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Soft Sell

...with Uche Aghulor

Georgina Rodriguez has confirmed that she and football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo are officially married, revealing that the couple exchanged their vows privately at their new summer home in Cascais, Portugal.

In a candid interview with Vogue Magazine, Rodriguez disclosed that the intimate ceremony took place on August 11, exactly 10 years after the day she and Ronaldo first met at a Gucci store in Madrid.

"Our wedding took place on August 11. The 10th year anniversary of the day we first met at a Gucci store in Madrid," she said.

Rather than opting for a lavish ceremony, Rodriguez said the couple chose to get married in the living room of their home, surrounded by their children.

"We got married in our living room. In the future, we will have a big wedding, so we can celebrate with family and friends," she explained.

Reflecting on her childhood dreams of having an extravagant wedding, Rodriguez said her priorities had changed with age and experience.

"When I was a little girl, I dreamt of the biggest castle, the biggest carriage, the longest dress, a crown full of diamonds. And now I'm saying: no. I want something intimate, with my partner and our children, at home," she said.

The model and entrepreneur explained that the couple's decision was influenced by their desire for privacy, noting that luxury and extravagance are already part of their everyday lives.

"Castles, houses, islands, horses, cars: We have all of that within reach every day. But something intimate—that's more unusual for us," she said.

Rodriguez described privacy as particularly valuable given their level of fame.

"In the economy of fame, privacy is priceless," she said.

She added that they deliberately chose their living room because it represents the ordinary moments of their family life.

"We've chosen to do it in the living room of our house here, where we have breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and where we live the reality of our lives," she explained.

Looking ahead, Rodriguez said she hopes the intimate setting will become a treasured memory for their children decades from now.

"In 30 years, I want the children to think, 'Something wonderful happened at this table—the wedding vows of our parents,'" she said.

"WE DID IT, UNCLE ADEMOLA"

DAVIDO CELEBRATES AS ADELEKE WINS OSUN GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION

Afrobeats superstar David Adeleke, popularly known as Davido, has celebrated the victory of his uncle, Ademola Adeleke, after the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) declared him winner of the 2026 Osun State governorship election.

Adeleke, who contested the election on the platform of the Accord Party, secured 511,067 votes to defeat his closest challenger, All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate Bola Oyebamiji, who polled 444,815 votes.

Following the declaration, Davido shared an emotional moment celebrating the outcome.

Music executive Dapper Damm has responded to allegations made by former signees, including Shallipopi and Seyi Vibez, over contracts, royalties and financial accountability.

In a statement shared online, Dapper said he would not engage in insults or be drawn into what he described as false narratives, insisting that relevant records and documents were available to the appropriate authorities.

"I will not demean myself. I won't stoop so low as to engage in insults. I have nothing to hide. The records exist. The authorities have them," he said.

He accused his former signees of attempting to mislead the public through social media and urged them to move on from the dispute.

"Don't come online and spill rubbish narratives and lies, only to mislead the public. You chose to leave. No one forced you, and we are still fine without you. Move on! Stop acting obsessed," he added.

Dapper also addressed the beginning of his professional relationship with one of the former signees, claiming that it started in 2021 after he invested in the artiste's first project before receiving any music from him.

"This relationship began in 2021, with me putting money down for your first project before getting any music from you," he said.

The music executive further accused the artiste of failing to appear at their last scheduled court proceeding, while allegedly threatening to take the matter to court publicly.

"For our last scheduled appearance, you didn't show up. I was there, but you wanna come online and say, 'Let's meet in court', when you're the one running from court," Dapper said.

He also challenged allegations that he forged an artiste's signature, contrasting the claim with an earlier public statement in which the artiste reportedly said he had been pressured into a deal with Dvpper Digital.

"You claim that I forged your signature, but in your public statement in 2024, you claimed that you were pushed into a deal with Dvpper Digital. Which is it?" he asked.

Dapper maintained that the artistes received financial advances and favourable percentages under their agreements, questioning what more could have been done to satisfy them.

"Everybody got healthy advances. Even giving you more percentage. What more can I do? You can never satisfy human beings in this life," he said.

The latest statement adds to the growing dispute between Dapper and some of his former artistes, with allegations surrounding contracts, royalties and the management of their professional relationships continuing to generate reactions online.

Nigerian Afrobeats singer Omah Lay has revealed that he has stopped forcing himself to quit smoking after several unsuccessful attempts to break the habit.

The "Soso" crooner made the disclosure during a recent podcast interview with DJ Dan, where he spoke candidly about his relationship with smoking and his decision to accept it as part of his lifestyle.

Omah Lay said he had repeatedly tried to quit but eventually concluded that he could not force himself to stop.

"I love smoking a lot. I tried to stop, I forced myself but I can't. Honestly bro, life is just one. I am going to just die one day. We are all going to die one day," he said.

The singer questioned the point of continuing to force himself to quit, saying he now wants to prioritise his peace and enjoyment of life.

"I just want to be at peace and smoke my weed," he added.

Omah Lay also said the illegal status of cannabis in Nigeria contributes to what he described as an "artificial happiness" and a sense of rebellion.

"And the fact that it is illegal in Nigeria, it gives me artificial happiness and a sense of rebellion. This is it. This is my life. I will just live it. I will enjoy every single thing that I have," he said.

Opinion Page

Globacom at 23: The Indigenous Imagination That Rewired Nigeria's Digital Destiny

By Louis Ibe

There are companies that participate in history, and there are companies that alter its trajectory. At 23, Globacom belongs unmistakably to the latter category. Founded in August 2003 through the vision of Dr Mike Adenuga Jr., Globacom was never merely the entry of another telecommunications operator. It represented something more consequential: the emergence of an indigenous proposition that a Nigerian enterprise could think at global scale, build to international standards, and remain deeply aligned with the aspirations, sensibilities, and realities of its people.

Over time, that proposition has acquired an almost philosophical resonance. Globacom's journey has been one of enterprise, infrastructure, technology, and cultural imagination. Beneath these visible dimensions lies a more enduring idea: that Nigeria need not remain a passive observer of technological progress. It could be a participant, a builder, and, in certain instances, an architect of the future it seeks to inhabit. In an industry shaped by successive waves of innovation, investment, and competition, Globacom has established a durable institutional presence whose significance extends beyond the mechanics of telecommunications.

Some enterprises are built around market opportunity; others evolve into expressions of deeper conviction. Globacom's story belongs to the latter tradition. Its defining question has never been merely how to provide connectivity, but what connectivity could enable for Nigeria. That distinction has shaped its technological decisions, consumer philosophy, and its nuanced understanding of the cultural environment in which a telecommunications brand must operate.

