



www.keepingthemhonest.ng

#300

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2026

VOL. 04 NO. 057

Alarm as Makinde Picks Daura, Buhari Era DSS Boss Linked to Midnight Raids on Judges, as APM Running Mate

PG 9

Aviation Tensions Ease as Keyamo Brokers Truce Between Aviation Unions and Airline Operators **PG 13**

FG Knocks US Fiscal Transparency Report, Says Nigeria Making Steady Progress **PG 13**

“We Thought Lagos Generated 13,000 Tons of Waste Daily, But It’s 17,000” — Deputy Governor Hamzat Explains Waste Crisis **PG 5**

Nigeria Misses FIFA Women’s World Cup Qualification for First Time After Loss to South Africa **PG 10**



Tinubu Talks Tough, Vows to Revive PH, Warri, Kaduna Refineries Despite \$18bn Wasted

PG 7

● Says NNPC Refineries Won’t Be Allowed to Die, Promises Comprehensive Program to Make Them Commercially Viable

Osun Polls: Obi Warns Against Rigging, Intimidation, Says World Is Watching Nigeria

■ NDC Presidential Candidate Urges INEC, Security Agencies to Let the People’s Will Prevail



Soft Sell

...with Uche Aghulor



The once-close friendship between beauty entrepreneurs and reality television stars Adeola “Diiadem” Adeyemi and Dabota Lawson has taken a dramatic turn, with the pair now embroiled in a public fallout involving serious allegations.

Diiadem took to her Snapchat account on Thursday, August 13, to call out Lawson, accusing her former friend of allegedly orchestrating a smear campaign against her through popular entertainment blogs.

One of the major claims made by Diiadem centred on the N5 million cash gift Lawson reportedly gave her during her birthday celebrations in January.

According to Diiadem, the gesture was merely for public appearance,

alleging that the entire N5 million was returned to Lawson shortly after it was transferred to her.

Diiadem also suggested that she knows more about Lawson’s personal and business affairs and warned that she could reveal further information if the situation escalates. The public fallout marks a sharp departure from the close relationship the two women previously shared after becoming friends on *The Real Housewives of Lagos*.

Their friendship had attracted considerable attention, with the pair frequently appearing together and publicly celebrating each other.

However, speculation about a possible rift began several months ago after Diiadem failed to publicly acknowledge Lawson’s birthday,

despite their previously visible friendship.

The silence contrasted with Lawson’s earlier public show of affection for Diiadem, including an emotional birthday tribute she shared on Instagram in April.

Lawson also made headlines during Diiadem’s birthday celebration over her reported presentation of the N5 million cash gift.

With Diiadem now alleging that the money was returned and accusing Lawson of attempting to damage her reputation, their once-public friendship has taken a dramatic turn. Neither Lawson’s response nor an independent confirmation of Diiadem’s allegations was included in the claims circulating at the time of publication.

Nollywood actress Iyabo Ojo has shared a cryptic message about alleged plots against her, insisting that she remains firmly grounded despite what she described as “crooked plans” by her detractors.

In a post shared on social media, the actress said she was aware of what she described as attempts to work against her, adding that she would continue to speak out regardless of the situation.

“My detractors are plotting. I’m solidly on ground. Our eyes are seeing the crooked plans and camouflaged visits. Our ears are hearing the silent whisperings,” she wrote.

Iyabo Ojo further maintained that she would not be silenced, saying she would continue to speak on issues affecting society.

“And likewise, our lips won’t cease to speak to the consciousness of society. Irrespective of how far falsehood may travel, the truth shall catch up with it one day. The truth shall emerge in earnest,” she added.

Her post comes shortly after social media activist VeryDarkMan reignited discussions surrounding the death of singer Mohbad.

In a recent video, VeryDarkMan called out Iyabo Ojo, Mohbad’s widow Wunmi Aloba and others who had publicly advocated for justice following the singer’s death.

e also warned them to prepare for what he described as a fresh investigation into Mohbad’s death, saying he intends to revisit the circumstances surrounding the case.

Although Iyabo Ojo did not mention VeryDarkMan or Mohbad directly in her post, the timing of her message has prompted speculation that it was connected to the renewed controversy.

The development has once again brought the public spotlight back to the unresolved questions and competing claims surrounding Mohbad’s death.



Soft Sell



OSUN STATE ELECTIONS: “GO AND WIN A GRAMMY” — EDO GOVERNMENT SLAMS DAVIDO OVER TRUMP APPEAL AHEAD OF OSUN ELECTION

The Edo State Government has criticised Afrobeats star David Adeleke, popularly known as Davido, over his appeal to United States President Donald Trump and the international community to pay attention to the forthcoming Osun State governorship election.

Davido had called for international attention to the election, citing concerns over possible violence, intimidation and interference with the voting process.

Reacting to the singer's comments, Edo State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Prince Kassim Afegbua, described Davido's appeal to Trump as inappropriate and accused him of venturing into politics instead of focusing on his music career.

Speaking during a press briefing in Benin City, Afegbua said Davido should concentrate on his music and work towards winning another Grammy rather than involving himself in political matters.

The commissioner described the singer's decision to write to Trump as “arrant nonsense” and defended Edo State Governor Monday Okpebholo's involvement in campaigning for the All Progressives Congress candidate ahead of the Osun election.

Afegbua also dismissed an alleged academic result belonging to Governor Okpebholo that has been circulating online, describing the document as fake. He claimed he had seen the governor's authentic academic record, which he said showed that Okpebholo holds a Master's degree.

Turning his attention to Osun State Governor Ademola Adeleke, Afegbua referred to him as a “dancer” and questioned whether there was anything wrong with having a dancer as governor.

“We are looking for votes from Osun. We are telling them to vote for serious-minded people,” he said.

The commissioner maintained that members of the APC had the right to campaign for their preferred candidate and expressed confidence that the party's candidate would emerge victorious in Saturday's election.

Taking another swipe at Davido, Afegbua said, “Davido, who should be in the studio to record good music, has become a politician.”

He added that “governance is serious business.”

The exchange comes amid heightened political activity ahead of the Osun governorship election, with Davido openly supporting his uncle, Governor Ademola Adeleke, and calling for a peaceful and credible electoral process.

LAGOS WASTE CRISIS REVEALED

**“WE THOUGHT
LAGOS
GENERATED
13,000 TONS
OF WASTE DAILY,
BUT IT’S 17,000”**

**— DEPUTY GOVERNOR HAMZAT
EXPLAINS WASTE CRISIS**



Lagos State Deputy Governor, Obafemi Hamzat, has attributed the state’s ongoing waste management challenges to the higher than expected volume of waste being generated and the shortage of functional trucks operated by the Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA).

Speaking during an interview with Jimi Disu on Nigeria Info FM, Hamzat said the state initially estimated that Lagos generated about 13,000 tons of waste daily but later discovered that the figure was closer to 17,000 tons.

“It’s easy for me to just throw the LAWMA agency under the bus, but I won’t do that. We’ve asked them to do a job at a scale we did not predict. We thought that we were generating 13 tons of waste on a daily basis. It turns out we are generating about 17,000,” he said.

The deputy governor stressed

the importance of accurate data in managing the state’s waste disposal system, noting that even people living on the streets contribute to the volume of waste generated.

“What you can’t measure, it’s difficult to plan and manage. The people that sleep on the street, they generate refuse, so how do we plan for that?” he asked.

Hamzat also disclosed that many Private Sector Participation (PSP) operators contracted to collect waste no longer have enough functional trucks to effectively carry out their duties.

According to him, some operators had complained about the rising cost of diesel and sought an increase in their tariffs, but the state government rejected the request and opted to bear the additional cost.

He identified the condition of waste collection trucks as another

major challenge facing the state.

Hamzat explained that each of Lagos State’s 57 local governments and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) ordered two trucks each, amounting to 114 vehicles, while the state government separately ordered another 100 trucks.

However, the delivery of the vehicles has been delayed.

“We were supposed to get delivery in July; unfortunately, they said it’s going to be September,” he said.

The deputy governor accepted responsibility for the delay in anticipating the state’s growing waste management needs, saying the situation should not simply be blamed on LAWMA.

“It’s not technically their fault; maybe we should have ordered earlier. We must take responsibility,” Hamzat added.

Intimate Affairs: Problem With The Whole Truth

By Funke Egbemode

Do women pretend when looking for a husband material? Well, the truth is they do. Do men do the same? You bet. We are all in the game, unfortunately. We all seem to have pasts that are as long as from Lagos to Gombe and so there is so much to hide. And we all want to hide them. But if you ask me, men encourage the pretext and the lies. A man who has taken 10 maidenheads wants to marry a virgin. Why shouldn't there be girls who will do a concoction of alum and other corrosives to make his passage and entry hard and tough? If he does not want a lie, nobody will tell him. If the relationship is not likely to run into a ditch, all truths will be told. But what man wants to know that you have dated 10 men before him? If he doesn't ask, why should you tell him? And if he asks, you must manage the truth. Even the Bible says we must apply wisdom in these things. What a man does not know will not hurt him. Right?

Now, there are also girls who used to be bad but have now repented and changed their ways. Should we not forgive them and allow them to live their new lives? Men are really romantics at heart though their ego and macho images won't allow them to own up to it. We know and that is why we protect them from bad stories. Eh, did somebody say that it is still not right for a woman to not tell the truth about her past?

Well.... What truth? That she dated the Vice-Chancellor in her undergraduate days and her current boss to get the job? Tell me what good that will serve and I will tell you that there are a few dumb girls left in Nigeria.

It's okay to tell the man you want to marry where you are coming from. In fact, I am all for telling the whole truth and nothing but the truth, but men tend to use these things against women in courts of disagreement later on. You tell a man you once had a brief relationship with your landlord to save your widowed mother and



Funke Egbemode

siblings the embarrassment of being thrown on the streets for unpaid rent and he accuses you of dating your boss five years later. You tell a man that you lost your virginity at the age of 14 to a man who eventually ran away with your mother's box of jewellery and he still suspects that you are seeing the man even when all you feel for the dupe is intense hatred that has taken you to many churches for several deliverance sessions. Is it not just safe and better for all concerned to apply wisdom?

Yes, sometimes the best thing is full disclosure, but it's not always safe. Yes, secrets mess up good relationships and the

only way to avoid dangerous surprises is to tell each other 'everything' but does the reality of our culture support full disclosure?

Men have immunity. Women don't. For instance it is no big impediment for a man to have slept with 20 women before meeting his wife.

In fact, such stories are endorsements of his manhood. He is expected to have done terrible things in his heydays. Women are supposed to be chaste. But is it not women he was sleeping with all the time he was proving that his circumcision was done with NAFDAC-approved scalpel? What stories do you guys figure those women will have to tell? And can they tell their stories without being lynched?

