMA, JICA strengthen ties on disaster preparedness

In a major step toward improving disaster readiness, NEMA has reaffirmed its commitment to building safer and more resilient communities across Nigeria.

The agency's Director-General, Mrs Zubaida Umar, expressed optimism that NEMA's partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) would bolster disaster management capabilities.

She stated this in Abuja on Friday during JICA's visit to NEMA headquarters to discuss emergency support for flood-related disasters in Nigeria.

Umar expressed satisfaction with the enduring partnership, noting the crucial role of global cooperation in reducing disaster risks.

"This visit offers an opportunity to strengthen our joint commitment to disaster risk management in Nigeria," she said.

She acknowledged Japan's consistent and demand-driven support through JICA, especially in times of critical need.

Umar recalled the 2014 Japanese grant of 500 million Yen, used to acquire vital emergency equipment for NEMA's operations.

The items include six mobile water treatment units, nine Rapid Response Vehicles, and two command vehicles equipped for relief efforts.

She highlighted that JICA has also provided maintenance services, staff training, and insurance coverage for these assets.

These resources have been deployed in disaster-prone areas, notably during floods in Mokwa (May 2025) and Maiduguri (September 2024).

Umar thanked JICA and the Japanese people for their continued assistance, especially in climate-related and conflict-driven emergencies.

She praised Japan's global leadership in disaster risk reduction, referencing the Sendai and Hyogo Frameworks and the Kyoto Protocol.

Umar called for expanded collaboration to address challenges from floods, droughts, heatwaves, and disease outbreaks caused by climate change.

She also requested more emergency assets, staff training programmes, and support for a national risk atlas to guide future responses.

"As the rainy season progresses, NEMA remains at the forefront of emergency operations nationwide," she affirmed.

Umar appreciated JICA's confidence in NEMA's mission to safeguard lives and livelihoods across the country.

JICA's Chief Representative in Nigeria, Mr Yuzurio Susumu, highlighted the essential role of government in managing disasters.

He stressed that effective emergency response and recovery depend on strong, capable public institutions.

Susumu added that JICA's global mission includes building such institutions by developing skilled human resources.

He noted JICA's long-standing work with partner countries to improve disaster preparedness and response systems.

"Our goal is to ensure governments can respond quickly and rebuild effectively after disasters strike," he said.

Decay at UNICAL: Female students bemoan deplorable facilities at 'Malabo Republic' hostel

IDONGESIT INYANG, CALABAR

Female students of the University of Calabar UNICAL have complained bitterly of frequent flooding, threats of wild animal especially reptiles as well as fear of electrocution in their hostels, positing that the state of the facilities make life unbearable for them.

During a visit by our reporter, many of the students who pleaded anonymity, said they were not safe anymore.

They recounted how many of them have suffered electricity shocks due to the exposure of naked wires as the hostels are always flooded due to leakages on the roofs.

According to one of them, "we'll spend time scooping the water, even as our course books and other valuables are often been soaked and besides this, the environment of the hostel is very untidy, giving room to dangerous reptiles and other animals.

"Our living environment is not conducive and very risky for human habitation as often, dangerous animals surface, threatening us."

Another female student who also pleaded anonymity, said "I have personally lost my handouts and costly books. My mates have similarly suffered the same fate. We're not safe in this hostel," she said.

Additionally, the gutters and soak-away are filled to the brim, and they appealed that the school authorities should help in emptying them.

While, they spoke well of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Florence Obi, for her efforts at infrastructural development in the school, they appealed to her to visit the 'Malabo Republic' which houses the hostels and see their living conditions.

2027 Poll: Coalition seeks registration of new political party, All Democratic Alliance

Ahead of the 2027 general elections, the National Opposition Coalition Group (NOCG), comprising major national political figures, including a former Minister of Transport, Rotimi Amaechi, has written to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to register its newly formed political party, All Democratic Alliance (ADA).

The development followed a meeting of the coalition in Abuja on May 6, 2025, according to a statement by the group dated May 19 and signed by Amaechi and Umar Ardo as the Chairman and Secretary of the New Platform Committee (NPC), respectively.

The NPC comprises 15 members mandated to form an association to apply to INEC to register a new political party.

According to the statement, a series of meetings were held, sub-committees were constituted, and reports were submitted to the Committee leading to the meeting and resolutions.

At the meeting of the New Platform Committee held on Thursday, June 19, 2025, the Committee approved the formation of the ADA as a political association and the party's logo, slogan, and motto.

Also approved were the party manifesto, its constitution, and the appointment of the interim leadership of the party, with Chief Akin A. Ricketts as Protem Chairman, and Abdullahi Musa Elayo as Protem National Secretary.

The coalition also approved the interim leadership of the new political party to secure a befitting office accommodation, open a bank account for the party, upon registration by INEC, for financial transactions, and operate the activities of the party as enshrined in the constitution of the party and the Electoral Act (2022).

There have been growing talks about the possible formation of a coalition, comprising a former Vice President and 2023 presidential candidate of the the Peoples Democratic Party, Atiku Abubakar; the 2023 presidential candidate of the Labour Party, Peter Obi; and a former governor of Kaduna State, Nasir El-Rufai, to unseat President Bola Tinubu in the 2027 presidential election.

The spokesman of Atiku had in May said his principal and other political heavyweights like Peter Obi, and El-Rufai, were in talks over plans to float a coalition ahead of the 2027 election.


THE SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA
History, Establishment, Jurists & Speeches
By
Lawal Pedro, SAN, FCIArb.
Abdulrasheed Ibrahim, Notary Public
Foreword By:
Hon. Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, GCON
Chief Justice of Nigeria

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Defamation: Real estate giant, PWAN battles Scott Iguma over online claims

BY TOSIN ADAMS

The PWAN group of companies has debunked the claims made against them by online real estate critic, Scott Iguma, tagging them a company that lacks proper documentation. In his own words " they sell receipts,". The online critic had further sent warnings to clients and prospective customers about some of PWAN estates, alleging that a good number of the property owners may well be at risk of losing their property to the government or worse, as some of them had been mapped out by the government".

Speaking to the press, the acting group director PWAN Group, Ambassador Julius Oyedemi stated,"Our attention has been drawn to a viral video publication by one Scott Iguma on his social media accounts.

"In the said video he claimed PWAN never made full payment for those estates, PWAN did not perfect their title, amongst other malicious claims."

Speaking further, the MD PWAN PLUS stated,"Cedarwood Park and Cedarwood Gardens were among the first set of estates introduced into the market and sold in 2017-18. The lands were duly charted and confirmed to be free from any government commitment and any known encumbrances prior to the acquisition of the lands and I have all documentation of both properties signed by all parties involved," he said, as he displayed said documents to the press for authentication.

"I would not say, there are no challenges, as expected in any line of business, but we have a physical office and proper channels which are open to the public and particularly our clients to address their grievances if there are any. For instance, in cases where there are issues or the plot allocated was not to the satisfaction of our clients, we offer them a swap option, that is to move them to an alternative plot. It is devilish to see a concerted effort to defame 13 years of hard work over verifiable yet unverified information just for social media clout.

"We are not fraudsters! And as a responsible and law-abiding organization this press interaction is necessary to debunk these false allegations and assuage our clients, realtors and the public.

"In law, Scott Iguma is best treated as a tainted witness and we are putting him to the strictest proof of his claims that PWAN PLUS did not finish payment for Cedarwood Gardens and Park and the source of his information. Our legal representatives will be escalating Scott Iguma's defamatory statement to the appropriate law enforcement and judicial authorities for necessary intervention", he concluded.



Personalities at the 11th Nigeria Transport Lecture which held at Radisson Blu Hotel, Ikeja GRA, Lagos with the theme: "Sustainable Transportation in Nigeria: Prospects & Challenges."

River Park Estate dispute: Court restrains I-G, EFCC, others from taking any action

The Federal High Court in Abuja has restrained the Inspector-General (I-G) of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) from taking any action relating with the River Park Estate dispute.

Justice Obiora Egwuatu, in a ruling, also restrained other parties in the suit, including the Commissioner of Police, FCT, Ajao Saka Adewale, from action that may foist a "fait accompli" on the court in the matter.

Justice Egwuatu subsequently adjourned the matter until June 26 for commencement of the hearing on the land dispute.

Other defendants in the suit marked: FHC/ABJ/CS/1130/2025 are DCP Akin Fakorede, Head of the I-G Monitoring Unit, Force Headquarters; the FCT Zonal Commander of the EFCC, Mr Michael Wetkas; an EFCC investigator, Eunice Vou Dalyop, also an ACE 1, and Kabiru Baba.

The developers of River Park Estate, JonahCapital Ltd and Houses for Africa Ltd, Samuel Esson Jonah, Kojo Ansah Mensah, Victor Quainoo, and their legal practitioner, Abu Arome, had filed the case.

In their fundamental rights enforcement suit, they sought among others, an interim injunction restraining the police, EFCC and other parties before the court, pending the hearing and determination of the substantive matter.

The suit arose due to several petitions over the alleged trespass and ownership of the estate, which forced the I-G to set up a Special Investigation Panel (SIP) to harmonise and investigate the petitions forwarded by different interests.

The businessmen claimed that after several weeks of sitting, the panel concluded its report and forwarded same to the IGP, who in turn informed the parties through the Principal Staff Officer 1 to the I-G that the report submitted by the SIP would be sent to the Commissioner of Police, Legal to review and look out for criminal and triable offences.

According to the Ghanaian businessmen, Paulo Homes Limited subsequently wrote another petition on April 10 to the I-G alleging the same allegations, which had already been investigated by the SIP.

The Ghanaians also informed the court that despite different letters, such as that of March 20 and April 16, sent to Egbetokun and Fakorede, for the release of the investigation report of the SIP conducted by an 11-member team, they had received no reply.

Instead, the Head of the I-G Monitoring Unit, Fakorede, allegedly commenced another investigation on the same subject matter, in a bid to alter the report of the 11-man panel of the I-G investigation panel.

The investors alleged that, despite purporting to be conducting a fresh investigation into the matter, Fakorede, who is a former head of Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), had continued to invite them, harass and intimidate them.

They also informed the court that, in what appears to be double jeopardy, the EFCC arrested Mr Kojo Ansah Mensah, the CEO of JonahCapital and Houses for Africa Nigeria, and interrogated him for several days.

NERC to GenCos: Integrate operations with SCADA by Dec 31

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has issued a new directive requiring all grid-connected Power Generation Companies (GenCos) to fully integrate their operations with the National Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system by Dec. 31.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that (SCADA)/Energy Management System (EMS) serves as the central nervous system of grid operations—enabling automated controls, real-time fault detection, and live monitoring of power generation output.

According to the Commission, GenCos that fail to comply with this directive will face significant financial penalties and possible disconnection from the national grid.

The directive is contained in a newly released regulatory framework titled: "Order on the Mandatory Integration of Grid-Connected Generating Units into the New SCADA/EMS for the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry."

The order was published on NERC's website on Friday and took effect from May 22.

It was signed by NERC Chairman, Garba Sanusi, and Vice Chairman, Musiliu Oseni.

According to the commission, the integration shall include real-time data transmission of the following parameters: Active Power, Reactive Power, Frequency, Voltage, Status of Circuit breakers, and Fault alarms.

It also said that the document further provided many other details required from the Gencos and other operators in the sector.

According to the commission, the order seeks to strengthen real-time monitoring of the power grid, improve operational efficiency, enhance load dispatch, and reduce nationwide system disturbances by ensuring full visibility of electricity generation across the country.

"The national grid has in recent years experienced several collapses, often traced to inadequate coordination between generation, transmission and distribution assets.

'Functional SCADA/EMS acts as the central nervous system of grid operations, enables automated controls, timely fault detection, and live monitoring of generation output.

"However, many GenCos are still not fully connected to this system," it said.

The commission said that the new order compelled power generators to install SCADA- compliant data acquisition devices, ensure compatibility with the TCN's protocols and allow remote visibility by the Nigerian Independent System Operator.