That conviction was evident from the outset. Globacom's introduction of per-second billing reshaped both the economics and psychology of mobile communication in Nigeria, challenging long-standing assumptions about consumer pricing. In a market where the cost of communication had previously constrained access, the innovation made mobile telephony more transparent, accessible, and consumer-centric.

The company subsequently advanced through successive technological generations—from 2.5G at launch to 3G Plus and 4G LTE—reflecting an institutional disposition unwilling to treat technological limitation as destiny. The underlying message was clear: Nigeria need not wait for the future to be imported.

Then came Glo-1. In 2010, Globacom deployed a 9,800-kilometre fibre-optic submarine cable beneath the Atlantic, linking Nigeria and West Africa to Europe. Its significance extended beyond engineering achievement. It was symbolism expressed in fibre and steel—a tangible articulation of a national possibility.

Nigeria would not only consume global digital infrastructure; a Nigerian enterprise could actively participate in building it. Executed without foreign equity or consortium partners, the project remains one of the most compelling demonstrations of indigenous technological ambition in the country's corporate history. Beneath the ocean, fibre transmitted data; above it, the project transmitted belief in national capability.

Yet Globacom's indigenous imagination has never been confined to technology alone. From an early stage, it recognised that telecommunications brands

Dr Mike Adenuga Jr.

do not exist solely in balance sheets, network architecture, or infrastructure assets. They also exist in culture. Musicians, actors, sports figures, and other national icons became more than brand ambassadors; they became channels through which the brand entered the emotional and cultural consciousness of Nigerians. In doing so, Globacom demonstrated a critical understanding of its market: technology is not merely consumed; it is interpreted through culture, memory, aspiration, and identity.

Its engagement with African football, the Super Eagles, the Nigeria Football Federation, domestic leagues, and the Glo Soccer Academy extended this philosophy into sport. Its support for cultural institutions and festivals—including Ojude Oba, Ofala, and Lisabi—further reflected a broader understanding of connectivity. To connect a people is not only to enable communication between devices; it is to connect generations to memory, communities to identity, creativity to opportunity, and tradition to the future.

The widely celebrated $1 million reward to the victorious Super Eagles following their 2013 Africa Cup of Nations triumph belonged to the same continuum. It was corporate patronage, but also an expression of emotional citizenship: an acknowledgment that there are moments when national spirit converges around shared achievement, and that responsible enterprise can participate meaningfully in such moments.

This helps explain why describing Globacom simply as "the Nigerian network" is both accurate and incomplete. It is accurate because the company emerged from an indigenous conception of the telecommunications opportunity and has consistently interpreted the Nigerian market from within.

It is incomplete because its ambition has never been limited to national identity alone. Rather, it has sought to demonstrate that Nigerian origin can coexist with technological sophistication, international scale, continental relevance, and cultural confidence.

Twenty-three years on, that proposition remains instructive. Globacom's significance cannot be fully captured through subscriber figures, financial performance, infrastructure inventories, or corporate milestones. These are valid indicators of enterprise, but they do not exhaust its historical meaning. Its deeper contribution lies in expanding the psychological boundaries of Nigerian enterprise: challenging the assumption that innovation must arrive with a foreign accent, and demonstrating that indigenous capability can operate within domains once reserved for multinational capital and imported expertise.

The story is also inseparable from the stature of its founder, Dr Mike Adenuga Jr., GCON, whose role in Nigeria's contemporary economic history has been recognised with distinction. In Nigeria, he holds the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON), one of the nation's highest honours. Internationally, he has been conferred the Commander of the Legion of Honour by France, and the Companion of the Star of Ghana by Ghana. These recognitions stand in contrast to his notably private and understated public persona: while the honours are public, the individual remains reserved, yet the institutional footprint of his enterprise philosophy is widely evident.

Ultimately, Globacom's most enduring innovation may not be per-second billing, fibre infrastructure, bandwidth capacity, spectrum allocation, or mobile technology itself. It may be the idea embodied in its trajectory: that excellence does not require external validation; that indigenous enterprise need not be constrained by limited ambition; that technological sophistication can coexist with cultural authenticity; and that technology can carry culture as effectively as it carries data.

There is, perhaps, a deeper metaphor at work. The telecommunications network was designed to connect voices, but Globacom's broader historical significance has been to connect possibility with confidence. It entered a Nigeria still defining the contours of its digital future and helped expand those contours—carefully, deliberately, and irreversibly. Through infrastructure as well as imagination, it demonstrated that the future is not always a distant destination. It can be conceived, engineered, connected, and deliberately brought into being.

Twenty-three years after its inception, Globacom stands as more than a participant in Nigeria's digital transformation. It is one of the institutions through which that transformation acquired an indigenous vocabulary, a cultural depth, and a renewed sense of self-belief. Its enduring legacy may ultimately be this: the reminder that Nigeria is not merely a consumer of the future. With imagination, discipline, and institutional resolve, it can help build it—and give it a distinctly Nigerian voice.

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Osun Lessons: How Weak Structures, Poor Funding, Incumbency May Impact ADC, NDC in 2027

Tinubu, Atiku, Obi Hail as Adeleke Dances Back to Power

By Orkula Shaagee
With additional reports from: Emmanuel Olugua, Alhassan Kpaki and Samuel Aghulor

The outcome of the 2026 Osun State governorship election has thrown up important lessons for Nigeria's emerging opposition platforms, with political observers warning that weak grassroots structures, inadequate funding and the power of incumbency could pose formidable challenges to the African Democratic Congress (ADC) and Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC) ahead of the 2027 general elections.

The warning followed the decisive victory of incumbent Governor Ademola Adeleke of the Accord Party, who was declared winner of Saturday's election by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), polling 511,067 votes to defeat his closest challenger, Bola Oyebamiji of the All Progressives Congress (APC), who scored 444,815 votes.

The ADC candidate, Najeem Salaam, finished a distant third with 17,180 votes, while the NDC, whose presidential candidate Peter Obi has emerged as one of the leading figures of the opposition movement ahead of 2027, did not contest the Osun governorship election.

Adeleke won 19 of the state's 30 local government areas, while Oyebamiji secured 11. The result, according to analysts who spoke across Lagos, Port Harcourt, Niger, and Abuja, highlighted the enormous gap between national political visibility and the painstaking grassroots organisation required to translate political momentum into votes.