Men break hearts but they don't want damaged goods. Aren't they full of themselves? Someone will marry the goods they damaged, so they must manage the ones that their fellow men have damaged. That is the beauty of everybody not doing full disclosure. I love that part.

Eh-en, have you noticed that women who have children outside wedlock, love children, most of the times have difficulties finding single young men to marry? Well, the men don't want to marry 'after-one'. If a woman decides to hide her love child or tells her man that the child is her nephew or niece, she will be accused of hiding something. What is wrong with having a child? Nothing, if you ask me. In fact, it should be an added advantage. In these days of declining fertility, a woman who has had a child should be hot cake. She has proved that she is fertile. She

needs no fertility test. She is not black market. But the men want what they think is 'chassis' but which is actually an engine that has been ringed or 'dropped' five times. Abortion no dey show for face, abi? But do our men want to know any of that? No, an after-one is a no-go area. That is how they end up with cars that have no engines.

Bottom line. If men want the truth, they will hear it. If they are allergic to it, we will tell them what they want to hear. It is a simple principle of demand and supply..

•egbemode3@gmail.com.



Published by Cicero Communications Ltd., 1142 Cadastral Zone, Off Ajose Adeogun Street, Utako, Abuja.
All correspondence to: keepingthemhonestng@gmail.com, Website: www.keepingthemhonest.ng

OUR TEAM

PUBLISHER:
IMA NIBORO
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER:
OLUDARE AKINTUNDE
CHAIRMAN, EDITORIAL BOARD
DR. OBIORA CHUKWUMBA
EDITOR:
ORKULA SHAAGEE
NEWS EDITOR:
JEREMY FREGENE
SOFT SELL EDITOR:
UCHE AGHULOR
COPY EDITOR:
EMMANUEL OLUGUA

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER:
FRANCA OMAGBO ADOLE
ADMIN MANAGER:
DAVID JOHNSON DAGOGO
HEAD COMPUTER/GRAPHICS:
DARE FAITH ADEBIYI
HEAD, ICT & ONLINE:
ALHASSAN KPAKI
DIRECTORS:
ABAYOMI AKINTUNDE,
SIMI ALADA & LAZARUS PETERS

Tinubu Talks Tough, Vows to Revive PH, Warri, Kaduna Refineries Despite \$18bn Wasted

■ Says NNPC Refineries Won't Be Allowed to Die, Promises Comprehensive Program to Make Them Commercially Viable

By Franklin Adole

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Thursday vowed that the Federal Government would revive Nigeria's three state-owned refineries in Port Harcourt, Warri, and Kaduna, insisting they would not be allowed to waste away despite decades of failed rehabilitation efforts that have consumed an estimated \$18 billion in public funds.

The President said his administration would pursue a comprehensive restructuring of the country's refining assets, stressing that the objective was not merely to restart operations but to ensure that the facilities become commercially viable and deliver value to Nigerians.

Tinubu made the pledge while receiving the National Executive Council of the Nigerian Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), led by its National President, Comrade Salimon Akanni Oladiti, at the State House in Abuja.

Responding to an appeal by the union for the rehabilitation of the nation's refineries, the President said his administration was adopting a systematic and evidence-based approach that would address the deep-rooted structural, operational, financial, and managerial problems that have crippled the facilities over the years.

He said the government would commission detailed technical assessments and research to determine the most sustainable path to restoring the refineries to profitability.

"The refineries that you mentioned are going

to come back to work. We're building a very firm resetting and structural reworking of the economy around them. Ordinary flame and smoke from a refinery does not mean it is working until it is profitable and delivers the value for which it was built," Tinubu said.

The President acknowledged the burden inherited by his administration but said he had accepted both the assets and liabilities of previous governments and would take full responsibility for fixing the country's refining sector.

"I'm not a man who goes looking back on everything because I've accepted the assets and liabilities of my predecessor. Whatever has happened in the years past, it is now my responsibility as President to fix it and make it work for the greatest common good of our population. I take responsibility for that, and we will do it," he declared.

Nigeria has spent billions of dollars over successive administrations on repeated turnaround maintenance and rehabilitation of the Port Harcourt, Warri, and Kaduna refineries, yet the facilities have remained largely idle, forcing the country to depend heavily on imported petroleum products until the emergence of large-scale private refining capacity by Dangote Industries.

Tinubu also appealed to Nigerians to continue supporting democratic governance, describing democracy as a difficult but rewarding journey.

He said although reforms often involve painful adjustments, they would ultimately produce lasting benefits for the country.

"I appeal to all of you to let us work diligently and passionately on this democracy. Democracy is about the celebration of freedom and opportunity that must be cherished by all of us. Like painful childbirth, the joy is everlasting. I promise you that you will enjoy a better Nigeria," he said.

On the issue of local government autonomy, the President disclosed that constitutional questions surrounding the implementation of the policy were still being reviewed, adding that the Federal Government was examining possible adjustments to ensure smooth implementation.

He also paid tribute to the late former NUPENG President, Frank Kokori, describing him as one of the leading figures in Nigeria's struggle for democracy.

Tinubu recalled their collaboration during the pro-democracy movement and praised NUPENG for its longstanding contribution to democratic governance.

The President further promised greater involvement of the union in implementing the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Initiative, while urging labour leaders to ensure that the benefits of cheaper alternative fuel reached ordinary commuters.

Earlier, the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, commended NUPENG for publicly endorsing the Tinubu administration's economic reforms, describing the union's support as an uncommon development in Nigeria's labour relations.

He recalled that organised labour had previously applauded the President after he

approved a new national minimum wage and assured workers that wage reviews would not necessarily have to wait five years.

According to the minister, NUPENG's recognition of the administration's policies, including fuel subsidy removal and ongoing nationwide infrastructure projects, reflected growing confidence in the government's reform programme.

In his remarks, NUPENG President Salimon Oladiti described the removal of fuel subsidy as a courageous decision that had ended decades of financial waste and protected Nigeria's public finances.

He argued that savings from the subsidy regime were now being redirected towards critical infrastructure and national development.

Oladiti particularly praised the Federal Government's road construction programme, citing the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway and the Sokoto-Badagry Superhighway as major projects that would improve safety and reduce operational risks for tanker drivers and other road users.

He, however, urged the President not to relent in efforts to restore the country's refineries, saying operational refining plants would enhance Nigeria's energy security, reduce dependence on imported petroleum products and create more employment opportunities for Nigerians.

At the end of the meeting, the NUPENG leadership decorated President Tinubu as the Grand Patron of the union in recognition of what it described as his commitment to reforms in the petroleum sector.

Osun Polls: Obi Warns Against Rigging, Intimidation, Says World Is Watching Nigeria

■ NDC Presidential Candidate Urges INEC, Security Agencies to Let the People's Will Prevail

By Jeremy Fregene

Presidential candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), Mr. Peter Obi, has called for a peaceful, transparent, and credible governorship election in Osun State, warning that the eyes of Nigeria, Africa, and the international community are firmly fixed on the conduct of Saturday's poll.

In a statement on Thursday, Obi appealed to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), security agencies, political parties, and all stakeholders to uphold the principles of democracy by ensuring that the people of Osun are allowed to choose their next governor freely and without intimidation.

He stressed that the election should reflect the genuine will of the electorate, insisting that every legitimate vote must count and every valid result must be respected.

"Osun belongs to its people," Obi declared. "The people of Osun must be allowed to vote freely, safely, and without intimidation. Their votes must be counted transparently, protected faithfully, and announced according to the genuine will of the electorate."

The former Anambra State governor urged

INEC to remain impartial throughout the electoral process, from accreditation to voting, collation, and declaration of results, saying the credibility of the election would depend on the commission's ability to act independently and professionally.

He also called on security agencies to remain loyal to the Constitution rather than political interests, urging them to provide equal protection for all voters regardless of party affiliation.

According to him, the responsibility of security personnel is to safeguard lives, protect the electoral process, and inspire public confidence in the democratic exercise.

Obi appealed to political parties, candidates, government institutions, civil society organisations, traditional rulers, religious leaders, and the media to conduct themselves with restraint and impartiality before, during, and after the election.

Addressing residents of Osun State, the NDC standard-bearer urged them not to allow political competition to divide communities or destroy long-standing relationships.

He warned against violence and urged citizens to resist any attempt by politicians to

pit neighbours against one another in pursuit of electoral victory.

"Do not allow politicians to turn your neighbours, friends, and communities against each other. Do not destroy your state in the name of winning an election. Nigeria is bigger than any candidate, and Osun is greater than any political party," he said.

Obi also directed a strong appeal to politicians, supporters, financiers, and influencers outside Osun State, urging them not to import violence, intimidation, or desperation into the election.

He said the people of the state had a constitutional right to choose their leaders peacefully without external interference or coercion.

The presidential candidate further called on members of the diplomatic community, international election observers, and Nigeria's development partners to pay close attention to the conduct of the poll.

According to him, credible international observation would strengthen confidence in Nigeria's democratic institutions and reinforce the country's commitment to the rule of law.

He said Nigeria welcomed genuine partnerships aimed at protecting democracy, peaceful elections, and constitutional governance.

Obi maintained that democracy should not be measured solely by who emerges victorious but by whether citizens are genuinely allowed to exercise their right to choose their leaders through the ballot.

He expressed hope that Osun would demonstrate that political competition could remain vigorous without descending into violence and that power could change hands through the ballot box rather than bloodshed.

"Let every vote count. Let every voter be protected. Let every legitimate result be respected. Above all, let peace reign in Osun State," he said.

Obi concluded by reminding all stakeholders that the credibility of the Osun governorship election would be judged not only by Nigerians but also by the wider international community.

"Nigeria is watching. Africa is watching. The world is watching. Let us provide them with a democratic process worthy of the Nigerian people," he added.



From left: Lagos State Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Systems, Mr Abisola Olusanya; Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State; his wife, Dr Ibijoke, and others, on a tour of the Fresh Food Hub in Agege during the inauguration in Lagos. PHOTO: NAN

Daar Communications Shares Down by 9.25% as Equities Shed N613bn Across Key Sectors

The equities market extended its losing streak on Thursday, as investors lost N613 billion amid sustained sell-offs across key oil and gas, banking, industrial and consumer goods stocks. The market capitalisation declined by 0.39 per cent, falling from N157.493 trillion to N156.880 trillion.

The All-Share Index also dropped from 243,967.09 to 243,017.38, representing a decline of 949.71 points, or 0.39 per cent.

This led to the market's Year-to-Date (YTD) return weakening further to 56.17 per cent while the market breadth closed negatively, recording 41 losers against 16 gainers.

Unilever Nigeria led the losers' chart by 9.97 per cent, closing at N118.30, Chellareem followed by 9.66 per cent, ending the session at N10.75, while NIDF lost by 9.55 per cent, finishing at N147.70 per share.

Daar Communications went down by 9.25 per cent, settling at N1.57, and Cornerstone Insurance dropped by 9.09 per cent, closing at N5 per share.