"The order read, "Pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Grid Code for the Nigeria Electricity Transmission System (the "Grid Code" or the "Code"), all the generation companies are mandated to provide real-time operational data to the Nigerian Independent System Operator through the SCADA/EMS to facilitate effective grid management.

Police arrest 210, seize drugs, weapons in Borno

The Police Command in Borno has arrested 210 suspects and recovered large quantities of hard drugs and weapons during operations conducted from June 11 to 18.

The Borno Commissioner of Police, Naziru AbdulMajid, revealed this on Friday while addressing journalists at the Command Headquarters in Maiduguri.

He said the operations involved raids, surveillance, stop-and-search actions, and coordinated enforcement targeting handset snatching, youth gangsterism, thuggery, and drug abuse.

According to him, out of the 210 suspects arrested, 86 have been convicted, while 124 remain under investigation.

Recovered items included 58 tramadol sachets, 175 exzol tablets, 130 D5 tablets, and 395 wraps plus 1kg of dried leaves suspected to be Indian hemp.

Other seized items were 28 ermo tablets, 10 bottles of drug syrup, 19 shisha pots and pipes, nine knives, and two customised antelope horns.

AbdulMajid credited the success to the Rapid Response Squad Social Vices Unit, a joint force of police and other security agencies.

He praised the dedication and bravery of officers and thanked the Borno government for revitalising and equipping the RRS unit.

He also appreciated the state's Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Hauwa Abubakar, for enabling swift prosecution of the suspects.

The CP urged residents to support security agencies by reporting suspicious behaviour and sharing reliable intelligence to aid investigations.



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US court allows Trump to keep control of National Guard in LA

A US appeals court has ruled that President Donald Trump can keep control of National Guard troops he deployed to Los Angeles, despite objections from city leaders and California Governor Gavin Newsom.

Trump deployed the troops in response to widespread protests against his immigration crackdown. Local officials called it an unnecessary provocation.

A three-judge panel on Thursday said he was within his rights to order the troops into service to "protect federal personnel... [and] property". Trump called it a "big win".

The decision halts a ruling from a lower court judge who found Trump acted illegally when mobilising the troops.

In that earlier ruling, Judge Charles Breyer said Trump "did not" follow the law set by Congress on the deployment of a state's National Guard.

"His actions were illegal... He must therefore return control of the California National Guard to the Governor of the State of California forthwith," he wrote in his decision.

The judge however stayed the order until 13 June to give the Trump administration time to appeal against it, which it did almost immediately after.

Thursday's unanimous ruling said Trump's "failure to issue the federalisation order directly 'through' the Governor of California does not limit his otherwise lawful authority to call up the National Guard".

"This is much bigger than Gavin [Newsom], because all over the United States, if our Cities, and our people, need protection, we are the ones to give it to them should State and Local Police be unable, for whatever reason, to get the job done," Trump wrote on social media after the decision.

He also congratulated the court, adding: "America is proud of you tonight!"

Girl dies in food poisoning outbreak in northern France

A 12-year-old girl has died and seven other children have been taken to hospital in an outbreak of severe food poisoning centred around a northern French town.

Symptoms began to emerge on 12 June in and around Saint-Quentin, south of Lille, with the children rushed to hospital over the following days.

The cause of the outbreak is yet to be identified, as the children, aged 1-12, are not thought to have mixed in the same groups.

The girl died on Monday from a rare condition called haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) linked to acute kidney failure, according to the local prefect in the Aisne area. The most common cause of the infection is E.coli bacteria.

The latest case was reported on Wednesday evening, the regional health authority in Hauts-de France said.

All eight children were admitted to hospital with severe digestive symptoms, such as bloody diarrhea, and five of them had developed HUS, the authority said.

Health authorities are conducting biological analysis in an attempt to identify the bacterial strain involved in each case.

They said there was no indication the children ate meals together and they have ruled out any issues with local tap water, which "can be used for drinking and for all everyday purposes".

The infectious disease (HUS) is most often caused by E.coli food poisoning, authorities said. However, as the families involved had sourced their food from a variety of places, the origin of contamination is proving hard to find.

Food inspectors were investigating whether contaminated meat was behind the outbreak. Several butchers in Saint-Quentin were closed on Thursday, local news outlet L'Aisne nouvelle reported.

One butcher said all his meat, marinades and spices had been taken away to be checked.

Parents have been told to be vigilant and ensure strict hygiene at home, with authorities advising regular hand-washing, washing of fruit and vegetables, thoroughly cooking meat and separating raw and cooked food.





Zambian ex-president to be buried in South Africa after funeral row

The family of Zambia's former President Edgar Lungu says he will be buried in South Africa in a private ceremony following a row with the government over the funeral arrangements.

Late on Thursday, President Hakainde Hichilema cut short a period of national mourning after Lungu's family refused to allow his body to be repatriated from South Africa as planned. His funeral had been set for Sunday in Zambia's capital, Lusaka.

The family now says it will announce later when Lungu will be buried in Johannesburg in "dignity and peace".

It will be the first time a former head of state of another country is buried in South Africa.

In his will, Lungu said that Hichilema, his long-time rival, should not attend his funeral.

The government and his family later agreed he would have a state funeral before relations broke down over the precise arrangements.

"We wish to announce that the funeral and burial of our beloved Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu will take place here in South Africa, in accordance with the family's wishes for a private ceremony," family spokesperson Makebi Zulu said in a statement.

Mr Zulu thanked the South African government for "non-interference" and honouring the family's decision and desire during "this deeply emotional period".

In his address on Thursday, President Hichilema said that Lungu, as a former president, "belongs to the nation of Zambia" and his body should therefore "be buried in Zambia with full honours, and not in any other nation".

However, because of the row, he announced an immediate end to the mourning period, saying the country needed to "resume normal life".

"The government has done everything possible to engage with the family of our departed sixth president," he said.

The national mourning period initially ran from 8 to 14 June but was later extended until 23 June, with flags flying at half-mast and radio stations playing solemn music.

President Hichilema and senior officials had been prepared to receive Lungu's coffin with full military honours on Wednesday.

However, Lungu's family blocked the repatriation of his remains at the last minute, saying the government had reneged on its agreement over the funeral plans.

"The government has turned a solemn occasion into a political game," said PF acting president Given Lubinda. "This is not how we treat a former head of state."

Civil society groups have called for an urgent resolution of the matter, with a section of religious leaders saying the stand-off was "hurting the dignity of our country".

"We appeal for humility, dialogue, and a resolution that honours the memory of the former president while keeping the nation united," said Emmanuel Chikoya, head of the Council of Churches in Zambia.

Lungu, who led Zambia from 2015 to 2021, died earlier this month in South Africa where he was receiving treatment for an undisclosed illness.

Israeli military kills 23 Palestinians near aid site in Gaza, medics say

Israeli forces have killed 23 Palestinians after opening fire on crowds gathered near an aid distribution site, witnesses and medics say.

Tanks and drones fired at thousands of people near a distribution centre in central Gaza run by the US and Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), the witnesses and medics said.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said troops fired warning shots after people gathered nearby. An Israeli aircraft then struck "several suspects" who the IDF said continued walking towards troops.

The GHF has denied a shooting occurred near its sites. The Hamas-run health ministry says more than 400 Palestinians have been killed in similar incidents since late May.

That is when the GHF took over most aid distribution in Gaza in an attempt by Israel to bypass the UN as the main supplier of aid.

The move followed a complete three-month Israeli blockade during which no food entered the territory, putting the entire population at critical risk of famine according to a UN-backed assessment.

In almost all incidents, witnesses have said that Israeli troops opened fire, although there have also been reports of local armed gunmen shooting at people.

A spokesperson for al-Awda hospital in Nuseirat confirmed they received 23 bodies and more than 100 wounded. Images from the hospital showed bodies on the floor.

The IDF said the incident was under review.

The UN children's agency Unicef said the Israel- and US-backed food distribution system run by GHF was "making a desperate humanitarian situation worse".

Unicef spokesperson James Elder said a lack of public clarity on when the sites, some of which are in combat zones, were open was leading to mass casualty events.

"There have been instances where information (was) shared that a site is open, but then it's communicated on social media that they're closed, but that information was shared when Gaza's internet was down and people had no access to it," he told reporters in Geneva.

He said many women and children had been wounded while trying to receive food aid, including a young boy who was wounded by a tank shell and later died.

On Thursday, at least 12 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces while waiting for aid, according to rescuers and medics. The GHF denied there were any incidents near its site. The Israeli military told Reuters that "suspects" had attempted to approach forces in the area of Netzarim, and that soldiers had fired warning shots.

On Tuesday witnesses said more than 50 people were killed when Israeli forces opened fire and shelled an area near a junction to the east of Khan Younis, where thousands of Palestinians had been gathering in the hope of getting flour from a World Food Programme (WFP) site, which also includes a community kitchen nearby. The Israeli military said "a gathering" had been identified "in proximity to IDF troops operating in the area" and the incident was under review.

Unicef also warned that Gaza was facing a man-made drought as its water systems were collapsing. Just 40% of rinking water production facilities were still functioning, Mr Elder said.

"Children will begin to die of thirst," he said, adding: "We are way below emergency standards in terms of drinking water for people in Gaza."

Eagle Theatre Drama Series Debut on EFCC Radio

Greater opportunities for sensitization and education on the dangers of corruption, economic and financial crimes are now available for the public, courtesy of a new drama series on EFCC Radio 97.3 FM, titled Eagle Theatre.

The drama series was presented on Thursday, June 19, 2025 at the corporate headquarters of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC to the Commission's Executive Chairman, Mr. Ola Olukoyede by the Director General of the National Film and Video Censors Board, NFVCB, Dr. Shuaibu Husseini.

As a product of collaboration and partnership between the EFCC and NFVCB, Husseini while presenting the drama series, disclosed that it highlighted the dangers and consequences of corrupt practices in the country while promoting the values of integrity, patriotism, accountability and transparency.

"We are here to present this special project. This project, conceived under our Service Innovation Unit is our modest contribution to the ongoing anti-corruption campaign, being championed vigorously since you became the Chairman of this Commission. Through the compelling medium of drama and storytelling, we believe that Eagle Theatre explores real life-inspired scenarios and everyday moral choices that confront Nigerians, highlighting the dangers and consequences of corrupt practices while promoting the values of integrity, patriotism, accountability and transparency"

"We believe that when stories resonate with the people, when characters reflect the choices and challenges of ordinary citizens, they can serve as a powerful instrument of change. So, Eagle Theatre is our attempt to give voice to the anti-corruption message in a format that entertains, educates and also enlightens. We trust that this programme will strengthen the Commission's public engagement and deepen awareness on the far-reaching implications of economic and financial crimes," he said.

Speaking further, Husseini assured on behalf of the NFVCB to continue to galvanize the film industry players on the side of EFCC's anti-corruption fight. "I want to assure on behalf of the Board that we will continue our engagement with film and skit makers on the need to support what you are doing to ensure that we have a corruption-free society. Our plan is that when this catches on, we will translate it into videos because when people see and hear, it sticks more. So we will translate the radio versions into videos and we will collaborate with the NTA to see how we can run them. I wish to restate the unwavering commitment of the NFVCB to work collaboratively with the EFCC in advancing national development, promoting civic responsibility and ensuring that the media and entertainment sectors are instruments of positive change" he said.

Olukoyede, who was delighted by the outcome of the EFCC, NFVCB synergy noted that awareness creation was a crucial aspect of the Commission's mandate.

"Our mandate is not just about investigation and prosecution, it has its social aspects which is prevention through advocacy, enlightenment and reorientation. When you arrest some people for spraying money and mutilating our currency, they will tell you, 'we didn't know it was a crime; we are not aware' and all of that. Even though ignorance is not an excuse in law enforcement, at the same time it is incumbent on us to also create awareness. And one of the best means of creating that awareness is the industry that you regulate", he said.