For the ADC, the Osun result is particularly significant because the party is increasingly being positioned as a major platform for opposition forces seeking to challenge the established political order in 2027. But observers said the performance exposed the danger of assuming that the presence of high-profile, nationally recognised politicians can substitute for a functioning electoral machine at ward and local government levels.

A Lagos-based political analyst, Fidelis Oyeoma, said the ADC and NDC appeared to be "trying to find their feet" when confronted by parties with much deeper structures and stronger voter relationships.

"I think NDC and ADC have to go and prepare well before 2027. They have to be able to match the APC," he said, stressing the need for the emerging platforms to take their messages directly to voters.

"They have to go from door to door and let people know what ADC has for them in the future and NDC as well," he added.

The warning is coming at a particularly important moment for the opposition. While the ADC has attracted significant political attention through the alignment of prominent opposition figures, the Osun result suggests that national visibility must still be converted into local organisation before the 2027 contest.

In Port Harcourt, a Business Intelligence Analyst with the Port Harcourt Electricity Distribution Company, Benjamin Ndubueze, also identified grassroots organisation and candidate popularity as critical factors in the election.

He nevertheless said Accord's victory should worry the APC ahead of 2027, arguing that the result demonstrated that presidential power does not automatically guarantee victory across the nation.

"Accord's victory should be a fear factor for the APC ahead of 2027, whether incumbent power or not," he said.

Another Port Harcourt respondent, Edith Owuala, cautioned against interpreting the election as a direct verdict on the NDC because the party did not field a candidate. She, however, identified Adeleke's personal popularity, political movement, and incumbency as important components of his victory.

Chidiebere Favour Ochonma, a COREN-registered Process Engineer and PMP-certified Project Engineer, said the ADC performance should be treated as a warning about the organisational weaknesses of emerging opposition platforms.

According to him, inadequate grassroots structures, internal divisions, and insufficient funding contributed to the party's poor showing. He also regarded the party's inability to secure substantial support in the candidate's home local government area as an indication of the depth of the organisational challenge.

For the opposition, he said, national coalitions and prominent political figures would only become electorally meaningful if backed by strong ward, state, and federal structures, adequate resources, and internal cohesion.

The same concern was expressed by a political observer in Niger State, Aliyu Suleiman Dada, who said the Osun result demonstrated that name recognition and elite endorsements could not by themselves guarantee electoral success.

He noted that Salaam's 17,180 votes represented only a small fraction of the total valid votes, leaving the ADC a distant third in what effectively became a two-horse race.

"Structure and ground game matter far more than name recognition or elite endorsements," he said.

Dada said the ADC was being taken more seriously in some parts of the country because of its growing association with the 2027 opposition project, but warned that the party remained far from having the organisational depth required to compete on equal terms with the established political machines.

He said the NDC faced an even steeper challenge because of its relatively limited electoral footprint.

According to him, the emerging parties could become serious contenders by 2027 if they establish effective ward-to-state structures, recruit credible candidates, and secure reliable financial resources.

He also warned that poor electoral performances could make prospective candidates, political financiers, and influential stakeholders more hesitant to invest in the platforms.

"Poor showings like this make politicians, donors, and ambitious candidates more cautious about investing time, money, or reputation," he said.

The election, however, produced a wave of jubilation across Osun, particularly in Ede North, Ede South, and other communities, after INEC formally declared Adeleke the winner. Residents who spoke after the declaration described the exercise as generally orderly and transparent, although they called for electoral lapses recorded during the poll to be addressed ahead of the 2027 presidential election.

The INEC Returning Officer, Prof. Joshua Ogunwole, declared Adeleke the winner after the incumbent secured 511,067 votes from 985,079 valid votes cast. A total of 1,005,800 votes were recorded, with 20,721 rejected.

In his declaration, Ogunwole said: "I, Professor Joshua Ogunwole, hereby certify that I am the returning officer for the 2026 Osun governorship election held on Aug. 15, and declare that Ademola Jackson Adeleke of the Accord Party, having satisfied the requirements of the law, is hereby declared the winner."

President Bola Tinubu subsequently congratulated Adeleke, saying he had personally called the governor to acknowledge his victory, describing the result as confirmation of the confidence placed in him by Osun voters.

Tinubu urged Adeleke to use his renewed mandate to unite the people of Osun and pursue growth, stability, and social and economic progress irrespective of how they voted.

The President also commended the other contestants for participating in the election and praised INEC and the security agencies for conducting what he described as a peaceful and transparent election.

Atiku Abubakar, the ADC presidential candidate for 20a27, congratulated Adeleke and said his victory

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Kwankwaso: I Trust Obi to Honour One-Term Presidency Agreement

Says Shekarau, Ganduje, Incumbent Gov Yusuf Politically Finished

By Abu Adamu

Former Kano State Governor and Vice-Presidential Candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), Sen. Rabiu Kwankwaso, says he trusts the party's presidential candidate, Peter Obi, to honour an agreement that he would serve only one term if elected president in 2027, after which power would return to the North.

Kwankwaso said the arrangement was part of the understanding between him and Obi to ensure political balance between the North and South, arguing that it would also respect the principle of rotational presidency.

The former governor made the disclosure while featuring on the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) Personality Interview Series in Abuja on Sunday.

He described the proposed Obi-Kwankwaso ticket as "unbeatable" in terms of credibility and capacity, saying the combination of Obi's political support in the South and his own influence in the North would provide a broad national platform capable of defeating other contenders in the 2027 presidential election.

"Nobody, no ticket, can beat our own in terms of credibility, capacity and of course, love for the country," Kwankwaso said.

"Even in terms of empathy for the poor who are suffering across the country today, no other contender can match us," he added.

Kwankwaso said his experience during the 2023 presidential election gave him a better understanding of Obi and contributed to the decision by both politicians and their supporters to work together ahead of the 2027 election.

According to him, the alliance is intended to bridge Nigeria's regional and religious divisions by combining Obi's support base in the South with his political influence in the North.

He said the arrangement also takes into account the need to maintain the North-South rotation of the presidency, noting that President Bola Tinubu, a southerner, assumed office in 2023.

"The bigger picture now is for us to allow the South to produce a president for one term, to make it balanced, considering the fact that the incumbent president from the South came into office in the year 2023," he said.

Kwankwaso said the understanding was that Obi would serve for one term and subsequently hand over the presidency to a northerner.

He expressed confidence that Obi would honour the agreement, saying he had a high level of trust in the former Anambra State governor.

The former Kano governor said the arrangement would promote political balance and reassure supporters from both regions that neither side would be permanently excluded from national political leadership.