Conversely, International Energy Insurance led the gainers' chart by 10 per cent, settling at N4.84, John Holt trailed by 9.89 per cent, finishing at N10 and Trans-Nationwide Express gained by 9.75 per cent, ending the session at N2.59 per share.

Sunu Assurances climbed by 8.48 per cent, closing at N3.58 while Nem Insurance grew by 6.25 per cent, finishing at N34 per share.

Meanwhile, market activity strengthened during the session, as total volume traded rose by 191.22 per cent to 4.24 billion shares, valued at N50.65 billion, across 41,545 deals.

Cornerstone Insurance led trading by volume and value, with 3.64 billion shares traded, accounting for 85.82 per cent of the total volume and 36.26 per cent of the total value traded.

FG Re-opens Three Bonds Valued at N1.1trn for Subscription in August

The Debt Management Office (DMO), on behalf of the Federal Government, has announced an offer of three FGN bonds valued at N1.1 trillion for subscription at N1,000 per unit.

According to a statement by the DMO on Thursday in Abuja, the first offer is the January 2035 FGN Bond valued at N250 billion (10-year re-opening), at an interest rate of 22.60 per cent per annum.

The second offer is an April 2037 FGN bond valued at N100 billion (20-year re-opening), at an interest rate of 16.2499 per cent per annum.

The Federal Government also re-opened a June 2038 FGN bond valued at N750 billion (15-year re-opening), at an interest rate of 15.45 per cent per annum.

According to the statement, the opening date for the offer is Aug. 3, the closing date is Aug. 7, the settlement date is Aug. 12, while coupon payment dates are Nov. 12, Feb. 12, May 12 and Aug. 12.

"Auction date is Aug. 17, and the settlement date is Aug. 19.

"The FGN bonds are offered at N1,000 per unit subject to a

minimum subscription of N50 million and in multiples of N1,000 thereafter.

"For re-openings of previously issued bonds (where the coupon is already set), successful bidders will pay a price corresponding to the yield-to-maturity bid that clears the volume being auctioned, plus any accrued interest."

The DMO said that interest is payable semi-annually, while bullet repayment is on the maturity date.

It said that FGN bonds, like all other Federal Government securities, are backed by the full faith and credit of the Federal Government and charged upon the general assets of Nigeria.

"They qualify as securities in which trustees can invest under the Trustee Investment Act.

"They qualify as government securities within the meaning of the Company Income Tax Act and Personal Income Tax Act for exemption for pension funds, amongst other investors.

"They are listed on the Nigerian Exchange Ltd., and the FMDQ OTC Securities Exchange, and

they qualify as liquid assets for liquidity ratio calculation for banks," it said.

The FGN bonds (Federal Government of Nigeria Bonds) are debt instruments issued by the DMO on behalf of the Federal Government.

They are considered risk-free investments because they are fully backed by the full faith and credit of the Nigerian government.

FGN bonds are primarily targeted at institutional investors and high-net-worth individuals (HNIs) like pension fund administrators, commercial and merchant banks, insurance companies, asset managers, and corporate treasury desks.

Their high minimum subscription thresholds (typically starting at N50 million at primary auctions) make them structured specifically for large-scale institutional capital deployment.

Subscription to FGN bonds means one is lending money to the Federal Government, which agrees to pay interest (coupon) at regular intervals and to repay the principal when the bond matures.

Alarm as Makinde Picks Daura, Buhari Era DSS Boss Linked to Midnight Raids on Judges, as APM Running Mate

By Abu Adamu

The presidential candidate of the Allied Peoples Movement (APM), Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State, has named former Director-General of the Department of State Services (DSS), Lawal Musa Daura, as his running mate for the 2027 presidential election, a decision already attracting attention because of Daura's controversial tenure as Nigeria's spy chief under former President Muhammadu Buhari.

Makinde unveiled Daura on Thursday at the APM National Convention in Bauchi, describing the task before the opposition as one that goes beyond merely winning power.

The Oyo State governor said the overriding objective was to present Nigerians with a credible alternative capable of rescuing the country and guaranteeing a better future.

"As we approach 2027, therefore, I believe the task before all of us is bigger than winning an

election. It is to give Nigerians a real choice about the future of their country," Makinde declared.

Daura, who recently defected to the APM after resigning from the African Democratic Congress (ADC), replaces Ibrahim Adamu Bala, who had earlier been announced as Makinde's running mate in what party officials described as a placeholder arrangement.

However, Daura's emergence has revived memories of one of the most controversial episodes of the Buhari administration—the October 2016 midnight raids on the homes of serving judges by operatives of the Department of State Services.

As Director-General of the DSS at the time, Daura oversaw the coordinated overnight operations carried out between October 7 and 8, 2016, during which operatives stormed the residences of several senior judicial officers, including Supreme Court Justices Sylvester Ngwuta and John Okoro, as well as Justice Adeniyi Ademola of the Federal High Court.

The raids, conducted in the dead of night, triggered nationwide outrage and were condemned by the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), senior lawyers, civil society organisations, and human rights groups, many of whom described the operation as unconstitutional and an assault on the independence of the judiciary.

Critics argued that the DSS ought to have referred allegations against judicial officers to the National Judicial Council (NJC), the constitutionally recognised body responsible for disciplining judges, rather than carrying out dramatic arrests.

The operations also generated a series of legal actions.

Lawal Daura was named as a principal respondent in several fundamental rights suits instituted by lawyers challenging the legality of the raids, alongside then President Muhammadu Buhari and the Attorney-General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami.

The Federal High Court in Abuja subsequently

directed Daura and other senior government officials to appear before it and justify the legality of the arrests and the proposed prosecution of the affected judges.

At the time, the Presidency and the DSS defended the operation as part of the Federal Government's anti-corruption campaign, insisting the agency acted within the law to tackle alleged judicial corruption.

The affected judges, however, maintained that their constitutional rights had been violated, while many legal practitioners argued that the operation represented executive overreach and undermined judicial independence.

Makinde's decision to bring Daura onto the APM presidential ticket is already generating fresh political debate, as critics revive questions surrounding his stewardship of the country's secret police and the controversial 2016 raids that remain one of the defining episodes of the Buhari administration.



L-R: Clerk, House of Representatives Committee on the South-South Development Commission (SSDC), Lekan Abdulsalami, Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Julius Gbaborji Poni, and a member of the Committee, Hon. Terseer Ugbor, during a stakeholders' engagement on the gas seepage incident in Bille Community, Degema LGA, Rivers State, and the oil spill incident in Odidi Federated Community, Delta State, at the National Assembly, yesterday in Abuja.

Turaki PDP Dumps Adedamola, Once Charged for Bola Ige Murder, Directs Supporters to Vote Adeleke

By Yinka Giwa

The faction of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) led by former Minister of Special Duties, Kabiru Turaki (SAN), has directed its members and supporters in Osun State to vote for Governor Ademola Adeleke of the Accord Party in Saturday's governorship election, despite securing a Court of Appeal judgment affirming the nomination of its own governorship candidate, Adebayo Olugbenga Adedamola.

The decision, announced barely 72 hours before the election, effectively sidelines Adedamola, whose name had only just been restored to the ballot by the appellate court after months of legal battles with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Adedamola is also remembered for his controversial involvement in the investigation into the December 2001 assassination of former Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige. Although he was arraigned alongside several others on charges of conspiracy and murder, he was discharged and acquitted in 2004 after an Ibadan High Court ruled that prosecutors failed to establish a prima facie case against the accused persons.

In a statement signed by the Interim National Publicity Secretary of the Turaki-led PDP, Comrade Ini Ememobong, the party said the Court of Appeal

in Abuja had upheld Adedamola's nomination and ordered INEC to immediately include the PDP logo on the ballot for the August 15 governorship election.

According to the statement, the appellate court held that the PDP had validly conducted governorship primaries monitored by INEC and had duly forwarded the name of its candidate to the electoral commission, ruling that the issue of access codes for uploading candidates to the commission's portal was merely an administrative procedure that could not override statutory compliance.

The faction claimed the judgement vindicated its longstanding allegation that INEC had acted with bias against what it described as the legitimate leadership of the PDP by refusing to recognise its candidate despite monitoring the primary election.

It accused the electoral commission of deliberately withholding the nomination access codes and acting in a manner designed to weaken opposition parties ahead of the poll.

Despite celebrating the legal victory, however, the Turaki-led PDP acknowledged that the judgement came too late for Adedamola to mount any meaningful statewide campaign before Saturday's election.

It consequently announced what it described as a "consequential decision" to throw its weight behind incumbent Governor Ademola Adeleke, who is contesting the election on the platform of the

Accord Party after leaving the PDP amid the party's prolonged leadership crisis.

The statement said the Interim National Working Committee took the decision after extensive consultations with stakeholders, arguing that supporting Adeleke was necessary to protect multi-party democracy and prevent what it described as attempts by the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) to benefit from the PDP's internal disputes.

The faction therefore urged all PDP members across Osun State to vote for Adeleke, defend their votes and ensure that every valid ballot counted.

It also accused the APC of pursuing a "do-or-die" approach to elections and called on Nigerians to resist any attempt to undermine the democratic process.

However, the legal and political significance of the Court of Appeal judgment was immediately questioned by former member of the House of Representatives and journalist, Timothy Golu.

Responding to celebrations by supporters of the Turaki faction, Golu argued that Turaki had no legal connection with the nomination process that produced the Osun governorship candidate.

According to him, the nomination papers submitted to INEC were signed by the PDP's Acting National Chairman, Umar Damagum, and National Secretary, Samuel Anyanwu, long before the emergence of the Turaki-led leadership.

He maintained that the conventions from which

Turaki and his executives emerged had not taken place at the time the nomination documents were submitted and predicted that further litigation over the judgment was likely.

Meanwhile, Adedamola's emergence has revived public interest in his role during the investigation into the assassination of former Justice Minister Bola Ige.

In January 2002, prominent lawyer and human rights activist Festus Keyamo publicly presented Adedamola as a man who allegedly possessed inside information on the murder.

At the time, Keyamo alleged that Adedamola had sworn an affidavit claiming that he knew those responsible for Ige's assassination and that former Osun Deputy Governor Iyiola Omisore had allegedly offered him N5 million to kill the late minister—an offer he claimed to have rejected.

Keyamo had told journalists that Adedamola possessed detailed information about those behind the killing and that evidence would be released in stages.

However, Adedamola later retracted those allegations, claiming that he had been pressured into making the statements.

He admitted participating in an incident in Ile-Ife during which Bola Ige was publicly humiliated by youths who removed the elder statesman's traditional cap, an act widely regarded in Yoruba culture as deeply insulting.