While harping on the critical role the Eagle Theatre drama series will play in awareness creation on the work of the Commission, Olukoyede observed that "Things such as this have a way of appealing to people's mind. I've discovered on this job that when you bring certain things to people and let them know the implications of what they are doing, the propensity to do worse will be reduced. At least they will caution themselves.

Kaduna Court Jails Two for Fraudulent Internet Activities

Justice R.M.Aikawa of the Federal High Court, sitting in Kaduna has convicted and sentenced Isaac Otaigbe Omonodion and Obinna Daniel to jail for fraud.

They were prosecuted by the Kaduna Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on separate a one-count charge that border on impersonation, obtaining by false pretence and cybercrime.

The charge against Omonodion reads: "That you Isaac Otaigbe Omonodion (a.k.a. Major Hashim), male, sometime in April, 2025 in Bida, Niger State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently impersonated one Major Hashim (a Nigerian military personnel) on Facebook, with the intent to gain advantage to yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (b) (I) of the Cybercrimes Prohibition Act, 2015 and punishable under Section 22 (2) (b) (IV) of the same Act."

EFCC Arraigns Medical Doctor for Alleged N39.1m Visa Fraud in Port Harcourt



The Port Harcourt Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Thursday, June 19, 2025 arraigned one Dr. Nekabari Dambere Nathan, a Port Harcourt-based medical doctor before Justice P. I. Ajoku of the Federal High Court, sitting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State for fraud.

Nathan was arraigned alongside his Global Horizons Academy Ltd on a one-count charge, bordering obtaining by false pretence and advance fee fraud to the tune of N N39,157,000,00 (Thirty-nine Million, One Hundred and Fifty-seven Thousand Naira).

The charge reads: "That you, Dr. Nekabari Dambere Nathan and Global Horizons Academy Ltd between 8th April, to 12th December 2023 at Port Harcourt within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, did obtain the sum of Thirty-Nine Million, One Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand Naira (N39,157,000,00 only), from Justice Toojah Iyieagbu, the Managing Director of Riskout Consults, which was meant for processing of visa for his clients for Canada, Ireland and the United State of America, a pretence you knew to be false and thereby Committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1) (a) and punishable under Section 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act."

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charge, following which prosecution counsel, A. Abubakar prayed the court for a trial date and for the defendant to be remanded in a correctional center, while defence counsel, Friday Otanjah informed the court of his application for the bail of the defendant, praying that the defendant be granted bail on medical grounds to enable him stand his trial.

Justice Ajoku, however, adjourned the matter till June 25, 2025 for the hearing of the bail application and remanded the defendant in EFCC's custody. He further adjourned till November 27, 2025 for commencement of the trial.

Nathan was arrested following allegations by the petitioner that sometime in February, 2023, the defendant made a false representation of himself as a professional trainer in care-giving and a travel agent, capable of securing visas and jobs in Canada, Ireland, United Kingdom for Nigerian applicants.

EFCC Arraigns Man for Alleged N5bn Monday Laundering

The Lagos Zonal Directorate 1 of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Thursday, June 19, 2025, arraigned one Ibrahim Abubukar before Justice Alexander Owoeye of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos.

Abubakar was arraigned on a two-count charge bordering on alleged conspiracy to commit stealing and retaining the sum of N5bn.

One of the counts reads: "That you, Ibrahim Abubukar, IBRAHIM (at large) and Alhaji Kabiru (at large), on 2 February, 2025, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, conspired amongst yourselves to commit an offence to wit: retention of the total sum of N5,000,000, 000.00 (Five Billion Naira) in an account nominated by you, 'Mohammed Shehu', domiciled in Union Bank of Nigeria Pic., with account number 0224244931, which sum you reasonably ought to have known forms part of the proceeds of your unlawful act, to wit: stealing and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(a) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition and Prevention Act), 2011 as amended and punishable under Section 15 (2) (d) of the same Act."

The defendant pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when they were read to him.

In view of his plea, prosecuting counsel, Bilikisu Buhari-Bala, asked for a trial date, and also urged the court to remand the defendant in a Correctional Centre.

Responding, the defence counsel, E.C. Nwoko, asked the court for a short date to enable him file his client's bail application.

Justice Owoeye ordered the defendant to be remanded at the Nigerian Correctional Services, NCoS, Ikoyi, Lagos.

The matter was adjourned till September 25, 2025 for the commencement of trial.



Diri Approves Automatic Employment For UAT First Class Graduates

Ogbaland Monarch Becomes Institution's Chancellor







Governor of Bayelsa State, Senator Douye Diri, has offered automatic employment to First Class degree graduates of the University of Africa, Toru-Orua (UAT), in Sagbama Local Government Area of the state.

Senator Diri, who announced this on Saturday at the maiden combined convocation ceremony of 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2024 academic sessions of the university, said the gesture was part of measures to check the brain drain syndrome.

The governor said the gesture had been replicated in other state-owned tertiary institutions such as the Niger Delta University, Amassoma, in line with his administration's policy to prioritise education and boost human capital development.

Congratulating the graduands, the governor praised his predecessor, Senator Seriake Dickson representing Bayelsa West, for his vision and political will in establishing the UAT, which he noted was meeting the educational needs of the state and beyond.

"In line with our government's policy, all First Class graduates of UAT will be offered automatic employment to ensure that we do not lose our best brains.

"This first combined convocation ceremony of UAT is momentous and historical. When I took over as governor, I had a lot of presentations, which included closing down the UAT. But I came to the inescapable conclusion that rather than shutting it down, I opted to establish more because education remains our number one priority."

As Visitor to the UAT, Diri announced the appointment and investiture of Dr. Nwachukwu Nnam Obi III, Ogba of Ogbaland in Rivers State, as the institution's Chancellor.

Responding to the challenges presented by the Vice Chancellor, Diri said government will continue to address them through collaborative efforts and urged the institution to explore funding modules towards generating income.

While assuring that the auditorium and Senate building projects would be completed before the end of his tenure, the state's chief executive promised that government would also address the problem of staff accommodation and that transport vehicles will be provided to ease the challenges faced by workers and students at UAT, NDU and the Federal University, Otuoke.

On the institution's power needs, Diri said when the 60mw independent power plant procured by the government becomes functional, it would cover the university's location.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Ebobrah, announced that 66 were awarded first class degrees out of the 905 graduands of the four academic sessions.

He expressed appreciation to the Diri administration for its increased monthly subvention to the UAT and listed a number of challenges to include uncompleted auditorium and Senate buildings, lack of perimeter fencing, power supply, staff accommodation, lecture theatres, teaching and non-teaching staff office accommodation among others.

In his remarks, the Pro Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council, Barr. Kemela Okara, equally expressed gratitude to government for its support towards the successful accreditation of all programmes by the National Universities Commission.

Daniel Alabrah
Chief Press Secretary
Saturday, June 21, 2025

WW





Committee urges Nigeria Customs to tackle B'Odogwu portal hurdles

The Customs Consultative Committee (CCC) has urged the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) to address challenges affecting its smooth migration to the B'Odogwu portal.

The Secretary of CCC, Eugene Nweke, made the call in an interview on Friday in Abuja.

The NCS implemented a pilot phase of B'Odogwu at the Port and Terminal Multiservice Limited (PTML), in October 2024 and recently rolled out to Tin Can and Apapa ports.

The system is expected to replace the current Nigeria Integrated Customs Information System (NICIS II) and integrate with the National Single Window, alongside modernising NCS`s operations, enhancing efficiency and inter-agency collaboration.

Nweke noted that the B'Odogwu portal, developed by the NCS ahead of the 2026 National Single Window rollout, was facing migration challenges that threatens its efficiency

"While this migration aims to enhance trade facilitation, it has introduced its own set of challenges. Despite the NCS team's efforts to address these issues, human barriers and technical limitations persist.

"The experience of the Asycuda++ system, developed by Web Fontaine serves as a cautionary tale. The system's optic server hosted in orbit was overwhelmed by the workload resulting in incessant system breakdowns.

"A ministerial committee on port efficiency in 2011 identified the server's limitations as a major bottleneck.

"Unfortunately, the same optic server infrastructure is still driving the NICIS I, NICIS II, and B'Odogwu portals, hence the need to seriously consider an infrastructure change in this regard," he explained.

According to the CCC official, it is essential to prioritise the development of robust and scalable trade facilitation tools that can accommodate the growing volume of trade transactions.

Pension Fund Assets rise to N23.33trn in Q1 2025 — PenCom

National Pension Commission (PenCom) says the total assets under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) rose to N23.33 trillion as at March 31.

Mr Saleem Abdulrahman, Director of Surveillance, PenCom, disclosed this on Thursday in Lagos.

Abdulrahman said that the figure represented an increase of N820 billion when compared with the N22.51 trillion recorded as of Dec. 31, 2024.

He attributed the growth in pension assets to additional contributions from Retirement Savings Account (RSA) holders and investment income, including gains from the appreciation of equity prices and interest income on fixed-income securities.

Breaking down the pension assets, he said the Retirement Savings Account Funds I–VI accounted for N17.90 trillion or 76.73 per cent of the total pension assets.

He said Existing Schemes accounted for N2.77 trillion or 11.87 per cent while Closed Pension Funds accounted for N2.66 trillion or 11.40 per cent.

"The Pension Fund Assets were mainly invested in Federal Government Securities which accounted for 62.09 per cent of the total Pension Assets as at March 31.

"This is followed by domestic ordinary shares with 11.02 per cent and money market instruments which accounted for 8.91 per cent.

"The Industry portfolio reported annualised year to date performance of 19.29 per cent as at 31 March 2025.

"The commission in collaboration with Financial Sector Deepening Africa (FSD Africa) is organising a workshop on Investment in Alternative Assets, for Chairpersons of the Board Investment Strategy and Risk Management Committees of PFAs.

"The workshop is part of the strategic initiative of the commisison to promote a diversified and safer pension fund investment portfolio in order to enhance the performance of the pension portfolios," he said.

Nigeria-S'Africa to bridge aviation skills gap across Africa



CHUKWUEMEKE IWELUNMO

In a significant step toward deepening regional cooperation in aviation, the South African Consulate General in Lagos has thrown its weight behind the newly launched Nigeria-South Africa Aviation Exchange Programme.

The initiative, which aims to build capacity, foster career growth, and drive cross-border collaboration in Africa's aviation sector, was unveiled during a strategic meeting led by South Africa's Consul General, Dr. Bobby Moroe.

The programme marks the first major undertaking of the Nigeria-South Africa Aviation Forum, a platform founded by prominent aviation advocate Toni Ukachukwu.

It is designed as a pilot initiative to facilitate skills development, knowledge sharing, and institutional partnerships between the two countries, addressing longstanding gaps in aviation manpower and industry synergy across the continent.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Moroe underscored South Africa's commitment to closer bilateral ties and regional development through collaborative platforms.

He described the programme as a timely intervention that aligns with broader goals of African integration and sustainable growth, particularly in critical sectors like aviation.

Ukachukwu noted that the exchange programme will serve as a launchpad for building long-term relationships between aviation institutions, regulators, airlines, and professionals in both countries.

He added that the initiative is tailored to nurture young talent, expose participants to best practices, and position Africa as a competitive force in global aviation.

The Nigeria-South Africa Aviation Exchange Programme is expected to commence with select participants and evolve into a broader framework that includes internships, workshops, technical exchanges, and executive mentorships, with support from stakeholders across government and industry.

Key partners are, South African Consulate, Civil Aviation Authority of Nigeria, Civil Aviation Authority of South Africa, Aviators Management Academy, Academy of Aviation (South Africa) Airlines and Walk for Love Africa.

With this bold step, Nigeria and South Africa are setting a new standard for pan-African cooperation in aviation, one that holds promise for the future of air transport on the continent.

African, Caribbean leaders to attend Afreximbank's annual meetings in Abuja



Nigeria is set to host the 32nd Annual Meetings (AAM2025) of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) from June 25 to 27, 2025, in Abuja.