He also described the proposed ticket as a northern Muslim and southern Christian combination capable of addressing concerns over religious and regional representation.

According to him, the alliance is not merely about sharing political offices but about building confidence across the country and ensuring that no section of Nigeria feels marginalised.

Kwankwaso said an Obi-Kwankwaso administration would prioritise security, education, agriculture, and infrastructure, while addressing poverty and other socio-economic challenges confronting Nigerians.

He also criticised the Federal Government's economic policies, arguing that the removal of the fuel subsidy had not translated into improved living conditions for Nigerians.

He said farmers were also facing difficulties, including competition from imported food.

Kwankwaso said the alliance involving the Kwankwasiyya Movement, the NDC and Obi's supporters was aimed at producing what he described as democratic change similar to the political realignment that led to the defeat of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2015 presidential election.

He said the coalition was founded on the principles of fairness, justice and equity and was intended to provide Nigerians with an alternative political direction.

The former governor also spoke extensively about his political differences with former Kano Governors Ibrahim Shekarau and Abdullahi Ganduje, as well as incumbent Governor Abba Yusuf, declaring that the three were politically finished in the state.

Kwankwaso particularly criticised Ganduje, who served as his deputy for eight years before succeeding him as governor in 2015.

He attributed what he described as Ganduje's declining political fortunes to the breakdown of their relationship, saying the former governor would have remained more influential had he stayed within the political structure they built together.

"If you can even see the issue of Ganduje, who we came together and supported, and became governor free of charge. The day when he started fighting was the beginning of his problem. If I may ask: where is he now? It is difficult to see him," Kwankwaso said.

He said his experience of more than two decades in politics had convinced him that political betrayal could eventually lead to the loss of political relevance.

"You cannot succeed with treachery. I have not seen one. Now we have taken about two and a half decades," he said.

Kwankwaso also criticised Governor Abba Yusuf, saying his political movement had deliberately backed Yusuf because it wanted a candidate who would not repeat what he described as Ganduje's actions.

"Abba Yusuf: we went down, right down, to make sure that we picked the right person who would not go and repeat what Ganduje had done," he said.

He recalled that members of his political group worked to secure Yusuf's candidacy in the 2019 governorship election, which Yusuf won before the result was overturned through litigation.

According to Kwankwaso, the same political structure returned in 2023 and secured Yusuf's election as governor.

He, however, alleged that Yusuf had subsequently distanced himself from the political camp that brought him to power.

"He left us, but he is not with Ganduje now. He is in between because I don't think he is happy for anybody to call him Dan Gandujiyya," he said.

Kwankwaso also alleged that Yusuf was seeking to establish himself as the dominant political figure in Kano despite Kwankwaso's continued influence in the state.

He described political struggles over control and succession as a recurring feature of Nigerian politics rather than an issue peculiar to Kano.

It was against this backdrop that Kwankwaso recalled a conversation with President Tinubu in which, according to him, the President asked him to reconcile with Ganduje.

Kwankwaso said he responded by reminding Tinubu of former political associates who once occupied prominent positions within his political circle but had subsequently fallen out of the centre of power.

"I told him that when I come here, I don't see Bucknor. When I come here, I don't see Ambode. I started counting the people," he said.

He was referring to Sen. Kofoworola Bucknor-Akerele, a former Lagos State deputy governor, and Akinwunmi Ambode, who served as Lagos State governor from 2015 to 2019.

Kwankwaso said the examples illustrated the transient nature of political relationships and explained why he did not assume that reconciliation between former allies necessarily guaranteed lasting political harmony.

"It's not very peculiar to Kano, but I think the Kano experience is special out of the lot," he said.

He nevertheless acknowledged that some political relationships could survive differences and singled out former Osun State Governor, Chief Bisi Akande, as one of the political associates he still regarded as a friend.

Kwankwaso compared enduring political relationships to friendships formed in school, saying people could maintain bonds despite taking different paths in their political careers.

His comments come against the backdrop of the long-running political rivalry between him and Ganduje. Ganduje succeeded Kwankwaso as Kano governor in 2015, but their relationship subsequently deteriorated, with the two men eventually leading rival political camps in the state.

Nigerian Stock Market Turnover Rises 27% to N176bn

Trading activity on the Nigerian Exchange (NGX) Limited surged this week as investors traded 12.15 billion shares worth N176.06 billion in 224,146 deals.

According to the NGX weekly report, the latest turnover represents a 126.78 per cent increase in volume when compared to the 5.36 billion shares valued at N139.05 billion in 261,869 deals traded by investors the previous week.

Despite the surge in trading activity, the equity market closed lower during the week.

The NGX all-share index (ASI) fell by 1.20 per cent to close at 242,619.20 points, from 245,573.07 ASI recorded in the previous week.

Market capitalisation fell by 1.19 per cent to N156.62 trillion, down from N158.512 trillion recorded in the previous week.

The financial services industry dominated trading activity, accounting for 11.21 billion shares worth N88.99 billion in 102,246 deals.

The sector contributed 92.25 per cent of total equity turnover by volume and accounted for 50.55 per cent of the value.

Information and communication technology (ICT) industry ranked second, with 246.13 million shares worth N51.61 billion traded in 27,169 deals.

The services industry occupied third place, recording turnover of 198.20 million shares valued at N2 billion in 13,747 deals.

Trading in the three most active equities — Fortis Global Insurance Plc, Cornerstone Insurance Plc and Consolidated Hallmark Holdings Plc — accounted for 9.49 billion shares worth N36.22 billion in 1,781 deals.

The three companies contributed 78.07 per cent of the total equity turnover volume and accounted for 20.57 per cent of the total value traded during the week.

On the price movement chart, Trans-Nationwide Express Plc emerged as the biggest gainer, with its share price rising from N2.15 to N2.84, representing a 32.09 per cent increase.

International Energy Insurance's share followed, appreciating by 31.68 per cent from N4.04 to N5.32.

Also, Sovereign Trust Insurance rose 13.77 per cent from N1.67 to N1.90.

Chams Holding Company recorded a 12.25 per cent appreciation in its share value, which rose from N4.08 to N4.58.

CWG Plc completed the top five gainers, with its share price advancing 9.74 per cent from N19.50 to N21.40.

On the losers' chart, the share price of Ava Capital recorded the biggest decline, falling 34.55 per cent from N11 to N7.20.

Unilever Nigeria reported an 18.94 per cent decline in its share price, after it dropped from N145.95 to N118.30.