Nigeria Misses FIFA Women's World Cup Qualification for First Time After Loss to South Africa

Nigeria's Super Falcons will not play any part in the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup to be hosted by Brazil, courtesy of a 1-2 loss to Bayana Bayana of South Africa in the TotalEnergies CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations 2026 play-off match on Thursday.

It is the first time in the history of quadrennial soccer fiesta that the 10-time African champions will not be part of it, having participated in all previous 10 editions since 1991.

Yesterday's result capped a woeful year for the Super Falcons who also failed to go beyond the quarter-final stage of the TotalEnergies CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations since the tournament's inception in 1998.

On the other hand, the victory kept South Africa's FIFA Women's World Cup Brazil 2027 hopes alive.

Despite seeing their TotalEnergies CAF WAFCON campaign come to an end before the semi-finals, Banyana Banyana produced a spirited display to overcome the Super Falcons and move one step closer to securing a place at the global showpiece.

South Africa threatened first in the seventh minute when Linda Motlhalo

tried her luck from distance, but her effort sailed over the crossbar.

Nigeria responded three minutes later through Rasheedat Ajibade, whose strike from outside the penalty area drifted wide of the target.

The first half proved a tightly contested affair, with both sides battling for control but unable to find the breakthrough before the interval.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 56th minute when South Africa launched a swift counterattack. Hildah Magaia provided the final pass for Thembi Kgatlana, who kept her composure to slot home and give Banyana Banyana the lead.

Kgatlana almost doubled South Africa's advantage moments later but was unable to keep her close-range effort on target.

Nigeria continued to search for a response and came close in the 75th minute when Uchenna Kanu rose highest to meet a cross, only to see her header well saved by Kaylin Swart who produced a Woman of the Match performance.

Just a minute later, South Africa struck again. Refiloe Jane reacted to a loose ball inside the area and fired a

shot through a crowded penalty box to make it 2-0.

Banyana Banyana nearly added a third immediately after the restart, but Magaia was unable to keep her effort down after meeting a delightful delivery into the area.

With defeat looming, Nigeria committed more players forward in search of a way back into the contest and were rewarded deep into stoppage time.

Following a VAR review, the Super Falcons were awarded a penalty after Jane was adjudged to have handled the ball inside the area. The South African midfielder received a second yellow card and was sent off, while substitute Christy Ucheibe calmly converted from the spot.

Nigeria pressed for a dramatic equaliser in the closing moments, but South Africa held firm to secure a memorable victory and keep their FIFA Women's World Cup ambitions alive.

The result sees Banyana Banyana advance to the next stage of the FIFA Women's World Cup qualification pathway, where they will continue their quest for a place at the global finals in Brazil in 2027.

Nigeria Thrash Mozambique by 407 Runs in U-19 World Cup Qualifier



Nigeria's Junior Yellow Greens on Thursday defeated Mozambique by 407 runs in their fourth match of the ongoing International Cricket Council (ICC) U-19 World Cup qualifier in Kigali, Rwanda.

Nigeria won the toss and elected to bat at the IPRC Kigali College Oval, where the team produced

its best batting performance of the tournament.

Captain Rahmon Ali and opening partner Hossana Omonkhobio provided a solid start, with Ali scoring 41 runs off 46 balls before he was dismissed in the 15th over.

Nigeria had posted 89 runs at the time of Ali's dismissal and

continued to build on the score through Keneth Boniface, who added 17 runs.

Boniface, who had scored 97 runs in Nigeria's previous match against Uganda, was dismissed after being caught by Mozambique's Quelido Anselmo in the 18th over.

Peculiar Egemasi then joined Omonkhobio at the crease and contributed 123 runs off 84 balls, while Omonkhobio went on to score 84 runs off 73 balls.

Bright Nyong produced the outstanding performance of the innings, scoring an unbeaten 137 runs off 53 balls to help Nigeria reach 461 runs for the loss of six wickets in 50 overs.

In their chase, Mozambique struggled against Nigeria's bowling attack and were bowled out for 54 runs in 23 overs.

Only Emerson Ndzeute, who scored 11 runs off 16 balls, and Rodrigues Mangue, with 19 runs off 13 balls, managed to reach double figures for Mozambique.

Nigeria consequently secured a convincing 407-run victory over Mozambique.

Okechukwu Signs Three Years Deal With Rangers from Nasarawa United

Ifeanyi Okechukwu has joined reigning Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) champions Rangers International Football Club of Enugu.

Okechukwu linked up with the Flying Antelopes from Nasarawa United.

He signed a deal that will keep him in Enugu until 2028.

Okechukwu managed only 13

appearances during his six months stay with the Solid Miners.

The midfielder has previously played for Enyimba and Niger Tornadoes.

Okechukwu will give Fidelis Ilechukwu's side more options in the midfield ahead of the new campaign.

Rangers will be aiming to successfully defend their NPFL title next season.



Golf Included in Akwa-Ibom Sports Festival 2026 Train as Commissioner Inspects Course

Following popular demand, preparations have reached an advanced stage to enlist the game of golf in the sports train of the Akwa Ibom State Sports Festival of 2026.

This follows the visit of the State Commissioner for Sports and Chairman of the Main Organising Committee (MOC) of the Akwa Ibom State Sports Festival, Elder Paul Bassey, to the Ibom Golf Course in Nwaniba, Uyo, on Wednesday.

While interfacing with the Captain of the Ibom Golf Course, Mr Isuamfon Archibong, the sports boss disclosed that the visit was necessitated by the need for a firsthand knowledge and information on the implications, peculiarities, and compositions of golf game in the festival as according to him, "last year there was a huge demand for the inclusion of golf and this year we are hearkening to that call. It will add value to the festival. Golf is a popular sport and in Uyo we have a world-class course."

In his response, the captain of the course, Mr Archibong, who took the commissioner and his team round the 17.5 kilometres 18-hole Golf Course, described the Ibom Golf Course as the best in size and

standard in West Africa.

Archibong poured encomium on the leadership of the state since previous administrations, particularly from Obong Victor Attah when the course was established, to

Governor Umo Eno, for their passionate cooperation in promoting the game and maintaining the high standard of the course.

According to Mr Archibong, the golf course, which boasts about 1,000 members across the state, offers a class and quality that attract regular visitors from across the West African subregion.

Speaking on the inclusion of golf in the sports festival, the delighted Captain said members who span across all the local governments in the state will be delighted to participate.

Flanked by several officers of the Ibom Golf Course, including the Course Officer, Mr Engineer Nsima Ekanem, Senior member Udeme Esset and Resident Golf Professional Mr Emmanuel Ochayi, the Captain assured the commissioner of all necessary support and cooperation to bring a worthwhile outcome in the bid to springboard golf in the imminent sports festival.



FAI Withdraws Infantino Support as IFA Backs UEFA

The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) has officially withdrawn support for under-fire FIFA president Gianni Infantino, while the Irish Football Association has confirmed it is backing UEFA's stance.

On Monday, European football's governing body, UEFA, signed an open letter alongside the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football and the Asian Football Confederation, accusing Infantino of breaking trust "through deception".

It follows an attempt by Infantino to sell a stake in FIFA's commercial operations to a private investment company - since abandoned - which has left his bid for a fourth term at the top of world football in a perilous state.

Last week, the Welsh FA became the first home nation to withdraw support, with the FA following days later.

The FAI, governing body for football in the Republic of Ireland, has confirmed it has also withdrawn support for Infantino in a letter to FIFA, having previously indicated its support prior to the post-World Cup controversy.

"Following an FAI board meeting, the decision was taken to rescind the letter of support that the Association supplied earlier this year," it confirmed.

"It has since been written to FIFA to explain its reasoning.

"The Association is grateful for the support that FIFA provides to Irish football, but recent events have raised significant concerns regarding governance, transparency and the lack of meaningful consultation.

"Considering the governance challenges that the FAI has had to

overcome in recent years, the Association feels a particular obligation to advocate for and uphold best practice."

Northern Ireland's football governing body, the IFA, noted the "wider concerns" among those in football regarding Infantino and, while it has not gone so far as to formally withdraw its support, is backing UEFA's stance.

"We take our responsibilities as a member association of both UEFA and FIFA seriously," said an IFA spokesperson.

"We support the current UEFA position on the matter and will continue to engage constructively on issues relating to football governance.

"We are of course aware of the recent developments and wider concerns within the football community. We are considering these matters carefully and will continue to engage through the appropriate governance structures and channels.

"At this stage, we have no further comment."



Manchester City have rejected a £55m bid from Barcelona for midfielder Rodri, with the Spanish club still keen to sign the World Cup-winning midfielder.

Barcelona had previously seen an offer of around £40m rejected by City before returning with an improved proposal. However, the latest bid has also been turned down, with City reportedly seeking more than £60m for the 30-year-old.

Despite the latest setback, Barcelona remain interested in Rodri and are considering their next move as negotiations

continue.

Rodri has entered the final year of his contract at the Etihad, but City are reluctant to sell the Spain international and would prefer to extend his deal.

According to Sky Sports, City do not want to lose the midfielder and hope to reach an agreement over a new contract. However, the club would not stand in his way if Rodri formally asks to leave.

The main point of disagreement between the two clubs is their valuation of the midfielder. Manchester City are demanding an initial guaranteed fee of between €70m and €80m before

considering Rodri's departure.

Barcelona, however, are constrained by La Liga's financial fair-play rules and can currently offer a package capped at around €65m.

Much of the Spanish club's proposal is tied to variables, add-ons and other conditional payments rather than an immediate guaranteed fee.

City could therefore lose two central midfielders this summer, although the club are also exploring replacements, including Chelsea's Enzo Fernandez and Lille midfielder Ayyoub Bouaddi.

Owners Offer Leicester City for Sale at More Than £200m

Leicester City are looking to sell the club for more than £200m, with its Thai owners King Power ready to leave after 16 years.

The Foxes have had an eight-page sales booklet produced by a leading US investment bank to help offload the one-time Premier League title winners.

Citigroup lists the Foxes, its women's team, and other major assets - including the 32,000-seat King Power Stadium and its Seagrave training facility, which was opened in 2020 and is valued at £121m - as well as OH Leuven, Leicester's Belgian sister club, as up for sale in a brochure titled 'Project Lineup'.

The document, seen, values the club's physical assets at more than £200m, though no specific sum has been attributed to the sale of its struggling teams.

The brochure speaks of "a rare opportunity to acquire a club with

an excellent track record of winning promotions to higher divisions."

Leicester's successes, including the 5,000-1 Premier League title win of 2016 and the FA Cup triumph five years later, are well promoted in the brochure, while their place in League One, after back-to-back relegations from the top flight and the Championship, fail to get a mention.

The club's turnover, which Citigroup forecast to be more than £97m for the 2026 financial year are also part of the pitch, but the years of financial losses and the club's debts, which, as outlined in its 2025 accounts, include £103.6m in bank loans, are omitted.