In a statement issued on Friday, Vincent Musumba, Manager of Communications and Events at Afreximbank, said the meetings would bring together an influential coalition of global, African, and Africa–Caribbean (CARICOM) leaders.

Musumba said the event, themed "Building the Future on Decades of Resilience," would focus on accelerating trade opportunities, driving investment, and fostering innovation.

He confirmed that heads of state, prime ministers, top business executives, and renowned academics would be among the key speakers.

President Bola Tinubu, former President Olusegun Obasanjo, and Amb. Albert Muchanga, African Union Commissioner for Economic Development, Tourism, Trade, Industry, and Mining, are among the confirmed dignitaries.

They would be joined by ministers, central bank governors, investors, and industry leaders from across Africa, the Caribbean, and other regions.

According to Musumba, the meetings aim to advance regional dialogue on key priorities, including the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the enhancement of cross-border payment systems.

They will also focus on strengthening CARICOM economic ties and encouraging private sector participation in policy reforms.

"These discussions aim to reduce business costs, improve trade infrastructure, and deepen regional economic integration," he said.

The statement also quoted Prof. Benedict Oramah, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank, who described AAM2025 as a pivotal moment for Africa.

"As the continent confronts global uncertainties, it is doing so with renewed resolve.

"Following the successful 31st edition held in The Bahamas last year, we return to the African continent for this year's meetings.

"AAM2025 is about catalysing practical action, building stronger institutions, and unlocking Africa's full innovation potential. We thank President Bola Tinubu for his support," Oramah said.

Musumba highlighted that AAM2025 was expected to deliver strong economic benefits in both the short and long term, including trade and investment mobilisation, policy and institutional reforms, and the strengthening of South-South cooperation.

He added that the event is expected to facilitate major trade and investment deals, including Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and public-private partnerships.

"These agreements could potentially catalyse billions of dollars in funding for strategic sectors over the next five to ten years.

"With participation from globally renowned economists, scholars, and entrepreneurs, AAM2025 is expected to shape thought leadership on Africa's development.

"Platforms like this influence policy, shift narratives, and inspire reforms that foster innovation, inclusion, and competitiveness. This year's meetings will also mark the launch of several new initiatives Musumba said.

"The speaker lineup includes leading global thinkers such as Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, and Dr Kishore Mahbubani, Distinguished Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore.

"It also features Africa's top business leaders, including Aliko Dangote, President/CEO of Dangote Group, and Tony Elumelu, Chairman of Heirs Holdings."

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Marrying someone who doesn't share your dreams can lead to regrets -Omoni Oboli



Nollywood actress and producer Omoni Oboli, has admonished intending couples to choose partners that will support their dreams and not get carried away by money. She explained that partners financial capabilities should not over shadow emotional care, genuine kindness and support.

The actress noted that while financial gifts may be appealing, it cannot override the place of value on your partner, support for your partners dream and aspirations. Adding that marrying someone who doesn't support your aspirations can lead to everlasting regrets.

The mother of four gave this admonition through her social media handle.

She wrote: "Marrying someone who doesn't support your growth can hold you back and lead to lasting regret,"

"The first thing I would say is marry someone who believes in your dreams and your goals because if you don't, that would really derail you in terms of your career.

"Marry someone who's kind, you know. It's not about how much money a man has or how many gifts he's giving you or how many trips he's taking you on. Is he a kind person? Because if he's not kind, you're really going to suffer later, you know.

"So you have to be very sure that, first of all, this man is going to support my dreams, he's going to support my goals, and he's a kind man. I think if you get those two things right, pretty much everything else will fall in place."

Toke Makinwa asks young people not lower their marital standards due to pressure

Media personality Toke Makinwa has advised those involved in relationship to maintain their standard and not bother about what the society says about them.

She noted that it's important to seek partners that meet ones potential, and understands you, rather than succumb to societal pressures

Makinwa made this observation in a recent podcast where she criticised those that shame others for their preferences making them to succumb to societal pressures

She encouraged people to seek relationship that align with their believes and values, instead of caving in to societal pressures and expectations. Adding that people should not compromise their standards.

She criticised the idea of bashing people online for their choice and their financial stability in a relationship.

According to Makinwa, everyone is entitled to their own expectations, and those who don't agree should simply walk away without judgment.



"There's no need to attack someone for wanting more," she stated. "If their standard doesn't suit you, keep it moving. There are billions of people in the world.

"Don't need to lower your standards. Honestly, if this, listen, there are over a billion people in this world, right? You can go and find somebody who has what you're looking for. Stop letting society dictate.

"If you say, oh, this girl is a money-hungry b!tch. All she wants is a man to pay her bills. If you can't pay her bills, leave.

"There's another guy who does what he's looking for. I feel like we make things harder than it is with fighting online and our opinions, and trying to shout on top of each other. If somebody is not what you're looking for, cease the urge to start trying to pinpoint what is wrong with them, because it's actually a reflection of you and not them.

"That's what they want out of their lives. After all, there are people who wake up in the morning and believe that, you know what, I'm the best thing since sliced bread. I'm Queen Diana. And if they believe it and they think it and they're walking, who are you to come and tell them that they are not?", she queried.

Stop bullying me online, Ayra Starr cries out



Sensational Nigerian female singer, Ayra Starr, has cried out to those bullying her online to let her be. The singer urged the people trolling her on the social media to stop and focus on more useful things.

Speaking via her X handle, the singer explained that her critics are bent on ensuring they drag her for no reason. She also accused them of trying to make her a 'scapegoat'.

This criticism may not be unconnected with her style of dressing, which has received bashing from a lot of her followers on the social media.

"There's nothing I can do nor say to people that intentionally want to bully and misunderstand me every time. You've found a scapegoat abi? Focus on issues that actually matter and leave me alone", she cried out.

How Lizzy Anjorin and I placed curse on Iyabo Ojo's children



A viral video of a woman who claimed to be the former best friend of Yoruba actress, Lizzy Anjorin, who confessed to taking the pictures of another actress, Iyabo Ojo's children to a native doctor has been trending online

The unnamed woman alleged that she and Lizzy once took Iyabo's children's pictures to a native doctor she called 'Baba Abule', where they placed curses on the children

She also revealed why she fall out with her former best friend Lizzy Anjorin. This latest revelation is causing buzz on the internet, although Anjorin is yet to say anything about this latest accusation.

You will recall that the two actresses have been on each other's neck over the years and they don't see eye to eye.

I can't marry a man who doesn't pay tithe -Kate Oleju



Coach Kate Oleju, a life coach and media personality has opened up on her preference in a man. Kate surprised her fans when she revealed that she will not marry any man who is not in a department in the church or does not pay his tithe.

The social media personality made this known via a video she shared online. She listed some of the things that may disqualify her potential partner.

"If you're not serving in any department in your church, or you're not serving as a steward anywhere, you cannot marry me. If you don't believe in tithe as a man, I don't believe that I'm your wife", Kate stated

Freeman Chi ready to launch 'Serious War'

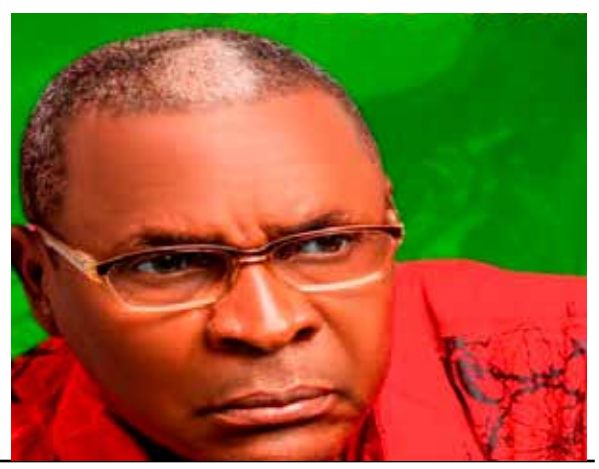
Freeman Chi, the apparently sleeping lion has been woken up by the cries and wailings of the poor masses.

According to the veteran, adored and award-winning musician/activist, he is stepping out with a bang as he cannot bear the cries of the poor masses anymore.

The ambassador of the poor masses, is therefore set to join in the fight for a solution which everyone is calling for.

"The cries of the poor masses have reached an alarming rate. He calls it a Serious War, explaining that, "it is not just an ordinary war but a very Dangerous one that would definitely consume everyone if not immediately checked.

Of course, when the Big Boys step out, others follow. Freeman Chi is seriously bothered and embittered by the alarming rate of poverty and insecurities prevailing across the nation. The Ambassador of the poor masses is therefore set to fiercely fight the battle with the weapon that reaches out -music.



Tribute to former Kano Pillars Chairman, Abba Yola



YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE SPORTS FAMILY WAS SECOND TO NONE AND YOUR LEGACY REMAINS INDELIBLE TO ALL THAT ENCOUNTERED YOU.

MAY YOUR SOUL REST IN PEACE.

AMB FANNY AMUN (MON)

for the Management & Staff of Just Liberation News

Ogunnowo Named African Football Manager of the Year

Olushola Ogunnowo, the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Africa's largest grassroots domestic league, Nationwide League One (NLO), has been awarded the title of African Football Manager of the Year by Burkina Faso-based African Performance Leadership Award (APLA 2025).

Ogunnowo received his award on Friday, June 20, 2025, at the Airport Hotel in Ikeja, Lagos.

He earned the prestigious recognition due to his pragmatic and exceptional administrative skills, strong work ethic, and transformative policies that have established grassroots football in Nigeria as a viable business brand, according to the Award Organizing Committee.

"It is a great honour for me, and this award is dedicated to Nigeria's grassroots football, the hundreds of talented players who have experienced career growth through the NLO platform, and the millions of passionate fans who support the brand," said a delighted Ogunnowo.

"I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the NFF President Ibrahim Gasau, Chairman NLO, His Excellency Silas Agara, Dr Mohammed Sanusi for his encouragement, staff of NLO and APLA 2025 for this distinguished award. However, I believe it is less about me as the COO of NLO and more about the spirit of commitment shared by everyone at the NLO.

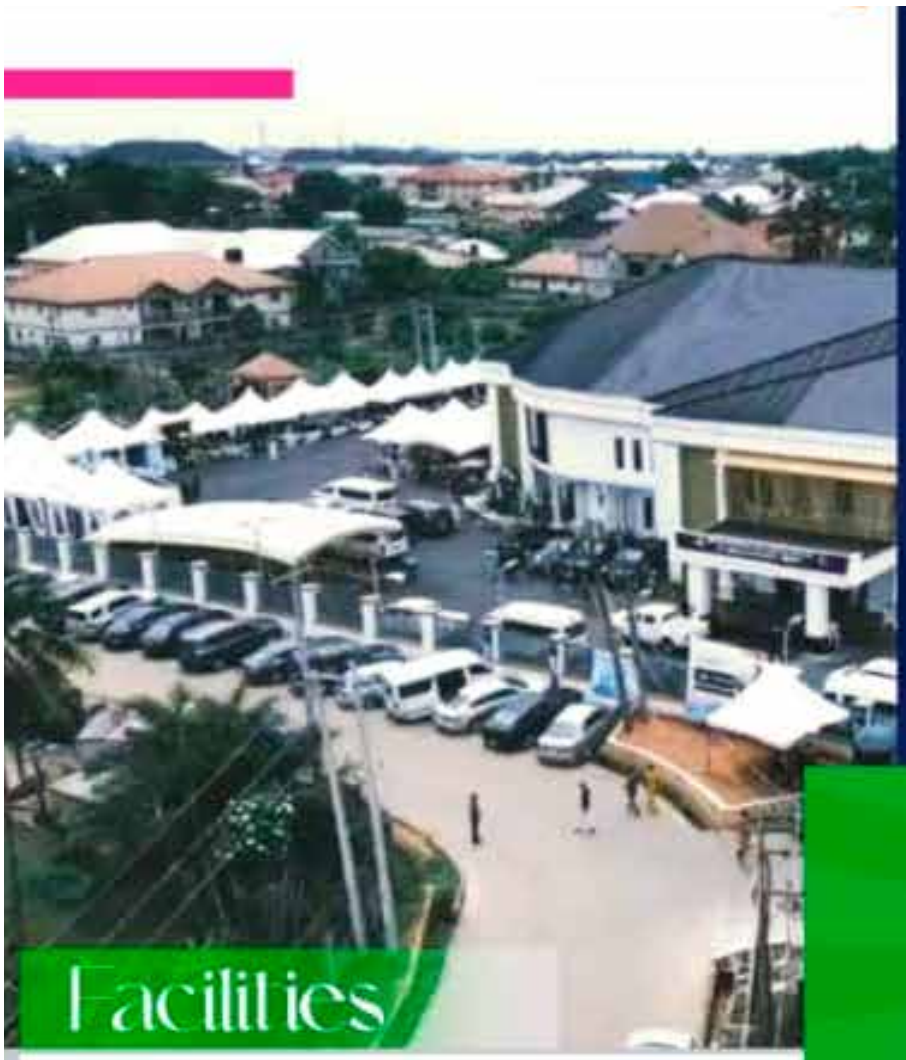
"Being named the Best African Football Manager of the Year (2025) presents a new challenge for me. It is about football and ensuring that Nigeria's grassroots football is as competitive as the best in the world, providing a pathway to top leagues for our promising youth."