In addition, Zichis Agro-Allied Industries' share value declined 15.08 per cent from N21.55 to N18.30.

Thomas Wyatt Nigeria lost 14.33 per cent in its share price to close at N2.75 from N3.21.

The report also said Dangote Sugar Refinery's share price fell 11.58 per cent from N73 to N64.55.

From left: Deputy Project Coordinator, Julius Berger Nigeria (JBN), Mr Gbenga Osunlana; Senior Liaison Officer, JBN, Mrs Rasheedat Anifowoshe; Regional Commercial Manager, Region West, JBN, Mr Alexander Bauer; Managing Director, Lagos Water Corporation, Mr Mukhtaar Tijani; Executive Director, Operations, Lagos Water Corporation, Mrs Helen Taiwo, and Director, Distribution, Lagos Water Corporation, Mr Bolaji Ogunlewe, during a courtesy visit to Julius Berger Nigeria in Lagos. PHOTO: NAN

RMAFC Completes Revenue Formula, Remuneration Review

The Chairman, Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), Dr Mohammed Shehu, said the commission has completed reviews of the revenue allocation formula and remuneration for political, public and judicial office holders.

This is contained in a statement by Hajia Maryam Yusuf, Head, Information and Public Relations Unit of the commission, on Saturday in Abuja.

Shehu said the proposals on revenue allocation and remuneration reforms have reached advanced stages for consideration by relevant authorities.

While presenting an overview of the commission's achievements and institutional progress from 2023 to date, he noted that the period had witnessed significant fiscal reforms, with RMAFC strengthening its constitutional mandates.

"This mandate is on revenue monitoring, derivation verification and fiscal coordination.

"The commission has improved data integrity, enhanced inter-agency collaboration and promoted equitable distribution of national revenue among the three tiers of government."

Shehu said that the commission had also intensified monitoring of oil and gas production data to ensure accurate application of the 13 per cent derivation principle.

According to him, verification exercises, geospatial mapping and inter-agency collaboration had resolved several long-standing oil well attribution issues.

"Also, 17 oil wells were reallocated from Imo to Rivers in compliance with a Supreme Court judgment.

"Similar interventions had been undertaken in Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Imo and Anambra states.

"The improved gas production reporting had enabled Enugu and Kogi states to benefit from derivation revenues," he said.

Shehu noted that the RMAFC had strengthened collaboration with the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Ltd. (NNPCL).

It is also collaborating with the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA).

"The RMAFC has also strengthened collaboration with the National Boundary Commission (NBC) and the Office of the Surveyor-General.

"The RMAFC is engaging with the Ministry of Defence to address crude oil theft, pipeline vandalism and production losses," he said.

Beyond petroleum, Shehu said RMAFC was exploring new revenue opportunities through partnerships with the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA).

He said the partnerships included using satellite and geospatial technologies to identify additional revenue sources.

Shehu confirmed that the commission had completed the review of remuneration for judicial office holders, culminating in the Judicial Office Holders Salaries and Allowances Act, 2025.

He said the review of remuneration for executive and legislative office holders was also at an advanced stage.

According to him, an executive bill on the Political and Public Office Holders (Salaries and Allowances) Act, 2026, is expected to be transmitted to the National Assembly.

"The remuneration reforms must be matched with accountability and performance. Improved pay should translate into improved service delivery," he said.

On the revenue allocation formula, Shehu described the review as one of the commission's most significant assignments.

He said the review involved extensive consultations with all tiers of government, technical stakeholders and Nigerians nationwide.

Shehu said the exercise considered fiscal responsibilities, revenue trends and comparative federal systems, adding that the process produced a harmonised report and legislative proposals ready for transmission to the appropriate authorities.

"The objective is to establish a more equitable and sustainable revenue-sharing framework reflecting current economic and governance realities."

The chairman also highlighted improvements in RMAFC's infrastructure, including rehabilitation of critical facilities, enhanced security systems and ongoing renovation of its headquarters.

He said staff welfare had been prioritised through improved healthcare services, training and capacity development initiatives, adding that the initiatives were designed to strengthen technical expertise within the commission.

Shehu said the engagement with the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE) was part of efforts to deepen transparency and improve public understanding of the RMAFC's mandate.

He reaffirmed the commission's commitment to proactive communication, data-driven reforms and stronger collaboration with the media, noting that such collaboration was essential to promoting accountability in public finance.

Mr Ismail Agaka, Chairman, Public Affairs and Communication Committee (PACC) of RMAFC, commended the media for strengthening democratic accountability, while reaffirming the commission's commitment to sustained engagement with stakeholders.

‘Agreement is Agreement’ — Keyamo Charges Adeleke as Osun Gov. Endorses Tinubu for Re-election

Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, has thanked Osun State Governor, Ademola Adeleke, for publicly reaffirming his support for President Bola Tinubu’s bid for re-election in 2027.

Keyamo reacted to Adeleke’s endorsement in a post on X, describing the governor as a “man of integrity and honour.”

“Thank you, Governor Ademola Adeleke, for the public and unequivocal endorsement of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the 2027 Presidential Election,” Keyamo said.

He added, “You are a man of integrity and honour. ‘Agreement is agreement.’”

Adeleke had renewed his backing for Tinubu while delivering his victory speech following his re-election in the August 15 Osun governorship election.

The governor praised Tinubu for what he described as the President’s support for a free and fair electoral process in the state.

“At this point, I must deeply appreciate Mr President, His Excellency, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for his strong support for a free and fair election,” Adeleke said.

Adeleke also described Tinubu as “a son of Osun State” before formally restating his support for the President’s second-term bid.

“Mr President is a son of Osun State, and I hereby reaffirm my earlier endorsement of him for a second term in the 2027 presidential election,” the governor said.

Adeleke’s endorsement came after he secured another term in office, defeating his closest challenger, Bola Oyebamiji of the All Progressives Congress (APC), in the governorship election.

L-R: Spokesperson, Imole Campaign Council, Pelumi Olajengbesi; Spokesperson to the Osun State Governor, Mallam Olawale Rasheed; Osun State Governor Senator Ademola Adeleke, and Chairman, Media and Publicity, Imole Campaign Council, Rep. Bamidele Salam, during a press conference organised by the Osun State Governor after the announcement of the Osun State election results at his country home, Ede, Osun State on Sunday

Labour Party Awaiting Court Judgment to Commence Preparations for 2027 Elections - Party Secretary

The Secretary of the Labour Party (LP) in Lagos State, Mr Sam Okpala, said the party is still awaiting a court judgment before commencing full preparations for the 2027 general elections.