In the years that the club yo-yoed between the Premier League and Championship, with two relegations from the top flight in three years between 2023 and 2025, the club lost more than £180m.



Swiatek Into First Final of Her 'Toughest Season'

Iga Swiatek will meet Elena Rybakina in the Canadian Open final after both players battled through their semi-finals in three sets.

Six-time Grand Slam champion Swiatek withstood an Elina Svitolina comeback attempt to seal a 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 win in Toronto and reach her first WTA final of the season.

The Pole, 25, has not reached a final since winning Cincinnati 12 months ago and had only reached one semi-final this year.

"It hasn't been an easy season, probably the toughest one in my life," said seventh seed Swiatek.

"This week has been really positive and inspirational for me, and it always kind of shows that you need to keep going no matter what."

Later, Australian Open champion Rybakina sealed her place in the final, despite losing the opening set to Coco Gauff.

After winning four games in a row to clinch the second set, the world number two secured a 5-7 6-2 6-2 victory, having also come from behind to win her quarter-final against Naomi Osaka.

"I feel like in the first set we were playing well, but then I rushed it a little bit," said 27-year-old Rybakina.

"I'm just glad that I managed to win again in three sets."

Friday's final will be the 13th professional meeting between Swiatek and Kazakh Rybakina, with both players winning six

matches each to date.

In their last meeting, their only match of 2026, Rybakina won in straight sets in the quarter-finals of her Australian Open-winning campaign.

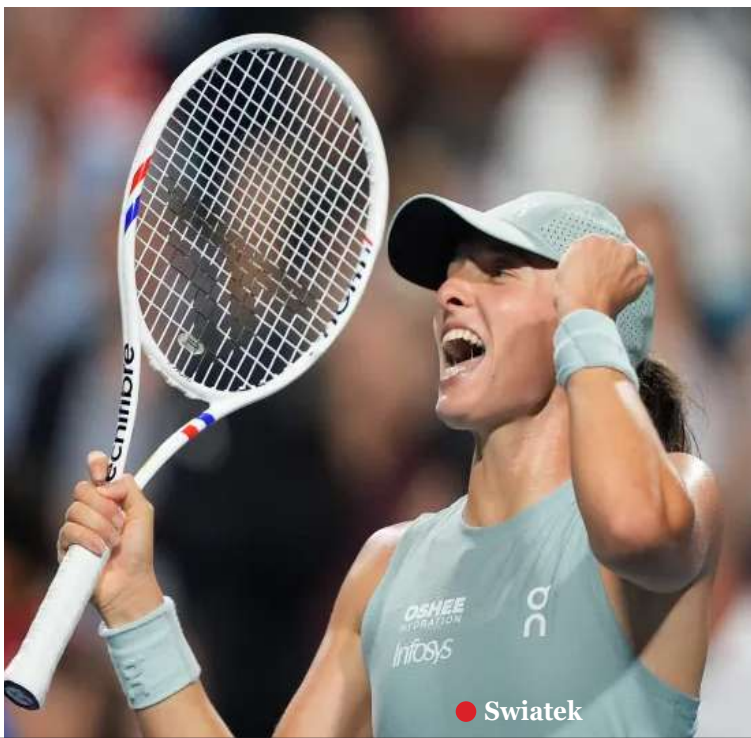
On playing Swiatek, Rybakina said: "It's going to again be a very difficult match, and we know each other so well. We play so many times.

"In my case, I feel it's more about the recovery after so many hours on the court, and bringing as much energy as I can."

In the Canadian Open men's singles in Montreal, Ben Shelton will face fellow American Brandon Nakashima in the final after both players won their semi-finals in straight sets, against Learner Tien and Rafael Jodar respectively.

Victory for Nakashima would secure his first Masters 1,000 title and the most prestigious win of his career.

Shelton is looking to retain the title and win his seventh ATP tournament.



Article



ENTREPRENEURSHIP 101

with

Olubunmi Oluwadare

Get in Touch: Email: info@digiconvertltd.com
 WhatsApp: 0816 474 2609
www.olubunmioluwadare.com

Africa's Productivity Crisis — We Focus Too Much on Economics and Too Little on Entrepreneurship

Africa's major challenge is not the absence of resources. It is our inability to transform those resources into productive enterprises, scalable businesses, industries, jobs, and sustainable wealth.

1. The Conversation We've Been Having.

For decades, much of Africa's development conversation has centred on economics: economic growth, revenue generation, foreign exchange, taxation, inflation, monetary policy, fiscal policy, debt management, importation, export earnings, and government expenditure.

All these are important. Every serious country needs sound economic management.

But economic management alone cannot make a continent productive.

We have paid far too little attention to entrepreneurship — the mechanism through which resources are transformed into value.

2. The Paradox of Abundance.

Africa is enormously blessed. We possess crude oil, natural gas, gold, lithium, cobalt, cocoa, cotton, timber, coffee, rubber, solid minerals, agricultural produce, and a massive youthful population.

Yet, despite this abundance, millions of Africans remain unemployed, underemployed,

or trapped in low-productivity economic activities.

The contradiction is obvious: How can a continent be so rich in resources and yet struggle to create enough prosperity for its people?

The answer lies in the way we think about those resources.

3. From Trading Mentality to Entrepreneurial Mentality.

Too often, we approach natural resources from the perspective of immediate economic inflow. We extract, sell, export, and collect revenue. We celebrate increases in export earnings without asking: How much value did we create before exporting the resource?

That is the difference between a trading mentality and an entrepreneurial mentality.

When crude oil is discovered, the first question should not only be about foreign exchange. We should ask: How many refineries can be created? How many petrochemical industries? How many plastics, fertiliser, pharmaceutical, and manufacturing businesses can be built around that resource?

When cocoa is produced, we should think beyond exporting beans.

How many chocolate companies, beverage businesses, cosmetics manufacturers,

confectionery companies, packaging firms, and logistics businesses can emerge from our cocoa ecosystem?

The same applies to agriculture.

When produce leaves farms without processing, preservation, packaging, and branding, much of the economic value is lost.

4. Entrepreneurship Changes the Equation.

A tomato is an agricultural product. Tomato paste is an enterprise opportunity.

Cocoa is a commodity. Chocolate is a business.

Cotton is a raw material. Clothing, textiles, and fashion are industries.

Timber is a natural resource. Furniture manufacturing is entrepreneurship.

Lithium is a mineral. Batteries and electric mobility are industrial opportunities.

Crude oil is a resource. Refining and petrochemicals create the deeper value.

The prosperity of nations is not determined merely by what exists beneath their soil. It is determined by what their people are able to create from those resources.

Possession is not productivity. Having resources does not automatically create wealth. Transforming resources does.

5. Fixing Our Education System.

For generations, young Africans have been educated primarily to look for jobs, not to identify opportunities, solve problems, or build businesses.

We graduate thousands every year into an already saturated labour market, then create temporary interventions to address unemployment.

Imagine an Africa where entrepreneurship education begins early — from primary and secondary schools through universities, polytechnics, and vocational centres.

An agriculture graduate should see opportunities across the agricultural value chain.

An engineering graduate should understand manufacturing.

A computer science graduate should see possibilities in technology, AI, and software.

A fashion student should understand branding and global market access.

Education must become a pathway to productivity, not simply a route to employment applications.

6. Entrepreneurship as Economic Infrastructure.

We invest billions in roads, airports, and power because they support economic activity. In the same way, we must invest aggressively in developing entrepreneurial capacity.

Infrastructure without entrepreneurs will remain underutilised.

Power without productive enterprises will not create prosperity.

Internet access without digital entrepreneurs will not create global tech companies.

Mineral deposits without industrial entrepreneurs will remain commodities for export.

7. The Shift We Must Make.

Africa needs a deliberate shift from resource extraction to value creation.

Governments must measure success not only by GDP and foreign reserves, but also by the number of new enterprises created, industries established, products manufactured locally, patents developed, and African brands entering global markets.

Policy must encourage processing before export.

Entrepreneurs need easier access to finance, machinery, industrial clusters, technology, and export support.

A region producing cocoa should be known for chocolate manufacturing.

A region producing tomatoes should have strong food-processing industries.

Agricultural communities should not remain poor while producing commodities that create wealth elsewhere.

8. The Real Wealth Is Downstream.

Selling raw resources gives immediate revenue. But immediate revenue is not sustainable wealth.

The greatest wealth lies further along the value chain — in processing, branding, manufacturing, and distribution.

Rather than asking, "How much can we earn from this resource today?"

We should ask, "How many businesses, industries, and jobs can we build from this resource in the next twenty years?"

That question changes education. It changes policy. It changes investment. It changes how we see young people.

Conclusion- The Africa We Must Build.

Africa does not need to abandon economics. We need sound economics combined with massive entrepreneurship development.

Economic policy creates the environment. Entrepreneurs create the products.

Government provides infrastructure. Entrepreneurs convert it into productive activity.

Africa's next transformation will depend on whether we can build a generation of job makers, value creators, manufacturers, and enterprise builders.

We must stop measuring strength by the quantity of resources we possess.

Our true strength should be measured by what we produce from them.

The future of Africa is not simply in crude oil, cocoa, lithium, or agriculture.

The future lies in the entrepreneurs who can transform these into globally competitive products and industries.

The time has come to change the conversation:

From economics alone to entrepreneurship.

From extraction to processing.

From trading to production.

From raw materials to finished products.

From job seeking to job creation.

From resource wealth to productive wealth.

That is the Africa we must deliberately build.

About the Author

Asiwaju Olubunmi Oluwadare is a renowned entrepreneurship development expert, Federal Government Licensed National Business Development Service Provider (FG-BDSP), and Convener of the **National Entrepreneurship Education Initiative (NEEI)**.

He is the Founder of **Uni-Preneur eHub** <http://www.uni-preneur.com> and **GetAJob.ng** <http://www.getajob.ng>, platforms dedicated to empowering entrepreneurs and job seekers across Nigeria and Africa.