Other award recipients were His Excellency Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State, His Excellency Governor Alex Otti of Abia State, and Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly.

The event featured prominent government officials, including His Excellency Dr. Jacob Zuma, former President of South Africa. Additionally, distinguished Senator Orji Uzor Kalu of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is among those who received awards.







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Chieftaincy Tussle: Community appeals to

BY TITUS AKHIGBE, BENIN

Leaders and elders of Okpella sleepy community in Estako East Local Government Council of Edo State on Friday appealed to Edo State governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, to rescind the appointment of the Okuokpellagbe of Okpella, HRH. Michael Sado over alleged non-compliance with traditional and customary provisions.

The community elders noted that the selection process was flawed, insisting that he (Sado) was neither selected by Ukhomunyio village nor presented to the kingmakers and not installed according to tradition.

Briefing newsmen in Benin, Chief Charles Adogah (SAN), and traditional holder of the title of Obodeanokpella of Okpella called for the immediate suspension of the unlawful coronation of the monarch.

Adogah said no consensus was reached by Okpella people in his selection.

He called for the cancelation of the process that led to his appointment.

Adogah appealed to Governor Okpebholo to allow the people of Kumunio village of the Oteku ruling house without any interference the power to carry out its traditional and lawful responsibility of selecting a candidate to the exalted throne of Okuokpellagbe of Okpella.

"We have witnessed what can only be described as a flagrant violation of the Declaration of the Customary Law Regulating Succession to the Traditional Title of Okuokpellagbe of Okpella.

"Instead of respecting the procedure outlined in the Declaration which clearly vests the power of nominating the Okuokpellagbe of Okpella on the appropriate component branch of the appropriate ruling house superintendent by the village

Delta Central Senator, Dafinone, celebrates Tinubu's national honours for Deltans

BY NOSA AKENZUA, ASABA



The Senator representing Delta Central Senatorial District, Senator Ede Dafinone, has felicitated with prominent sons of Delta State who were among the distinguished Nigerians recently honoured by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, during the 2025 Democracy Day celebrations.

In a statement issued to journalists, Senator Dafinone, on behalf of the people of Delta Central Senatorial District, commended the Federal Government for recognizing the invaluable contributions of these illustrious Deltans to Nigeria's democracy, development, and unity.

He particularly applauded the conferment of posthumous honours on Chief Frank Kokori, Chief Alfred Rewane, and Dr. Alex Ibru, describing them as "towering figures in Nigeria's democratic evolution whose legacies continue to illuminate the nation's journey towards justice, equity, and freedom."

Chief Frank Kokori was honoured with the title of Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON) for his fearless role as a labour leader and his uncompromising stand in the fight for democratic governance during the military era. The late Chief Alfred Rewane, bestowed with the Commander of the Federal Republic (CFR) title, was praised as a valiant pro-democracy icon and a renowned industrialist whose personal sacrifice remains etched in Nigeria's political history. Also receiving the CON was Dr. Alex Ibru, the distinguished founder of The Guardian newspaper, celebrated for his pioneering efforts in the media and unwavering support for democratic values.

Senator Dafinone also commended living Deltan honourees who received various categories of national recognition. Among them is Barr. Felix Morka, CFR, a respected legal practitioner and the current National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), described as "a voice of reason and advocate of national unity and progress."

Mr. Sam Amuka-Pemu, the founder of Vanguard Newspapers and a media titan, was honoured with the CON award. Dafinone extolled Amuka-Pemu's immense contributions to journalism and his role in strengthening public discourse in Nigeria over several decades.

Also recognized was Barr. Luke Aghanenu, awarded the Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) for his early activism as a student union leader, his service to the legal profession, and his unrelenting passion for democratic governance.

"These awards are not just personal honours; they represent a collective badge of excellence for the people of Delta State," Dafinone said. "They affirm the critical role Deltans have played and continue to play in the progress, unity, and democratic journey of our dear country."

The senator extended heartfelt appreciation to President Tinubu for what he described as "a profound gesture of appreciation for the virtues of patriotism, sacrifice, and selfless service."

"By honouring these men—both living and departed—the

Gov Eno's reception: Defections hit A'Ibom PDP as Paul Ekpo, others join APC

BY DENNIS UDOMA, UYO

Akwa Ibom Federal lawmaker in the House of Representatives, Abuja, Hon. Paul Ekpo has resigned from the People's Democratic Party saying that, "life is ability to adjust to change".

This is happening, even as more structures of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), in Akwa Ibom is suffering unprecedented defection to the All Progressives Congress, APC across the State.

Hon. Ekpo resigned through a letter addressed to his Ward Chairman of PDP, Southern Iman Ward 1, Etinan Local Government Area on Friday.

Ekpo, who was a former State Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Akwa Ibom, currently represents Etinan Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives.

In a brief but heartfelt resignation letter, Mr Ekpo said his decision followed what he described as "progressive events in Akwa Ibom's political landscape."

"This is to bring to your notice and information that following the progressive events in Akwa Ibom political landscape, I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the Peoples Democratic Party," the letter read.

Ekpo, who has been a longstanding figure in the party, reflected on his years in the PDP with gratitude and emotion.

"My years here were worth the energy and experience. I remain grateful to God for the good times I had in the party" adding that, "life is the ability to adjust to change, when it becomes necessary. I leave the party in good conscience and trustingly look to God for what He has for me."

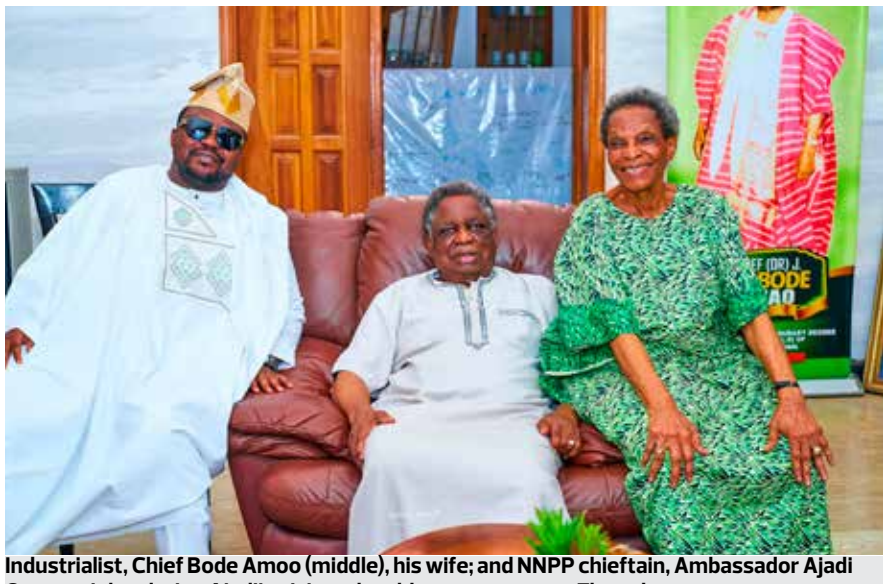
In a related development, there has been a gale of defections by members of the PDP, since Governor, Umo Eno made what he described as "Progressive Move" on June 6, warning his appointees to be part of the movement or resign their appointments from the cabinet.

Just yesterday, Commissioners for Information and Communication, Hon. Aniekan Umanah and his Works and Fire Service counterpart, Prof. Eno Ibanga followed suit in their respective Wards in Abak Urban, Abak Local Government and Ukpum Minya Ward 1, Mkpat Enin Local Government Area.

Other PDP bigwigs that also towed the line are, Senator Akpabio's cousin, representing Essien Udom State Constituency in the State's Assembly, Hon. Prince Ukpong Akpabio, political leader of Essien Udim, Chief Michael Afangide, while Mr. Samuel Ukut is leading a battery of defectors from Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area to APC, amongst

Elder statesman, Bode Amoo, receives NNPP chief, Ajadi, in Ibadan

STEPHEN GBADAMOSI, IBADAN



Industrialist, Chief Bode Amoo (middle), his wife; and NNPP chieftain, Ambassador Ajadi Oguntoyinbo, during Ajadi's visit to the elder statesman on Thursday.

South-West chieftain of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Ambassador Olufemi Ajadi Oguntoyinbo, on Thursday paid a courtesy visit to the patriarch of his family, Chief Bode Amoo, at his Ibadan residence.

Chief Amoo is the elder brother to Ambassador Ajadi's father, the late Ajadi Sola-West of Ibadan, a highlife musician.

Chief Amoo, who has long held the torch of the family's integrity, discipline, and purposeful leadership while receiving Ambassador Ajadi, shared personal anecdotes from his leadership journey, emphasising that he never sought power for selfish gain.

"The day I agreed to become the president of the Central Council of Ibadan Indigenes (CCII), I was elected unopposed. I told them someone else should be given the opportunity, but they insisted they all wanted me," he recalled.

He said he was pleased to receive Ajadi, saying Ajadi's character aligned with the legacy of integrity that defined their lineage.

"A good name is better than gold and silver; and that has always been my legacy. I'm happy that you're upholding that," he added.

Chief Amoo later prayed for Ajadi, calling on the Almighty God to grant him his heart's desire and peace in Ibadan, Oyo State, and the entire Nigeria.

He said he expressed satisfaction upon hearing positive reports about Ajadi.

"Ajadi, continue in what you are known for - a politician with the fear of God who gives reliable promises," Chief Amoo said.

The meeting became a convergence of history, vision, and counsel, as Chief Amoo offered fatherly advice and political blessings to Ajadi.

As the elder brother to the late Ajadi, Chief Bode Amoo played a foundational role in shaping the values and future of persons of coming generation, including his nephew, Ambassador Ajadi.

Ajadi expressed gratitude to the patriarch of his family for the warm reception and words of wisdom, pledging to live up to the expectations placed upon him.

"Chief Bode Amoo is not just a family head; he is a symbol of discipline, entrepreneurship, and public service.

"To receive his blessing and advice is a great honour," Ajadi said.

Known for his grassroots engagement and youth development advocacy, Ajadi is increasingly seen as a rising political figure in the South-West.

He has maintained a reputation for transparency, philanthropy, and a pro-people ideology through his initiatives in both the private and political sectors.

Prominent individuals who accompanied Ajadi included Comrade Kilamuwaye Badmus Bako, the NNPP South-West Public Relations Officer; and Hon. Kehinde Teluwo, the party's 2023 Ogun Central Senatorial candidate.

It will be recalled that last Tuesday, Ajadi paid a courtesy call on the popular Ibadan-based grassroots politician and mobiliser, Alhaji Adebisi Olopooeyan at his Idi-Ape, Ibadan residence.