Okpala disclosed in an interview in Lagos on Sunday, while giving an update on the party’s efforts toward reconciliation and unity ahead of the elections.

He explained that once the judgment was delivered, the party would swing into action and begin the necessary preparations for the 2027 elections.

“By God’s grace, once we get our judgment, then we will swing into action. But for now, nothing much is happening on our own side,” he said.

Okpala, however, noted that the party remained hopeful about its future, saying that even if it failed to achieve its immediate political objectives, there would still be opportunities in subsequent elections.

“Like I said, if we didn’t do anything this time, there is still 2031,” he said.

The development comes amid renewed efforts by opposition parties and political groups to strengthen their structures and build alliances ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Recent political developments have highlighted the importance of unity and reconciliation among opposition groups.

When asked about the party’s efforts to unite its members, Okpala assured that the party remained in place and every member would be given a sense of belonging in the party.

He expressed optimism that the situation would become clearer after the court’s decision, which he said would enable the party to move forward with its political plans.

Falconets to Tackle Poland, Korea in Friendlies Ahead of FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup

Nigeria's Falconets will trade tackle with Poland and Korea Republic in friendly matches ahead of the 2026 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup.

Moses Aduku's side are currently preparing for the biennial competition in Abuja.

The Falconets are expected to travel to Poland for their final preparations on Monday, 24 August.

The two friendlies will help the team fine-tune strategies for the World Cup.

Nigeria have been drawn in Group F with Spain, China, and New Caledonia.

The Falconets will open their campaign against Spain at the Arena Sosnowiec on Monday, 7 September.

The West Africans' second group game against China will also hold at the same venue three days later.

Nigeria's last group game against New Caledonia will hold at the Stadion Miejski ŁKS on Sunday, 13 September.

Squash Ex-Pros in Diaspora Seek Wider Opportunities for Young Players

Former Nigerian squash professionals in the diaspora have pledged stronger support for grassroots development of the sport, calling for sustained investment, wider competitions and greater international opportunities for young players.

The commitment was made at the closing ceremony of the seventh edition of the Squash in Diaspora Under-11, Under-13 and Under-17 Boys and Girls Junior Championship in Abuja on Saturday.

The tournament held in Abuja for the first time after six editions in Lagos, attracted more than 100 young players from the FCT, Plateau and Kaduna states, among other parts of Northern Nigeria.

Haniel Hadison, Vice President of the Nigeria Squash Federation (NSF) and tournament sponsor, described the initiative by former professionals in the diaspora as an important contribution to the development of squash in Nigeria.

"You can see that our stakeholders, the ex-professionals based abroad, are also making an effort to give back to the system.

"That is one very important aspect of continuing the developmental growth of squash in Nigeria," he said.

He said almost 100 young players had been brought together through the tournament, adding that such initiatives would help keep children engaged in sports and provide a pathway for future national and international athletes.

"We have taken them off the streets, and that is the future of the nation through sports. The Federal Government cannot do this alone," he said.

Hadison also commended the decision to move the tournament from Lagos to Abuja, saying it would help address the concentration of squash competitions in the southern part of the country.

Jonah Attah, Technical Director of the NSF and Vice-Chairman of the African Squash Federation, said the Abuja edition had exceeded expectations, particularly with the strong participation from Northern Nigeria.

He said the FCT produced 33 junior players, while Plateau and Kaduna produced 13 and 11 players respectively.

"The Under-11 had a chart of 32 that is massive. In the past for this same tournament, they used to have just 12 or 14. That shows you that what the federation is doing is working," he said.

Attah said the growth demonstrated the impact of the NSF's development roadmap, adding that the quality of play showed that the tournament had achieved more than simply exposing young players to competition.

Sonia DeRosesa, a visiting junior squash player, commended the commitment of the Nigerian players and expressed optimism about the future of the sport in the country.

"I would say that Nigerian squash is on the rise and that everyone should look out for it in the future. They're working hard. They're competing," she said.

Segun Maku, a former North American and Nigerian champion, also backed increased investment in grassroots development, saying former professionals had a duty to give back to the sport that helped shape their careers.

"This tournament means a lot to me because it reminds me of my days coming up in the sport. I am glad that we, the former professionals, are giving back," he said.

He expressed optimism that sustained development could enable Nigerian players to make a stronger impact at international competitions within the next five to 10 years.

"Hopefully, in the next five to 10 years, we will start getting into the main draws and probably start winning most international tournaments," he said.

Eng. Iniobong Jacob called for more equipment, coaching and strategic partnerships, saying young players who had previously struggled in competitions were now showing significant improvement.

Kun Khalifat Signs Mathias Mallen from Solution FC

Kun Khalifat FC have completed the signing of goalkeeper Mathias Mallen.

Mallen joined the Owerri-based club from Nigeria National League (NNL) side Solution FC.

The shot-stopper has signed a contract that will keep him at the club until the summer of 2028.

Mallen becomes the latest addition to the Kun Khalifat squad as they prepare for the 2026-27 Nigeria Premier Football League, NPFL, season.

Kun Khalifat have lost some of their key players this summer.

The Owerri club escaped relegation on the final day of last season.

Mathias

Junior D'Tigress Crash to Mali, Fail to Win U18 Afrobasket Title

Nigeria's Junior D'Tigress have missed out on the FIBA U18 Women's Afrobasket Championship title after losing 77–68 to defending champions Mali in a fiercely contested final.

The Nigerian youngsters battled throughout the championship decider and pushed Mali hard, but the reigning champions held their composure in the crucial stages to retain their continental crown.

The victory secured Mali's 10th U18 Afrobasket title and their third consecutive championship, further underlining their dominance in African women's youth basketball.

Despite the disappointment of losing the final, Nigeria's impressive campaign earned them qualification for the 2027 FIBA U19 Women's Basketball World Cup in China.

Mali will also represent Africa at the global tournament as continental champions, with both teams securing Africa's two available tickets.

The team will now turn its attention to the future as they seek to build on their strong campaign and eventually end Mali's dominance of the U18 Afrobasket Championship.

Cameroon Beats Malawi to Win First WAFCON Title

Cameroon's Indomitable Lionesses on Sunday won their first Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) title after defeating debutants Malawi 3-0 in the final in Rabat, Morocco.

Cameroon produced a dominant first-half display at the Moulay El Hassan Stadium, scoring all three goals before the break to secure the historic victory.

Marie Manga opened the scoring in the 20th minute, heading Cameroon into the lead before Naomi Eto doubled the advantage nine minutes later.