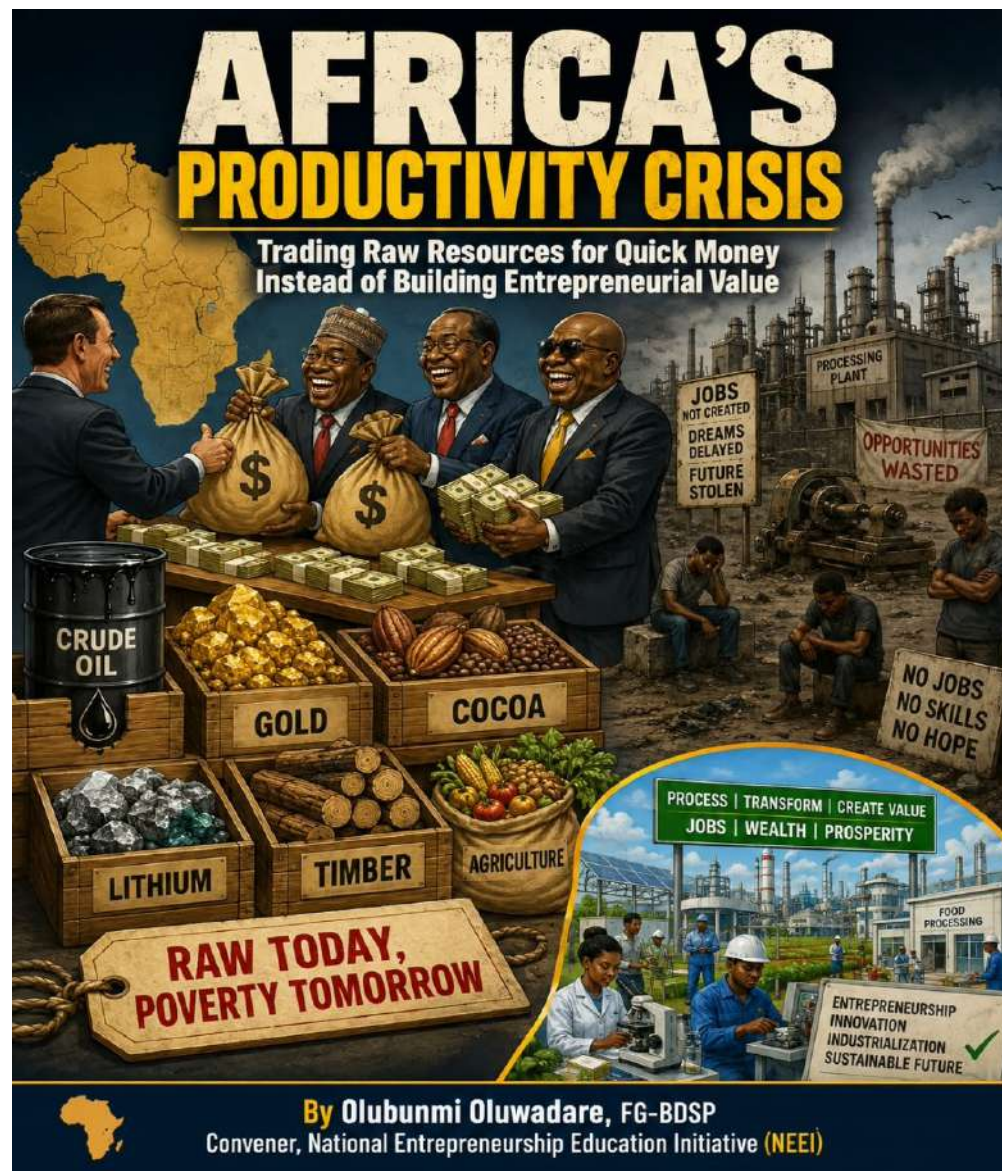
As Chairman of **BEEEXO GROUP** <http://www.beexogroup.com>, he continues to champion business innovation and enterprise development. He is also the author of the award-winning book **"I SEE MONEY IN AFRICA"**, which promotes opportunity recognition and entrepreneurship as drivers of Africa's economic transformation.

GET IN TOUCH

Email: info@digiconvertltd.com

WhatsApp: +234 816 474 2609

Website: www.uni-preneur.com



AFRICA'S PRODUCTIVITY CRISIS

Trading Raw Resources for Quick Money Instead of Building Entrepreneurial Value

CRUDE OIL, GOLD, COCOA, LITHIUM, TIMBER, AGRICULTURE

RAW TODAY, POVERTY TOMORROW

PROCESS | TRANSFORM | CREATE VALUE
JOBS | WEALTH | PROSPERITY

NO JOBS NOT CREATED, DREAMS DELAYED, FUTURE STOLEN

OPPORTUNITIES WASTED

NO JOBS, NO SKILLS, NO HOPE

ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INNOVATION, INDUSTRIALIZATION, SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

By Olubunmi Oluwadare, FG-BDSP
 Convener, National Entrepreneurship Education Initiative (NEEI)

Aviation Tensions Ease as Keyamo Brokers Truce Between Aviation Unions and Airline Operators

Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo (SAN), has successfully brokered a truce between aviation unions and airline operators following the industrial dispute that briefly disrupted flight operations at some airports across the country earlier this week.

The breakthrough came after Keyamo convened an emergency meeting on Thursday involving the leadership of aviation unions, airline operators, and heads of aviation agencies to address the issues that triggered the temporary industrial action on Tuesday, August 11.

The meeting, which followed earlier engagements with the parties, ended with

a series of resolutions aimed at restoring industrial harmony and preventing future disruptions in Nigeria's aviation sector.

Under the agreement, the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and other aviation agencies will obtain detailed payment schedules from indebted airlines and work out realistic repayment arrangements that take into account the carriers' operational costs and prevailing economic conditions.

To fast-track the process, Directors of Finance and Accounts in all aviation agencies have been directed to meet individually with each airline within one week to agree on practical repayment plans.

In another major decision, Keyamo reaffirmed workers' constitutional right to

freely choose whether or not to belong to trade unions, stressing that such decisions must be made by employees themselves without interference from airline management.

To guarantee this freedom, the minister directed the NCAA to immediately facilitate direct access for aviation unions to employees of all airlines solely for the purpose of distributing union membership forms, allowing workers to make independent decisions on unionisation.

He warned that any airline found obstructing the process would face sanctions from the regulatory authority.

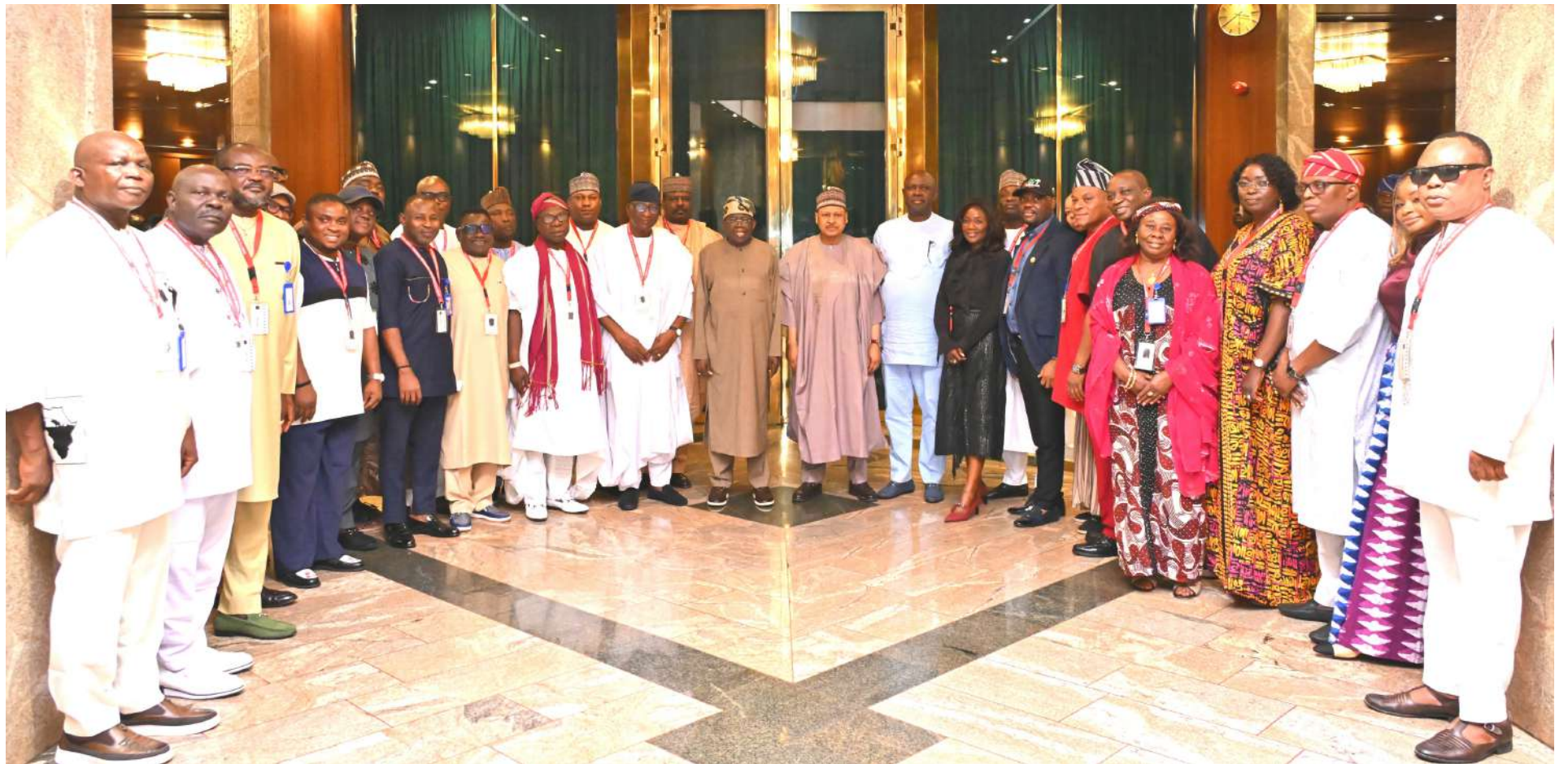
The stakeholders also agreed to reconvene after one month to review the implementation of the resolutions and assess progress in

resolving the outstanding issues.

According to the resolutions, all decisions reached at the meeting represent the collective agreement of the unions, airline operators, and aviation agencies.

Keyamo assured stakeholders of the Federal Government's determination to maintain industrial peace and operational stability across the aviation sector, while reaffirming the Tinubu administration's commitment to building a safe, efficient, peaceful, and sustainable aviation industry.

The resolutions were contained in a statement signed by the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Mahmud Adam Kambari.



President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, National President of the Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), Comrade Salimon Akanni Oladiti, Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Heineken Lokpobiri, and other newly elected members of NUPENG.

FG Knocks US Fiscal Transparency Report, Says Nigeria Making Steady Progress

The Federal Government has rejected a report by the United States Department of State alleging that Nigeria fell short of international fiscal transparency standards, insisting that the assessment does not present a complete picture of the country's ongoing public finance reforms.

The US report, released on Tuesday, listed Nigeria among 32 African countries that failed to meet minimum fiscal transparency requirements, citing shortcomings in the public disclosure of budget information, government contracts, and natural resource licences.

Responding on Thursday, the Special Adviser to the President on Media and Public Communication, Sunday Dare, urged Nigerians to disregard the impression that the report represented a comprehensive assessment of

Nigeria's fiscal governance.

According to him, the report was limited to the US Department of State's minimum fiscal transparency benchmarks and should not be interpreted as an overall evaluation of the Federal Government's public financial management reforms.