During the visit, Alhaji Olopooeyan admonished Ajadi to move his politics from Ogun to Oyo State, saying the state was yearning for his philanthropic and developmental goals.

Political observers believe Ajadi is probably seeking consultation on the need to move to Ibadan, his father's state of origin, to reciprocate the development he has brought to his maternal state, Ogun.

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ENROLL NOW !

Kadiri Ikhana Football Academy Auchi Makes History

The 5 months old Kadiri Ikhana Football Academy Auchi has hit a high ground with Special Invitation from the internationally acclaimed BENDEL INSURANCE FOOTBALL CLUB OF BENIN (the Edo Arsenal), to four (4) of the Academy players.

The four players that left Auchi for Benin City today Saturday June 21, are all from Edo North and between the ages of 23 and 24 years.

This development marks the first of its kind in the history of Football development in Edo State. The Edo Arsenal does not presently have any player from Edo North.

The new Football Academy started screaming of footballer enthusiasts in February this year. At present over 10 players within the ages 16 to 23, 10 players of under 12, 10 under 14 are training with the Academy at the Our Lady of Fatima and Ikelebe sports Arena every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Meanwhile, The Kwara United Football Club of Ilorin, Kwara State, has joined the Edo Arsenal in applying for young talents from the versatile Academy which now has a few female players in it's enrollment.

The Afonja Warriors who are playing in the FA Cup final next week end, has requested for another set of four (4) players for screening into its main team.

It is expected that when the Academy is officially launched in a few months time, it will be the most sort after base for age group teams, national league players for all the professional clubs in Nigeria, as well as sending our talents to viable clubs in Europe and America.

Many talents have started scrambling for the registration forms of the Academy.



(3rd Edition) Anambra State All Stars Football Championships (Match Day 2) - Getting Hotter , Exciting & Cracking !



Yes! It's CONFIRMED TRUTH that the 3RD EDITION of the ANAMBRA STATE ALL STARS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS; Cooked by the General CHIKELUE ILOENYOSI- led ANAMBRA STATE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION and Powered by MANFES PHARMACEUTICALS NIG LIMITED Entered MATCH DAY 2, this WEEKEND, SATURDAY! Yes! It's AUTHORITATIVE NEWS that Today, SATURDAY, SLIDING TACKLES in Actualisation of our ASSIGNMENT, was there at the AWKA CITY STADIUM, AWKA to Continue our TORCHLIGHT and SCOUTING of Talented PLAYERS from the ANAMBRA STATE ALL STARS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS! Yes! It's WORTHY TRUTH that Last WEEKEND, the ALL STARS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS, Witnessed 6 EXPLOSIVE GAMES!

Yes! It's CREDIBLE TRUTH that the MATCHES of the Ongoing 3RD ANAMBRA STATE ALL STARS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS, from what HAPPENED Today; is Sure getting HOTTER, EXCITING and CRACKING! Yes! Today, WE WATCHED Another BATCH of 3 Highly ENTERTAINING PAIRINGS, that UPLOADED a lot of GREAT PLAYERS! Yes! SLIDING *TACKLES*Was THERE LIVE and Can Affirmatively ATTEST that the MATCHES of TODAY, Were BEAUTIFUL to Behold with Alluring FLOOR FOOTBALL, to go with it!! Yes! It's GOOD NEWS that at TODAY'S GAMES, there were NO UNDERAGED PLAYERS as was the CASE, Last WEEKEND!

Yes! It's also IMPORTANT TRUTH that the OFFICIATING of the 3RD ANAMBRA STATE ALL STARS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS, Have been PLEASANT and there are NO COMPLAINS from the PARTICIPATING ALL STARS FOOTBALL TEAMS! Yes! The RESULTS and HIGHLIGHTS of the MATCHES PLAYED Today are as follows:

1. CUBANA ALL STARS FC , OBA 1 METU ALL STARS FC , ONITSHA O

Yes! The CUBANA ALL STARS FC vs METU ALL STARS FC Match up, was a TOUGH, MATURED GAME, by ALL STANDARDS! The ENCOUNTER Was a HARD-FOUGHT BALANCE GAME, Where the 2 TEAMS Gave their ALL to CART AWAY the Crucial 3 POINTS of the SHOWDOWN! Yes! Remember that METU ALL STARS FC, are the CHAMPIONSHIPS DEFENDING CHAMPIONS!

Yes! And having LOST the 1ST GAME Against EVERGREEN ALL STARS FC in the OPENING MATCH? METU had ALL to PLAY FOR, Today! Yes! But, if WISHES Were HORSES, BEGGARS Will RIDE! Yes! It's REAL TRUTH that ONE Solitary GOAL from CUBANA's Hitman, BUCHI AMAECHI in the 13TH MINUTE of the 1ST HALF, Tilted VICTORY, CUBANA ALL STARS FC WAY! And! Consequently, DESTROYED ALL the WISHES of METU ALL STARS FC! Yes! FULL TIME SCORES in the EPIC GAME was 1-0 in FAVOUR of CUBANA ALL STARS FC!

2. LIBERTY ALL STARS FC , ATANI 3 UNITY ALL STARS FC , OGBARU O

Yes ! The LIBERTY ALL STARS FC vs UNITY ALL STARS FC Less Entertaining MATCH, Was indeed a ONE-SIDED AFFAIR, to say the HONEST TRUTH! Yes! The LIBERTY ALL STARS FC DADDIES, were RUTHLESS and MERCILESSLY PUMMELED, the Hapless Innocent DADDIES of UNITY ALL STARS FC! Yes! LIBERTY ALL STARS FC are a WELL-OILED TEAM and sincerely ANNOUNCED their REAL INTENTIONS as a TEAM to RECKON WITH in the CHAMPIONSHIP! Yes! The DADDIES of LIBERTY ALL STARS FC, Made their MISSION VERY CLEAR Early in the MATCH!

Yes! LIBERTY ALL STARS FC, were UNLUCKY in the 1ST HALF, Not to SCORE, a Handful of GOALS! But, the FOCUSED LIBERTY ALL STARS FC, Came Out in the 2ND HALF and MADE AMENDS and it was only a MATTER of TIME, before their GOALS Started RAINING IN! Yes! ORIGINAL TRUTH that LIBERTY ALL STARS FC EMMA OKAFOR, Broke the GOALS DEADLOCK in the 51ST MINUTE of the 2ND HALF! Yes! Before LIBERTY ALL STARS FC TOP STRIKER, HENRY IKEMSINACHUKWU, Sealed VICTORY for his SIDE With 2 BEAUTIFUL GOALS in the 54TH MINUTE and 63RD MINUTE of the 2ND HALF! Yes! FULL TIME SCORES of the PAIRING Was 3-0 in FAVOUR of LIBERTY ALL STARS FC!

3. OKPOKO ALL STARS FC , OKPOKO 3 NKPOR VETERANS FC , NKPOR O (WALK-OVER)

Yes! The Eagerly-awaited CRACKING SHUTDOWN Between OKPOKO ALL STARS FC vs NKPOR VETERANS FC, Could NOT HOLD, as EXPECTED! Yes! The "MAN-KNOW-MAN" Much-anticipated GRUELING MATCHING; Didn't HOLD as Scheduled because, NKPOR VETERANS FC, Failed to SHOW UP for the GAME! And! After the MANDATORY 30 MINUTES, Allowed in the CHAMPIONSHIP RULES and REGULATIONS? Yes! OKPOKO ALL STARS FC, Coasted HOME to VICTORY and 3 Vital POINTS in their KITTY, Without KICKING Any BALL!

Yes! AUTHENTIC NEWS that NKPOR VETERANS FC, Were WALK-OVER and Awaiting MAXIMUM SLEDGE-HAMMERING from the General CHIKELUE ILOENYOSI-Guided ANAMBRA STATE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (The CHAMPIONSHIP ORGANIZERS)! Yes! It's GOOD INFORMATION that the LIVELY SPECTATORS of Today's GAMES, Eagerly Awaited the BOTCHED CRACKER because OKPOKO ALL STARS FC and NKPOR VETERANS FC, are CLOSE-DOOR NEIGHBOURS, with a HISTORY of RIVALRY in ALL STARS Hostilities! Yes! It's VERIFIED TRUTH that the FAILURE of NKPOR VETERANS FC to ATTEND their FIXTURE, With "BROTHERS" OKPOKO ALL STARS FC, is the 1ST LOW POINT of the 3RD ANAMBRA STATE ALL STARS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS!

NOTE : MATCHES of the Ongoing 3RD ANAMBRA STATE ALL STARS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS ; Continue TOMORROW at the AWKA CITY STADIUM , AWKA , With 3 CRUNCHY TIES !

With ! Retired NPFL REFEREE and the SECRETARY of the ANAMBRA STATE REFEREES COUNCIL and MEMBER of the CHAMPIONSHIPS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE , JOHN UBENDU , at Today's Highly ENTERTAINING ANAMBRA DADDIES WORLD CUP GAMES !

(3RD EDITION) ANAMBRA STATE ALL STARS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS ! POWERED BY MANFES PHARMACEUTICALS !

Barrister lyke Igbokwe
Torchlight Of Nigeria Football
WhatsApp : 09136715922

Trial of a Nigerian businessman MAKATA EMMANUEL, for drug-related offences continues on July 25

A Federal High Court sitting in Lagos today adjourned till 25th of July, 2025, for the continuation of the trial of Nigerian businessman MAKATA EMMANUEL, alleged to have conspired with others at large to import 27.567 kilogrammes of Codeine based cough syrup into Nigeria.

The NDLEA Prosecutor, Barrister Adekunle Adebajo, who intends to call seven witnesses to prosecute the case, has already called four witnesses.

The two-count charge number FHC/L/06C/2025 as filed before the court

COUNT 1

That you, MAKATA EMMANUEL, Male, Adult and MR. SIMON (at large) on or about the 11th day of December 2024 at Customs Enforcement Unit, Tincan Island Port, Apapa, Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court without lawful authority conspired together to import 27.567 Kilogrammes of Codeine based cough syrup, a narcotic drug similar to Cocaine and Heroin and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 14(b) of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Act Cap N30 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004.

COUNT 2 :

That you, MAKATA EMMANUEL, Male, Adult and MIR. SIMON (at large) on or about the 11th day of December 2024 at Customs Enforcement Unit, Tincan Island Port, Apapa, Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court without lawful authority imported 27.567 Kilogrammes of Codeine based cough syrup, a narcotic drug similar to Cocaine and Heroin and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 11{a) of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Act Cap N 30 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004.

Two Britons jailed for 8 years for importation of Cannabis Sativa

A Federal high court sitting in Lagos has sentenced, a Nigerian-born British citizen, OYEDIPE ANDREW ADEJUWON and his British Citizen collaborator, MHIZHA JORDAN ALEXANDER TATENDRA, to a total of eight years imprisonment for the importation of Cannabis Sativa into Nigeria.

MHIZHA Jordan Alexander TATENDRA was charged with conspiring with other persons unknown to import 51.10 kilogrammes of Cannabis Sativa, OYEDIPE ANDREW ADEJUWON, also a British Citizen, to procure MHIZHA, JORDAN. ALEXANDER TATENDRA, a British Citizen, to import 51.10 kilograms of Cannabis Sativa from the United Arab Emirates

When the amended charge was read to them, the two of them pleaded guilty; thereafter, the facts of the case were reviewed by the NDLEA prosecutor.

Consequently, the presiding Judge, Justice Musa Kakaki, after convicting the defendants, sentenced them to two years imprisonment each on each count of the two counts, the terms of imprisonment are to run concurrently

from the day of. Their arrest 14th of May,2025

The two-count charge number FHC/L/421/2025, as filed before the court by the NDLEA prosecutor Abu Ibrahim, states below.