Manga then completed her brace in first-half stoppage time, giving the Indomitable Lionesses a commanding 3-0 lead going into the interval.

Malawi, making their debut at the continental championship, attempted to fight back after the restart, with the Chawinga sisters, Temwa and Tabitha, unable to break through Cameroon's defence.

Cameroon goalkeeper Michaely Bihina helped preserve the clean sheet as the Indomitable Lionesses held on comfortably to secure the continental crown.

The victory ended Cameroon's long wait for the WAFCON title after three previous defeats in the final.

The Indomitable Lionesses had lost the 2004, 2014 and 2016 finals, all against Nigeria, before finally ending their run of disappointment in Morocco.

Cameroon thus became the fourth nation to win the WAFCON, joining record champions Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea and South Africa.

The triumph also made Cameroon only the third African country, after Nigeria and South Africa, to win both the men's and women's Africa Cup of Nations titles.

For Malawi, the defeat ended an extraordinary debut campaign which saw the Scorchers reach the final after eliminating some of the continent's established teams.

Malawi had earlier stunned defending champions Nigeria in the group stage before defeating Ghana and Algeria in the knockout rounds to reach their first-ever WAFCON final.

Cameroon's triumph brings the curtain down on the 2026 WAFCON, with Algeria emerging as bronze medalists after defeating hosts Morocco in the third-place playoffs.

Donnelly Wins GB's First Women's Marathon Medal at Europeans

Abbie Donnelly became the first British woman to win an individual marathon medal at the European Championships as she took bronze in Birmingham on Sunday.

Great Britain also secured a team gold, beating Italy and Spain to the top of the podium as Natasha Wilson finished fifth and Rose Harvey 14th.

The previous highest finish by a female British marathon runner at a European Championships came from Kath Binns, who placed ninth in 1982.

In two hours 27 minutes 33 seconds, Lincolnshire runner Donnelly crossed the line behind Hungary's Lili Anna Vindics-Toth, while Finnish favourite Alisa Vainio took gold in 2:22:26, beating the previous championship record by nearly three minutes.

Great Britain's women's team marathon triumph delivered the nation's seventh overall gold at the championships, leaving them one shy of leaders Italy going into the final evening of action.

"It means everything to do this here in Birmingham," said Donnelly, formerly a cross-country runner, of her marathon achievement.

"I've never done a home champs before, so to have the crowd shout 'Abbie Donnelly' was an incredible experience."

With Vainio striking out alone early in the race, team-mates Donnelly and Wilson had each other for company in the chasing pack for much of the race, which the bronze medallist said was a "massive" help.

It was Vindics-Toth who made the decisive break, before Donnelly followed, holding on through an uphill climb to the finish line and crossing 12 seconds after the Hungarian.

Donnelly

Arsenal Thrash Hapless Man City to Lift Community Shield

Premier League champions Arsenal produced a statement win over rivals Manchester City to lift the 2026 Community Shield in Cardiff.

Mikel Arteta's side took the lead after just 23 seconds when Myles Lewis-Skelly slipped in Riccardo Calafiori, who slotted an effort past Manchester City goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Arsenal then doubled their lead in the 28th minute through Kai Havertz's downward header after summer signing Christos Tzolis had nodded Martin Odegaard's cross back across goal.

Three minutes into the second half, Tzolis found Odegaard in the City box and the Norwegian forced Donnarumma to the floor with an excellent fake shot before passing the ball into the opposite corner.

The Gunners' victory over the FA Cup holders gave them their second trophy in four months and their 18th Community Shield title overall.

The match was played at Principality Stadium while Wembley hosts Canadian singer The Weeknd's 'After Hours til Dawn' tour.

With two assists, Greek forward Tzolis starred on the left side of Arsenal's attack.

The 24-year-old was directly involved in a league-high 40 goals for Club Brugge last season, scoring 17 times and providing 23 assists.

Tzolis, who cost Arsenal £34m this summer, is back in England having made 30 appearances for Norwich between 2021 and 2024.

New team-mate Bruno Guimaraes also started Arsenal's win but had a quieter game at the base of the Gunners' midfield.

Lewis-Skelly was another player who impressed by setting up Arsenal's first amid transfer links to Chelsea and Manchester United.

Odegaard had an effort cleared off the line by Josko Gvardiol just before half-time, while second-half substitute Bukayo Saka blasted an effort over from a good position late on.

Manchester City were playing their first competitive game without Pep Guardiola as their manager in over 10 years, since Manuel Pellegrini oversaw a 1-1 draw with Swansea in May, 2016.

Osun Lessons: How Weak Structures, Poor Funding, Incumbency May Impact ADC, NDC in 2027

• Lead continue from page 7

demonstrated the choice of Osun voters as expressed at the ballot box.

"I congratulate Governor Ademola Adeleke on his re-election as Governor of Osun State. His victory demonstrates the choice of the people of Osun as expressed at the ballot box," Atiku said.

He commended Osun voters for their peaceful participation and wished Adeleke success in his second term.

Peter Obi, presidential candidate of the NDC, also congratulated Adeleke, describing the result as an important democratic achievement.

In a statement titled "Osun: When the People Stand, Democracy Wins," Obi said the people of Osun had spoken with courage and clarity and argued that Adeleke's renewed mandate reflected his commitment to the people, compassion for their needs, and achievements in office.

Obi particularly praised Osun youths for what he described as their peaceful defence of their democratic mandate. He urged Nigerians to remain informed, participate actively in the 2027 elections, and, most importantly, protect their votes at polling units.

He said the Osun experience showed that democracy was strongest when citizens were alert, conscious of their civic responsibilities, and determined to ensure that their votes counted. He also called on political actors to place the interests of Nigerians above partisan considerations and ensure that elections remained contests of ideas, competence, character, and service rather than violence.

The Inter-Party Advisory Council, IPAC, also congratulated Adeleke, describing his victory as a significant triumph for democracy and the rule of law.

IPAC National Chairman, Dr Yusuf Dantalle, commended Osun voters for what he described as their democratic resilience and praised INEC, security agencies, civil society organisations, domestic observers, and the international community for their roles in the conduct of the election.

He said the outcome demonstrated the people's determination to exercise their constitutional rights and called for continued efforts to strengthen electoral integrity and public confidence in Nigeria's democratic system.

Celebrations spread across Osun following the declaration, with Afrobeats star David Adeleke, popularly known as Davido, celebrating the victory of his uncle. Davido, who had campaigned for Adeleke, posted "WE DID IT UNC!!!" on his verified X account alongside a celebratory video.