"The report by the U.S. Department of State on fiscal transparency is noted. Fiscal transparency, accountability, and effective public financial management remain important priorities of the Federal Government, and Nigeria continues to implement reforms aimed at strengthening the management, reporting, and disclosure of public resources," Dare said.

He noted that the report itself acknowledged Nigeria's progress in making budget documents and debt obligations publicly available, arguing

that this recognition reflected the government's commitment to greater openness.

Dare explained that the issues highlighted in the report, particularly those relating to procurement disclosure, budget execution reporting, and audit processes, were already receiving attention under the Tinubu administration's reform programme.

He said the Federal Government was strengthening digital procurement systems and other institutional mechanisms to improve the accessibility, reliability, and timeliness of public financial information.

According to him, Nigeria has introduced several initiatives to promote fiscal transparency, including the Open Treasury platform, public budget documentation, debt disclosures, and reforms to the public procurement system.

He maintained that rather than dismissing the report outright or treating it as a definitive verdict on Nigeria's fiscal governance, it should be viewed as an external benchmark that could help guide and strengthen ongoing reforms.

The presidential aide reaffirmed the Federal Government's commitment to improving fiscal reporting, strengthening audit institutions, expanding public access to procurement information, and ensuring greater transparency in the management of public resources.

He said the administration remained focused on building a more transparent, accountable, and credible fiscal system capable of strengthening public confidence, attracting investment, and ensuring that national resources are managed efficiently and in the country's best interest.

Police Rescue 10-year-old Boy Stuffed in Sack, Arrest Two Suspects

The Sokoto State Police Command has intensified its crackdown on kidnapping and other violent crimes, recording major breakthroughs in separate intelligence-led operations that led to the arrest of two suspected kidnappers and the dramatic rescue of a 10-year-old boy abducted in Tangaza Local Government Area.

The operations, according to the state police Command, underscore its renewed determination to dismantle criminal networks terrorising communities across the state and deny kidnappers the freedom to operate with impunity.

The command said, in the first operation, operatives of the Anti-Kidnapping Unit, acting on credible intelligence, stormed a suspected criminal hideout at Tudun Doki Village in Gwadabawa Local Government Area at about 2:00 pm on August 8, 2026.

The operation resulted in the arrest of a suspected notorious kidnapper identified as Abdullahi Buba, popularly known as "Osho."

Police authorities said preliminary interrogation revealed that Buba was allegedly a key member of a criminal syndicate linked to a series of kidnapping operations and the illegal imposition of levies on residents in Gwadabawa, Kware and Gada local government areas.

According to the Command, the suspect is currently providing investigators with useful intelligence that could lead to the arrest of other syndicate members who are still at large.

The Police said efforts were ongoing to track down the fleeing members of the gang and completely dismantle the network allegedly responsible for terrorising innocent communities.

In a separate operation that demonstrated the dangers faced by vulnerable residents, especially children, detectives attached to the Gidan Madi Police Division in Tangaza LGA rescued a 10-year-old boy, Muhammad Sufiyanu, who had reportedly been abducted earlier in the day.

The incident began when Sani Ibrahim of Gidan Madi Town reported at the Gidan Madi Police Station at about 8:00 pm on August 11 that his 10-year-old nephew had gone missing since the afternoon.

Acting swiftly on the report, surveillance

detectives, accompanied by the complainant, mounted operations in the area and, at about 11:00 pm, intercepted two persons travelling on a motorcycle while carrying a suspiciously concealed sack.

The suspects reportedly took to their heels when challenged by the detectives, triggering a pursuit. In their desperate attempt to escape, they abandoned the sack and fled.

A search of the abandoned sack produced a shocking discovery: the missing 10-year-old boy was inside, alive and responsive.

The rescued child was immediately taken to Gidan Madi General Hospital, where he received medical attention and was subsequently discharged.

During preliminary investigation, the

victim reportedly told the police that one of the suspects lured him into a room, injected him with a sedative and subsequently forced him into the sack before attempting to transport him away.

One of the suspects has since been arrested in connection with the abduction and, according to the police, has confessed to his involvement in the crime.

Investigators have also visited the location connected with the incident as the Command intensifies efforts to establish the full circumstances surrounding the attempted abduction and apprehend any other persons involved.

Commissioner of Police, Sokoto State Command, CP Hayatu Hassan Shaffa, commended the officers and detectives

involved in the operations for their courage, vigilance and professional response.

Shaffa assured residents that the Command would continue to deploy intelligence-led policing and other operational strategies to protect lives and property, while warning criminal elements that the police would relentlessly pursue them wherever they hide.

He also urged residents to remain vigilant and cooperate with security agencies by providing timely and credible information capable of assisting in the identification, tracking and arrest of criminal suspects.

The Command said investigations into both cases remain ongoing, with further updates to be released as new developments emerge.



L-R: National Secretary, Employment, Youth On Ground (YOG), Mazi Chinedu A., Founder/National Coordinator, YOG, Dr Obioma Nwuba, and National Organising Secretary, YOG, Arc Abubakar Abba S., during a World Press Conference where the organisation reaffirmed its commitment to supporting efforts aimed at advancing national development, yesterday in Abuja.

Benue Police Recover Stolen Newborn Baby, Arrest Suspects

The Benue State Police Command have arrested some suspects in connection with the theft of a newborn baby in the Gboko area of the state.

The command's spokesperson, Peter Aondongu, disclosed that while giving an update on the incident in a telephone interview on Thursday, as he noted that the baby had been recovered.

"I can confirm to you that some suspects have been arrested in connection with the theft of a newborn baby in Gboko on Tuesday.

"Some of the suspects were earlier transferred to the state headquarters in Makurdi while other suspects are in police custody at Gboko division right now," the PPRO said.

The baby, according to sources, was allegedly stolen from his mother in the hospital a few hours

after he was delivered on Tuesday.

The incident reportedly attracted family members, sympathisers and other concerned persons to the hospital, creating tension within and around the facility. It was also gathered that security operatives were subsequently deployed to the healthcare centre to prevent the breakdown of law and order.

An eyewitness who craved anonymity told journalists on Wednesday that the alleged thief had been following the baby's mother disguised as a nurse working in the hospital. According to the eyewitness, the baby was said not to be responding at the time he was born, which prompted the nurse to move the mother and the baby to a ward for further care.

The eyewitness alleged that shortly after they were moved to the ward, a woman, who

camouflaged as a nurse, approached the mother and asked to examine the baby again.

Believing that the woman was a nurse working in the hospital, the mother obliged and handed the baby over to the strange nurse, who was said to have taken the baby towards the labour room. She told the baby's grandmother, who was in the hospital, to step aside, as she assured that everything was under control.

It was later that they discovered that the newborn baby was missing.

"Immediately after the baby was born, the infant did not cry as expected. The nurse on duty reportedly intervened, and the newborn eventually responded normally.

"Thereafter, both the mother and the baby were taken to a ward. Not long after, an alleged child trafficker approached the mother of the newborn

under the pretence of being one of the nurses.

"The suspect claimed they wanted to check the baby once again. The trafficker then took the baby from the mother and headed toward the labour room.

"Sensing something amiss, the mother-in-law who had been with her daughter-in-law followed and stood at the labour room's entrance, but she was instructed to step back, with assurances that everything would be fine; so she complied. Shortly afterwards, the strange woman disappeared with the newborn baby," the witness stated.

It was gathered that while searching for the baby, the nurses on duty reportedly denied taking the baby from the ward and also said the woman who allegedly presented herself as a nurse was not a member of their team.



Ukraine's attack on Russia's Black Sea port of Novorossiysk damaged two major grain export terminals, disrupting operations at a key gateway for Russian wheat shipments. The strike also hit naval infrastructure, raising fresh concerns over regional security and global grain supplies.

Major Russian Grain Export Terminals Hit in Ukraine Black Sea Port Attack

A "massive" Ukrainian drone and missile strike on Russia's port of Novorossiysk has damaged two major grain export terminals and hit the last big Russian naval base on the Black Sea, reports said.

Three people, including an eight-year-old child, were killed and another 24 injured in the overnight attack, local officials said.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said Kyiv had launched rockets, jet and naval drones in a "unique operation" to strike the Russian base, although he did not mention grain terminals being hit.

Ukraine's military later said four Russian warships, including two frigates, were hit. Russia has not commented on the issue.

"The occupying fleet and all the infrastructure that supports it will not be safe as long as Russian aggression continues," Zelensky said in a post on

social media.

Most of Russia's Black Sea fleet is docked in Novorossiysk - one of the largest ports in Russia - after it was forced to vacate its former home base of Sevastopol, in the Russia-occupied Crimean Peninsula, which was too exposed to Ukrainian attacks.

The attack follows an uptick in the exchange of strikes in the Black Sea this summer, after a period of relative calm.

A major grain trading company confirmed to Russia's TASS news agency that its terminal had been hit in the attack on Wednesday, while another told Reuters and Russian outlet RBK the same.

The Russian agriculture ministry announced on Wednesday that it was working to redirect cargo flows to ports in the Baltic and Caspian Seas as well as land routes. It did not make any reference to Ukraine's attacks but said it was "taking

into account current logistical constraints".

Repeated explosions reportedly rang out over Novorossiysk throughout the night as air defences shot down aerial objects.

An emergency was declared in the city on Wednesday, after the barrage of drones struck areas around the port and damaged pipelines, suspending water supply for the city.

Elsewhere in the region, a man was killed by drone debris, regional Governor Veniamin Kondratyev said. Several locations in the surrounding Krasnodar region were also struck by "several hundred drones" overnight, Kondratyev added, with dozens of buildings damaged, including homes.

For its part, Moscow launched aerial overnight strikes which killed at least 11 civilians in Ukraine between Tuesday and Wednesday.

The majority were killed when Russia

hit the southern city of Zaporizhzhia with ballistic missiles and glide bombs.

In an interview with CNN, Zelensky said that Ukraine would need a tenth of the current US stockpile of interceptor missiles to stop all Russian ballistic missile attacks. Five per cent of the stockpile would get Ukraine through winter, he added.

He said this year Ukraine has two and a half times fewer interceptors than it did in 2025, while "Russia has two times more ballistic missiles per month than they had before."

Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

The last remaining sea route out of Ukraine has been badly affected by several deadly Russian strikes on cargo ships and the port of Odesa, through which Moscow seeks to put off foreign companies from trading with Ukraine.

More Troops to Be Sent to West Bank Village Besieged by Israeli Settlers

The Israeli military said that it will deploy additional troops to the occupied West Bank after failing to force away Israeli settlers who have trapped two Palestinian families in their homes since Sunday.

The Abu Ridi and Hassan families - who live on the outskirts of the village of Qusra, south of Nablus - made appeals for help after their water and power supplies were cut off and their food

stocks ran low.

The case is the latest to draw attention to the relative impunity of settlers and how Israeli forces are struggling to deal with rising settler violence.