Count 1

That you Mhizha Jordan Alexander Tatendra and Oyedipe Andrew Adejuwon, both Male, Adults, British Citizens on or about the 14th May 2025 conspired with some other persons unknown to Import 51.10Kilograms of Cannabis Sativa, a Narcotic Drug similar to Cocaine, LSD, Heroin and you thereby committed an act which is an offence contrary to and punishable under section 14 (b) of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act Cap. N30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

Count 2

That you Oyedipe Andrew Adejuwon Male, Adult British Citizen, on or about the 14th May 2025 procured one Mhizha Jordan Alexander Tatendra Male, Adult, British Citizen to Import 51.10Kilograms of Cannabis Sativa, a Narcotic Drug similar to Cocaine, LSD, Heroin and you thereby committed an act which is an offence contrary to section 21 (2) (d) of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act Cap. N30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and punishable under section

11(a) of the said Act.

Count 3 :

That you Mhizha Jordan Alexander Tatendra Male, Adult British Citizen, on or about the 14th May 2025 during the inward clearance of passengers aboard Emirates Airlines flight from United Arab Emirates to Lagos at the E-Arrival Hall of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport Ikeja-Lagos without lawful authority imported 51.10Kilograms of Cannabis Sativa, a Narcotic Drug similar to Cocaine, LSD, Heroin and you thereby committed an act which is an offence contrary to and punishable under section 11 (a) of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act Cap. N30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

NDLEA arrest 19 in 4 Kano drug hotspots



BY MADUABUCHI NMERI–BEH/KANO

The Kano Strategic Command of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has smashed and arrested 19 drug barons in four major Kano drug hotspots.

The areas include Dorayi, Gwammanja, Zango, and Jaen.

The operation led to the arrest of 19 suspects and the recovery of a variety of illicit substances, marking a critical step in the fight against drug abuse and its associated crimes.

The NDLEA's recent operation focused on dismantling drug joints where individuals gather to abuse substances before engaging in mindless thuggery and other unlawful activities.

By targeting these hotspots, the agency aimed to disrupt the cycle of drug abuse and violence that plagues our neighborhoods.

The operation underscored the Command's commitment, under the leadership of CN Al Ahmad, to not only eradicating drug trafficking but also enhancing public safety by addressing the root causes of crime.

The seizure of illicit substances and the apprehension of those involved highlighted the agency's determination to create a safer environment for all citizens.

The Command urged members of the community to continue their support by providing vital intelligence and reporting any suspicious activities.

"Together, we can strengthen our fight against drug abuse and trafficking, fostering a safer environment for everyone," Sadiq Muhammad Maigatari

Assistant Superintendent of Narcotics and Public Relations Officer of Kano Command said in a Statement.

Kano state government has inaugurated a Committee to finetune the drive for skills acquisition scheme in state-owned higher institutions.

A Statement by Musa Tanko Muhammad, Press Secretary, in the office of the Secretary to the State Government, indicated that the move was, "in a bold step towards bridging the gap between academic learning and self-employment."

The state Government inaugurated an eleven-member committee tasked with facilitating skills acquisition programmes across state-owned tertiary institutions.

This move is aimed at repositioning education to be more functional, with a strong emphasis on self-reliance and entrepreneurship among graduating students,"the Statement added.

The inauguration ceremony was presided over by the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Alhaji Umar Farouq Ibrahim, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Research, Evaluation and Political Affairs (REPA) Directorate of the Cabinet Office, Alhaji Umar Muhammad Jalo.

He emphasized the administration's commitment to equipping youths with practical skills, noting the importance of producing graduates who are job creators rather than job seekers.

Alhaji Jalo explained that the composition of the committee was deliberately done to include professionals with relevant expertise and experience. He urged the committee to employ their knowledge in developing a practical and implementable framework that can bring lasting impact.

"It is high time we encouraged our graduating youth to focus more on becoming self-reliant and less dependent on paper qualifications. This initiative is a life-saving one that seeks to empower our young people, who make up a significant portion of our population," Jalo stated.

He further described the initiative as timely and commended the prompt approval by the administration of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf.

He acknowledged the foresight of Dr. Fa'izah Adhama Muktar of Aliko Dangote University of Science and Technology, who conceptualized the idea and has been appointed to chair the committee.

Other members of the committee include: Dr. Sani Muhammad Inuwa – Sa'adatu Rimi College of Education; Dr. Umar Muhammad Tarauni – Kano State Polytechnic; Dr. Bilyaminu Ado Muhammad – Northwest University, Kano.

Others are: Dr. Rabiu Sani Shawai – Aliko Dangote University of Science and Technology; Bilkisu Ado Zubair; Muhammad S. Ibrahim; Dr. Tine Jibrin – Kano State Polytechnic; and representative from the Ministry of Higher Education.

The Committee's secretariat will be led by Aliyu Muhammad Sani, Director of Research and Evaluation, with Sani A. Abdulkadir, Senior Assistant Secretary from the REPA Directorate, serving as Co-Secretary.

Marwa Inaugurates NDLEA/NOA Vision Centre



Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Brig. Gen. Buba Marwa (rtd), has inaugurated a high-tech Vision Centre at its National Headquarters Annex in Abuja as part of efforts to promote and prioritise staff welfare as well as to boost their morale.

The facility, a product of strategic partnership between the Agency and the Nigerian Optometric Association (NOA) and its partner, OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation, is designed to provide comprehensive, affordable, and high-quality eye care services to NDLEA personnel and members of the public.

Speaking at the brief ceremony, Marwa expressed deep appreciation to the NOA and its partners for considering the NDLEA worthy of such a vital collaboration.

He said,"We are here with every sense of fulfilment and happiness to commission this Vision Centre," while reflecting on the personal and public importance of vision health.

Marwa, drawing from his own experience with eye care, urged officers, men and women of the agency to prioritise regular eye checkups, noting that vision is key to productivity and quality of life.

He also commended the dedication of the team of optometrists managing the centre, while acknowledging their pioneering role and voluntary service.

He said, "We appreciate you for accepting to serve in this capacity even in uncharted grounds. This centre is a worthy addition to our several initiatives to promote and cater for the wellbeing of our workforce."

In his remarks, the NOA President, Dr. Chimeziri Anderson, described the inauguration as the culmination of a purposeful collaboration with the NDLEA and OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation.

He recalled how the idea for the centre was birthed during a meeting in Lagos and praised the leadership of the agency for embracing the initiative.

He said, "This Vision Centre is one of only a few we have established within government institutions. It stands out as a model for sustainable eye care delivery. With support from our partners in France and Dubai, we are bringing world class equipment and services here, ensuring access to premium eye care and quality eye glasses for NDLEA staff and their families."

The Director, Medical Services of NDLEA, Dr. Audu Okpe, in his welcome remark noted that the establishment of the NDLEA-NOA Vision Centre marks another milestone in the agency's growing portfolio of staff welfare initiatives under the leadership of Marwa.

He said, "It also underscores a broader commitment to fostering public health partnerships between security institutions and professional medical bodies in Nigeria."

Flamengo stun Chelsea in Club World Cup 3-1



Flamengo overturned a first-half deficit to beat Chelsea 3-1 in their Club World Cup Group D match on Friday, earning a second straight win.

Pedro Neto gave Chelsea the lead early on, but the Premier League side failed to convert further chances, allowing Flamengo to mount a spirited comeback.

The Brazilian side struck twice in quick succession through Bruno Henrique and Danilo in the 62nd and 65th minutes to turn the game around.

Chelsea's hopes were further dashed when Nicolas Jackson received a straight red card for a dangerous studs-up tackle in the 68th minute.

Flamengo sealed the win in the 83rd minute when Wallace Yan converted a rebound after a strong run and cross from Gonzalo Plata.

The result leaves Flamengo top of Group D with six points from two matches, while Chelsea sit second with three points.

Esperance de Tunis and Los Angeles FC are yet to earn a point, though both have a match in hand.

Flamengo started with intensity, pressing Chelsea high and forcing errors, but early chances were denied by goalkeeper Robert Sanchez.

Luiz Araujo, Giorgian de Arrascaeta, and Ayrton Lucas were all kept out in the opening spell despite Flamengo's dominance.

Chelsea took the lead in the 13th minute when Wesley misjudged a clearance and slipped, allowing Neto to pounce on the loose ball.

Neto advanced unmarked and calmly slotted past Agustin Rossi to put the English side ahead against the run of play.

The goal boosted Chelsea's confidence, with Malo Gusto and Liam Delap testing Rossi as they looked to extend their advantage.

Flamengo nearly equalised just before halftime, but Enzo Fernandez cleared a Gerson volley off the line to keep Chelsea ahead.

Chelsea also had a penalty appeal waved away when Fernandez appeared to be tugged in the area.

Flamengo responded strongly after the break, with substitute Bruno Henrique making an immediate impact in the 62nd minute.

Gerson's deep cross found Gonzalo Plata, who headed across goal for Henrique to tap in the equaliser.

Three minutes later, Flamengo scored again from a corner as Henrique's header set up Danilo for a close-range finish.

Jackson, who had only just come on, was sent off minutes later for a reckless challenge on Ayrton Lucas.

Zverev and Medvedev win after sickness and nosebleed

World number three Alexander Zverev sprinted off court to vomit mid-match but recovered to beat Italy's Flavio Cobolli 6-4 7-6 (8-6) at the Halle Open.

In the second game of his quarter-final of the grass-court tournament Zverev requested a toilet break and ran off court to be sick.

He looked visibly unwell on his return and initially struggled in longer rallies, but he got better as the match went on and managed to hold off world number 24 Cobolli.

"I felt fine before the match. Then all of a sudden, out of nowhere, I felt really, really bad. I felt ill, went to throw up and then 15 minutes later I felt OK again," the 28-year-old German said.

"I don't know what it was, I've never experienced that before. I hope I'll be fine in the next couple of hours when the adrenaline settles."

In the semi-finals Zverev will face Daniil Medvedev, whose match on Friday was also briefly delayed when the Russian had a nosebleed on court.

Despite needing a medical timeout in the second set, the former world number one ended up cruising to a 6-4 6-3 win over American Alex Michelsen to keep his preparations for Wimbledon on track, with 10 days to go before the start of the grass-court Grand Slam.

"The shadows on the court made the conditions quite difficult. It took some time to get used to it," Medvedev, 29, said.

Sabalenka saves four match points in win

There was also drama at the Berlin Open, where world number one Aryna Sabalenka saved four match points to beat Elena Rybakina 7-6 (8-6) 3-6 7-6 (8-6).

The Belarusian was down 6-2 in the deciding tie-break and only saved the first match point thanks to a fortunate net cord.

It was to be the momentum swing Sabalenka needed. Kazakh 2022 Wimbledon champion Rybakina never recovered and Sabalenka won the next five points to reach Saturday's semi-finals.

"It's amazing to win matches like this, it trains your fighting spirit for the next tournaments and I'm proud of myself for trying till the very last point," said Sabalenka.

The 27-year-old will face another former Wimbledon champion in the semi-finals in Czech Marketa Vondrousova, who beat Tunisian Ons Jabeur 6-4 6-1 in a re-match of their 2023 final at the All England Club.



2025 WAFCON: Madugu picks Ajibade, Nnadozie, Oshoala, 20 others

Head Coach Justine Madugu has selected captain Rasheedat Ajibade, goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie and forwards Francisca Ordega and Asisat Oshoala in a list of 24 players for the 13th Women Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON).

The players for the Super Falcons' quest for a 10th continental title at the 13th Women Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON).

A percentage of the squad commenced training in Abuja on Thursday, and will train on Friday and Saturday, before their departure to the final training camp in Lisbon, Portugal on Sunday.

Others players picked are Saudi Arabia-based defender Ashleigh Plumptre, US-based fans' favourite Michelle Alozie, veteran defender Osinachi Ohale and midfielders Deborah Abiodun, Jennifer Echegini and Christy Ucheibe.

Home-based goalkeeper Rachael Unachukwu and defenders Sikiratu Isah and Miracle Usani also made the list, while midfield lynchpin Halimatu Ayinde makes a return to the fold.