Videos shared from Qusra overnight show a dozen Israeli security vehicles - including a bulldozer.

In later footage - filmed in the daylight - there is a long line of Israeli security forces on the road to the Palestinian

village, which remains a closed military zone.

Local media reports said that a nearby Israeli settler outpost was demolished.

Qusay Abu Ridi, who has been trapped by settlers in his home since Sunday with his water and power cut off, said that the house had been attacked again overnight and that a few settlers remained in the area, hiding from the army.

His brother, who owns the property,

is a Palestinian-American businessman who had complained to the US embassy.

The US ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, said his embassy had asked Israel to remove the settlers, describing them as "Israeli terrorists".

"Actions by those who carried out this horrific act of terror meant to intimidate and harass this family are disgusting. No excuse for such thuggish behaviour," he posted on X.



Abuja@50: Redemption Song For Wike

OPINION

BY

MARTINS OLOJA

This week's reflection on Abuja @ 50 is on "How the builders of Nigeria's capital still have no permanent home, and why Minister Wike must finish what Obasanjo and el-Rufai started in 2007.

'A capital without a home...'

On October 1st 1960, Nigeria became a nation. On February 3rd 1976, General Murtala Mohammed announced that a new Federal Capital Territory would be built at the centre of the country, to replace Lagos. On December 12, 1991, Abuja was formally declared the capital when General IBB formally relocated the seat of power.

On February 3, 2026, we marked 50 years since that proclamation. Abuja now has 6-lane expressways, a light rail not fully functional, the National Assembly, the Presidential Villa, 17 ministries, 1000s of estates, and billions in real estate.

But the institution that plans, builds, regulates and maintains all of this — the Federal Capital Territory Administration, FCTA — does not have a permanent office complex. After 50 years, the builders of Abuja are still tenants of some sorts. The Area 11 FCTA Secretariat isn't a permanent and befitting edifice for the builders. The current Minister expressed this the day he assumed office in 2023.

This piece is a reminder to the current FCT Minister, Mr. Nyesom Wike, CON, that in the midst of all his achievements for Abuja@50, there is one monumental unfinished business he can complete: give the FCTA a permanent home.

It is also a story of how politics, law, and personal interest stalled a national project in 2007 — and why 2026 is the time to correct it.

The Dream of 2007 - Obasanjo, el-Rufai And The Foundation Stone

By 2003, President Olusegun Obasanjo had appointed Mallam Nasir el-Rufai as Minister of the FCT. El-Rufai came with a bulldozer mentality. Abuja was full of illegal structures, land racketeering, and a bureaucracy operating mostly from rented apartments and temporary FCTA Secretariat. The vision was clear: if Abuja was to be a world-class capital, the government that runs it must also have a world-class headquarters. Not scattered offices. Not rented buildings. One permanent secretariat in the Central Area. But he procrastinated on the secretariat project.

On May 27, 2007, just 48 hours to the end of the Obasanjo administration, the President flew into Abuja. With El-Rufai by his side, he performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the FCTA Permanent Secretariat Complex at a prime plot in the Central Business District. Speeches were made. The design was unveiled: a befitting administrative headquarters that would house all FCTA departments under one roof, save billions in rent, and signal that Abuja had come of age. Newspapers the next day carried the photos. The foundation stone was laid. The contract was awarded to Julius Berger, Plc. Then, on May 29, 2007, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua was sworn in. And the project stopped.

And so sadly, for 17 years, that foundation stone has sat there, gathering dust, while FCTA staff continue to operate from over 15 different rented locations across Garki, Wuse, Maitama and Area 11. What happened between May 27th and May 29th 2007?

'The court injunction that killed a capital's project'

According to court records and media reports from that period, shortly after the foundation laying, a businessman and contractor, Alhaji Ismaila Isa Funtua, through his company Bulet Construction Company, approached an FCT High Court and obtained an injunction restraining the FCTA from continuing work on the plot.

Funtua's claim, in summary, was that he had prior interest in the plot of land for the FCTA

Secretariat because he kept his equipment there. The plot wasn't allocated to him. Bulet Construction had previously built the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Head of the Civil Service of the Federation offices and had other dealings with government. The details of the suit were never fully litigated to conclusion in the public space. But the effect was immediate: work stopped. Interestingly, the Chief Judge of the FCT then Justice Mohammed Lawal Hassan Gummi (2004-2013) granted the injunction against the FG and FCT. This happened at a delicate political moment. President Yar'Adua, who succeeded Obasanjo, was also from Katsina State — the same state as Ismaila Funtua. Both men were influential figures in Northern politics and in the PDP at the time.

In the Nigerian context, when a powerful individual obtains a court order and shares a political-geographic base with the President, the bureaucracy tends to freeze. No one wants to be accused of disobeying court or of 'harassing elders'.

And so, the file was moved from table to table. Attorneys advised caution. Ministers came and went. The injunction was never vacated. The plot of land was never released.

In 2020, the very powerful Ismaila Funtua passed away. With him went the principal claimant. But the injunction, like many things in Nigerian bureaucracy, outlived the man. As of 2026, no administration has moved to formally vacate the order, settle the estate, or compulsorily acquire the land in public interest. The result: a capital city with no capital office.

The cost of homelessness – 50 years of rent and dysfunction.

Let us quantify what "no office" means in political economy terms.

1. Financial cost

FCTA currently rents many office spaces for departments including: Land Administration and AGIS, Development Control, Satellite Towns Development Agency (STDA), Transportation, Education Secretariat, etc. Estimates from budget documents and FCDA sources put annual rent expenditure at more than N5 billion.

Over 17 years since 2007, that is about N85 billion spent on rent. With that money, FCTA could have built two permanent secretariats and still had change.

This is the definition of capital flight — not to Dubai, but to private landlords in Abuja.

1. Administrative cost

A minister cannot hold one meeting with all directors. Files move across town in traffic. Citizens looking for C of O in one secretariat are sent to another 8km away. Morale is low. There is no corporate identity. Compare this to Lagos State Secretariat in Alausa. To Kano. To Rivers. Every serious sub-national has a headquarters. Only the federal capital does not have a befitting

one even as it is still building for others.

1. Symbolic cost

Abuja@50 is about legacy. We are celebrating bridges, roads, and parks. But what does it say that the institution that approved those projects does not have its own significant address? It says we are a nation that celebrates infrastructure but not institutions. That we can build for others but not for ourselves.

The political economy of why it stalled.

This is not just about one court case. It is about four (4) structural problems that mirror the crisis of Nigerian governance:

The 'powerful person' problem

When an individual with political capital obtains a court order, the state pauses. Even when public interest is clear. The FCTA case shows how private interest can hold a national project hostage for 17 years. It is curious and tragic.

The 'transition' problem

The foundation was laid two days to handover. New governments in Nigeria inherit projects but not commitment. Without a legal and budgetary lock-in, projects die at transition.

The 'no data, no pressure' problem

Because no one has consistently published how much FCTA spends on rent, there has been no public outrage. The media depends on FCTA ads. So the story is not told even to appropriation authorities.

The 'succession' problem

With Funtua's death in 2020, the legal obstacle should have become easier. Estates can be settled. Compensation can be paid. But without a champion in government, files sleep. This is why leadership matters. And this is why the arrival of Hurricane Nyesom Wike as FCT Minister in 2023 presents a unique window that is still open.

Why Wike? Why now? Abuja@50

Minister Wike has, in 3 years, done what many thought impossible: revived stalled road projects, completed the Vice President's residence, cleaned up parks, restored street lights, and given Abuja a sense of pride again. His style is "action, not talk." His politics is "finish what you start." That is his signature.

Abuja@50 is his moment.

And so nothing will be more monumental, more symbolic, more legacy-defining than this: "I gave the builders of Abuja a permanent home."

Here is why it is possible now:

The legal obstacle has changed: The principal claimant is deceased. The estate can be engaged. The FCT Legal Secretariat can file a motion to vacate or negotiate a settlement. Public interest doctrine is on FCTA's side.

The political will exists: Minister Wike does not shy away from tough decisions. He has already shown he can demolish, reclaim, and rebuild.

The timing is perfect: 50 years. Donors, contractors, and the National Assembly are all looking for signature Abuja@50 projects. A secretariat is shovel-ready.

The economics is clear: Spend N50bn once to build, instead of N5bn every year to rent. In 7 years the building pays for itself.

This will not be about erasing Funtua's name. It will be about honoring the original intent of Obasanjo and el-Rufai completing it for the people of Abuja. And Tinubu and Wike will harvest the glory.

A 6-point roadmap for the Minister

To turn this from essay to action, here is what FCTA under Wike can do in the next 12 months:

1. Legal audit and motion to vacate

Direct the FCT Legal Services Secretariat to trace the suit from 2007. File for abatement, settlement with the estate, or compulsory acquisition under the Land Use Act in public interest. Pay fair compensation if needed.

1. Publish the rent bill

Release a white paper: "How much FCTA has spent on rent 2007-2026." Let Nigerians see the waste. Transparency creates pressure and budget support.

1. Re-validate the 2007 design

The Obasanjo/El-Rufai design can be reviewed by Nigerian architects. Make it greener, smarter, lower-energy. But keep the location in Central Area.

1. Budget and PPP

Put N30bn in 2027 budget as first tranche. Invite PPP: "Build-Operate-Transfer" for parts of the complex. Or get support from Abuja@50 sponsors.

1. Name it Right

Call it "The FCTA Unity House" or "Abuja@50 Secretariat." Not after any individual. After the city and the people.

1. Groundbreaking Before December 2026

If foundation is laid before the end of Abuja@50 year, it becomes part of the 50th anniversary story forever.

What Nigeria can learn

The FCTA secretariat story is a microcosm of Nigeria. We start projects with fanfare. Powerful interests stall them. Bureaucracy buries them. And 20 years later we wonder why nothing works.

Countries that work do three (3) things differently:

1. They protect public projects from private injunctions through expedited public-interest courts.
2. They publish the cost of inaction so citizens can demand change.
3. They give leaders legacy projects that outlive them.

If Minister Wike finishes this, students in 2076 will read: "In 2026, during Abuja@50, Minister Wike built the permanent home of FCTA."

That is how you move from a "performing minister" to a "founding father of modern Abuja administration."

Here is my letter to the future, Mr. Minister

Honourable Minister, FCT, the people who approve your building plans have no building. The people who collect your ground rent pay rent themselves. The people who design Abuja's skyline work from scattered bungalows. This is not sustainable. It is not dignified. And it is not necessary. You have barely one year left in this first term. You have political capital. You have Abuja@50.

On May 27th 2007, a foundation was laid and abandoned. In August 2026, we are asking you to lay a new one — and this time, finish it. Let history record that when Abuja turned 50, its builders finally got a home. That will be more monumental than any road.

*We should continue the reflections on Abuja@50 on Abuja, politics and policies.