The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has sealed friendly matches for the team with the Portuguese and Ghanaian senior women national teams, ahead of their WAFCON group B encounters against Tunisia, Botswana and Algeria.

The Falcons will play Portugal in Lisbon on Monday and will then take on the Black Queens of Ghana in Morocco on Sunday, June 29.

The tournament is scheduled for July 5 to July 26, in Morocco.

SUPER FALCONS FOR 13TH WAFCON FINALS:

Goalkeepers: Chiamaka Nnadozie (just finished contract with Paris FC, France); Tochukwu Oluehi (Shualat Alsharqia FC, Saudi Arabia); Rachael Unachukwu (Nasarawa Amazons)

Defenders: Osinachi Ohale (Pachucha Club de Futbol, Mexico); Shukurat Oladipo (AS Roma, Italy); Michelle Alozie (Houston Dash, USA); Ashleigh Plumptre (Ittihad Ladies FC, Saudi Arabia); Sikiratu Isah (Nasarawa Amazons); Oluwatosin Demehin (Galatasaray Sportive, Turkey); Miracle Usani (Edo Queens)

Midfielders: Rasheedat Ajibade (just finished contract with Atletico Madrid, Spain); Halimatu Ayinde (FC Rosenburg, Sweden); Deborah Abiodun (Dallas Trinity, USA); Jennifer Echegini (Paris Saint Germain, France); Toni Payne (Everton Ladies, England); Christy Ucheibe (SL Benfica, Portugal)

Forwards: Francisca Ordega (Ittihad Ladies Club, Saudi Arabia); Chinwendu Ihezuo (Pachucha Club de Futbol, Mexico); Ifeoma Onumonu (Montpellier FC, France); Esther Okoronkwo (AFC Toronto, Canada); Omorinsola Babajide (Coasta Adeje Tenerife Egatesa, Spain); Folashade Ijamilusi (Liaoning Shenyang Shenbei Hefeng, China); Chioma Okafor (University of Connecticut, USA).

NBA star Durant becomes minority owner of PSG

Two-time NBA champion Kevin Durant has bought a minority stake in Champions League winners Paris St-Germain.

The Phoenix Suns forward has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Qatar Sports Investments (QSI), the majority owners of the French club, and will provide expertise during PSG's planned expansion into basketball.

"It is an honour to partner with QSI and to be a shareholder of PSG, a club and a city that is deeply close to my heart," the four-time Olympic gold medallist said.

"This club has big plans and I look forward to being part of the next phase of growth and exploring new investment opportunities with QSI."

Earlier this year, QSI expressed their interest in owning a franchise in a European basketball league proposed by the NBA and the sport's world governing body Fiba.

PSG said that they will partner with Durant's media and investment company Boardroom on a wide range of "commercial, investment and content initiatives" and that the NBA star will "support the club on its continued sports and business diversification and growth".

Durant was already linked with the 13-time French champions through the club's minority shareholder Arctos Partners but has now invested directly.

Durant, who won two NBA titles with Golden State Warriors and claimed gold at the 2024 Paris Olympics with the United States, was recently included in Forbes' 2025 list of highest-paid athletes.

QSI acquired PSG in 2011 and their investment has helped the club win 11 Ligue 1 titles and a first Champions League, that they won by defeating Inter Milan 5-0 last month.

Charges dropped against England goalkeeper Keating

A court case against England goalkeeper Khiara Keating has been dropped nearly a year after she pleaded not guilty to possessing canisters of nitrous oxide.

The 20-year-old Manchester City goalkeeper was charged with possession of a Class C drug on 18 June last year after an investigation by Greater Manchester Police.

In July, Keating appeared at Manchester and Salford Magistrates Court alongside her mother Nicola Keating, 48, who also denied the same offence, and both were granted unconditional bail.

Greater Manchester Police has confirmed the case has been discontinued.

In a statement given exclusively to BBC Sport, Keating said: "I'm relieved the charges have been dropped. As I've always said, I did nothing wrong.

"It's been a difficult time, but I've always known the truth. Now I'm just looking forward to focusing fully on the Euros and spending time with my family."

Nitrous oxide was made a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act in November 2023.

Possession with the intention of wrongfully inhaling it for a psychoactive effect became an offence, but it is still possible to use the gas for legitimate reasons, such as in catering or pain relief during labour.

Keating has not made an appearance for England's senior team yet but is part of the 23-player squad selected to compete at Euro 2025 next month.

She became the youngest player to win the Women's Super League Golden Glove award last year, after keeping nine clean sheets in 22 league games.

Wolves sign Lopez from Celta Vigo in £19m deal

Wolves have made their first signing of the summer by bringing in forward Fer Lopez in a £19m deal from Celta Vigo.

The 21-year-old left-footer has joined the Molineux club on a five-year contract.

Lopez made his senior debut for Celta Vigo in October 2024 and scored four goals in 20 appearances last season.

"It's an amazing opportunity for my career to play in the Premier League and I'm very happy," he told the Wolves website.

"[Manager] Vitor [Pereira] told me he thought I was a good fit in the squad and when it's a club like this, you have little to think about.

"The team did very good when Vitor came and I think he is top, so I'm very excited to be with him."

Lopez briefly attended school in Suffolk in 2018 and trained with Norwich City's academy before joining Celta Vigo's academy at the age of 10.

He helped Celta Vigo finish seventh in La Liga last season.

"I cannot explain with words, because it was everything I had dreamed of," said Lopez.

Liverpool sign Leverkusen's Wirtz in £116m deal



New Liverpool signing Florian Wirtz says he wants to "win everything every year" at Anfield after the Germany playmaker joined from Bayer Leverkusen for a club record £116m.

The 22-year-old has signed a long-term deal with the Reds, understood to be five years, which will keep him on Merseyside until at least 2030, after completing a medical at the club's training ground on Friday.

The deal, which includes a guaranteed £100m and a further £16m in add-ons, tops Liverpool's previous club record signing of Virgil van Dijk for £75m in 2018.

Should those add-ons be achieved, Wirtz's move to Anfield would become a British transfer record to beat the £107m Chelsea paid Benfica for Argentina midfielder Enzo Fernandez in 2023.

Wirtz, who scored 57 goals in 197 Leverkusen appearances, is Liverpool's second major signing of the summer and the club's second from the Bundesliga runners-up following the arrival of Dutch right-back Jeremie Frimpong for £29.5m last month.

"I would like to win everything every year. First of all, we have to do our work," said Wirtz, whose shirt number will be announced later in the summer.

"Last season they won the Premier League so my goal is for sure to win it again and also to go further in the Champions League. I'm really ambitious.

"I'm really excited to have a new adventure in front of me. This was also a big point of my thoughts: that I want to have something completely new, to go out of the Bundesliga and to join the Premier League.

"I will see how I can perform there. I hope I can do my best.

"I spoke also with some players who played there and they told me that it's perfect for me and every pitch is perfect, you can enjoy every game. I'm really looking forward to playing my first game."

What will Wirtz bring to Liverpool?

Wirtz made his top-flight debut aged 17 for Bayer Leverkusen in May 2020 and just 19 days later he became the then-youngest goalscorer in Bundesliga history against the might of Bayern Munich - a club who were also in contention for his signature this summer.

In addition to his goalscoring efforts, Wirtz has provided 44 assists in the Bundesliga since he made his debut.

That ranks him third of all players over that time but everyone else in the top five is aged 29 or older, which indicates the high ceiling for Wirtz's development.

A dynamic playmaker blessed with pace, awareness and the ability to make clever decisions at high speed he was one of the Bundesliga's top performers operating as a number 10.

He was also the most effective dribbler of all players in the German top flight last season, both in terms of volume and accuracy while carrying the ball.

A total of 23 of his 31 Bundesliga appearances in 2024-25 came in an attacking midfield/number 10 berth, although he does tend to drift towards the left wing.

German football expert Raphael Honigstein told BBC Radio 5 Live that Wirtz is "more or less the fully-formed article" and Liverpool are "buying a superstar" who will "bring a lot of class and poise".

"He has played for Leverkusen and Germany so knows the demands that are on him, but still, he will have to adjust to the pace of the Premier League and the more physical way," Honigstein said.

"Opponents will try to negate his influence and that might prove a challenge, but he is young enough and good enough. He is not easily intimidated and stands up strong to the challenge."

The youngest player to reach 50 Bundesliga appearances at 18 years and seven months, he was the face of a fearless and dynamic Leverkusen side.

He is also an influential dressing room figure despite his age.

"Even early in his Bundesliga career, he carried himself like a leader. He's not the loudest voice in the room, but his presence is felt," said German football writer Constantin Eckner.

Promes extradited to Netherlands to serve prison sentence



Former Ajax winger Quincy Promes has been extradited to the Netherlands, where he will serve a seven-and-a-half year prison sentence for drug trafficking and aggravated assault.

The 33-year-old was arrested in Dubai last week following a request by the Dutch police.

Promes, capped 50 times for the Netherlands, was sentenced to six years in jail in February 2024 for his part in smuggling more than a tonne of cocaine into the Netherlands from Belgium in 2020.

He had previously been sentenced to 18 months in prison for stabbing his cousin in the knee at a family gathering in 2020 but is yet to serve any time in prison for either of the crimes.

A spokesperson for the prosecutors has confirmed that the Dutchman has now returned to the Netherlands.

Promes denies the charges and has filed appeals in both cases.

Promes made his senior debut for Twente in 2009 and spent three years at the club before earning the first of his two stints with Russian side Spartak Moscow.

After four years in the Russian capital, Promes joined Sevilla in La Liga but spent just one year in Spain before returning to the Netherlands with Ajax.

He re-joined Spartak Moscow in 2021, spending a further three years in Russia before a move to Dubai United in 2024.

The first of Promes' 50 caps for the national side came in 2014, with the winger netting seven goals in that time. His last cap was in 2023.

It is yet to be determined where Promes will serve his sentence in the Netherlands.

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June 21, 2025 / Vol. 3 No.84 www.justliberationnews.com @justlibnews Justliberationnews @justliberationnews Justliberationnews ₦200

Amedokhian Devastative Feud Settled Today

B ON'OMO OJOMOH

UROMI-The devastitative feud Which had tore Amedokhian Community Uromi, the administrative headquarters of Esan North East Local Government Area of Edo State was settled today the 21st day of june,2025.

The event which was attended by the four quarters (Egbenene) who migrated from Okanigben Ewohimi to Uromi was a unique one.

The ceremony was held at Amedokhian Community presided over by the Ojuromi of Uromi Kingdom,His Royal Marjesty HRM Zaiki Aslem Odaloighe Edenojie 11 JP MFR with his Traditional Council of Chiefs.

Speaking at the occasion, the Ojuromi emphasised that henceforth, the EZOMO of Uromi Kingdom,Chief Henry Amebhagbe Iriogbe is the head the community and not High Priest of Ominohuan deity in the community.

Zaiki Edenojie maintained that, it's the Chief of the community who reports back to the king after deliberating with elders of the community.

According to him, Chief priest of Agba in the palace is the head of all the priests in Uromi Kingdom.

He however pointed out that, it's a misnormal for a deity High priest to take over the position of the Ezomo who is number three and head of the entire community.

The four quarters (Ebgenenen) comprising Idumu-Oniha,Ukpato,Uzegua,Idumu-Enih and Idumu-Esodole were in full attendance to witness the removal Mr Friday Okhueleigbe as the High Priest of Ominohuan and replaced with Elder Odion Ikhayere Areghan who was immediately sworn-in as the new High Priest of Ominohuan deity in Amedokhian Community.

The Odionwele of Amedokhian Community,Elder Okodogbe Oseghe headed the council of community elders at the event.

While the Oniha of Uromi Kingdom, Chief Festus Oniha,led the four quarters to Amedokhian.Others includes,Chief Edebhakhia,Mr Samuel Okadukpon,Chief Enih, Chief Ted Inegbedipn,,Mr Udegbe and the Uzegua Community,who led the opening prayers at the occasion.









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