The APC, meanwhile, adopted a more cautious position, saying it was studying the election results before deciding its next course of action.

The party's Director of Media and Information, Kola Olabisi, said the APC would consult its lawyers and explore constitutional avenues available under the Electoral Act.

The party urged its members and supporters to remain calm, while insisting that the electoral process extended beyond the declaration of results and could proceed through the Election Petition Tribunal, Court of Appeal, and, ultimately, the Supreme Court.

The APC also alleged that some of its members and supporters had been molested and appealed to the police to protect them, while maintaining that it remained committed to the rule of law.

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, PhD, GCON, inspects facilities at the Zazzau Industrial Park and Industries (ZIPI), built by Simkay Foods Limited, in Zaria, Kaduna State, on Saturday.

Take Responsibility for Refinery Woes, Atiku Tells Tinubu

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has accused the Bola Tinubu administration of worsening Nigeria's refinery problems, saying the president can no longer blame his predecessors for the country's petroleum sector challenges.

Atiku, presidential candidate of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), spoke in a statement issued on Sunday by Phrank Shaibu, his senior special assistant on public communication.

He was reacting to Tinubu's recent comments that he had accepted responsibility for the "assets and liabilities" inherited from previous administrations.

Tinubu made the remarks when the leadership of the Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), led by Salimon Oladiti, paid him a visit at the presidential villa in Abuja.

Atiku said it is "political escapism" for Tinubu to blame previous administrations for the condition of Nigeria's refineries after his government financed their rehabilitation and presented their return to operation as an achievement.

He cited NNPC financial records which, according to him, showed that the combined obligations of the Port Harcourt, Warri and Kaduna refineries to the national oil company increased from about N4.52 trillion at the end of 2023 to N8.67 trillion at the end of 2024.

Atiku said the increase of about N4.15 trillion occurred under Tinubu.

"President Tinubu cannot have it both ways. When the cameras were rolling in November 2024, his government told Nigerians that the Port Harcourt refinery was back," he said.

"Now that the celebration has turned into embarrassment, the same administration wants Nigerians to believe that the refineries are merely liabilities inherited from previous governments.

"Mr President, you claimed the refinery when you thought it was working. You cannot disown it now that the smoke has cleared."

The former vice-president said the government owed Nigerians an explanation on how funds committed to the refineries had translated into actual benefits.

"So, Nigerians deserve answers. If the combined obligations of these refineries jumped by more than N4 trillion in 2024 alone, what exactly did Nigerians receive in return?" he asked.

"Where did the money go? Where are the products? Where are the savings Nigerians were promised? And where is the refinery your government celebrated before television cameras?"

Atiku said Tinubu cannot claim credit for projects when they appear successful and blame his predecessors when they fail.

He stated that Nigerians cannot afford another four years of what he described as wasteful spending and policy failures.

"Mr President, stop blaming your predecessors. After more than three years, you are no longer merely managing inherited liabilities. You are creating your own — and increasingly, your government itself has become the biggest liability Nigerians are being forced to carry," he added.

Oborevwori Lauds Renewed Push for Peace in Warri at Unity Games—After Real Warri Pikin Showdown

Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori, has hailed renewed efforts to promote peace, unity, and harmonious coexistence among the diverse communities in Warri and its environs, following a controversy that recently erupted over comedian Anita Asuoha, popularly known as Real Warri Pikin, and the branding of her planned show.

Oborevwori, who spoke through the Commissioner for Higher Education, Prof. Nyerhovwo Tonukari, at the closing ceremony of the maiden Warri Unity Games at the Federal Government College, Warri, described sports and other community-driven initiatives as powerful instruments for rebuilding relationships, breaking down barriers, and fostering sustainable peace.

The governor's message came against the backdrop of the controversy surrounding Real Warri Pikin's September 20, 2026 comedy show, which was scheduled to hold at the Monarch Event Centre in Effurun, Uvwie Local Government Area.

Publicity for the event described it as "Real Warri Pikin Live in Warri", a description that triggered objections from the Wado City Advocacy Group and other indigenes, who insisted that Effurun should be distinctly identified rather than presented as Warri.

The disagreement reportedly escalated, prompting Asuoha to cancel the event. The comedian subsequently spoke of her frustration with what she described as years of regional tension and disunity, saying that some persons have even suggested she drops "Warri" from her stage name.

The dispute, however, has since been resolved following a peace and reconciliation meeting involving the comedian, representatives of the local and state governments, and the Wado City Advocacy Group.

The parties reportedly issued a joint statement resolving their differences and pledging to support the event, with a new date and venue expected to be announced.

Against this backdrop, Oborevwori's renewed call for peace assumed added significance, as the governor urged stakeholders to embrace initiatives capable of bringing the people together rather than deepening divisions.

Representing the governor at the Unity Games, Tonukari conveyed Oborevwori's warm regards to participants and organisers and expressed his regret that pressing official engagements prevented him from attending personally.

He commended the Olu of Warri, His Royal Majesty Ogiame Atuwatse III, for conceiving the Unity Games, describing the initiative as a platform through which people from different communities could interact, compete, forge friendships, and strengthen bonds.

According to the governor, the Delta State Government believes sports can serve as a bridge among diverse communities, helping to break down imaginary barriers and promote lasting peace.

"On behalf of Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori and the Delta State Government, I declare our absolute and resolute support for every community-driven initiative that enhances youth empowerment, cultural preservation, and peaceful coexistence," Tonukari said.

He urged the athletes and spectators to uphold discipline, fair play, and mutual respect, expressing optimism that friendships established through the games would contribute to a more united and prosperous Warri and Delta State.

The message resonated with the Olu of Agbarha-Warri Kingdom, His Royal Majesty King Kingsley Emakpo Orereh, Ataneru Igbi II, who commended the Olu of Warri for initiating the sporting festival.

The monarch described the games as an important opportunity for reconciliation and renewed unity among the people, urging residents to extend the spirit of peace beyond the sporting arena.

He also appealed to those involved in insults and inflammatory exchanges on social media to desist, stressing the deep historical and family connections binding the communities together.

"I grew up in Ekpen Street and I used to say I am an Okere man because there was no difference between Urhobos and Itsekiris. In fact, I spoke Itsekiri more than Urhobo," he said.

He urged the people to seize the opportunity provided by the Unity Games for "total reconciliation", pointing to intermarriages and longstanding family relationships as evidence that the communities could not afford to remain divided.

The Olu of Warri said the Unity Games represent a deliberate attempt to remind the people of their shared heritage and common destiny.

He said the initiative was conceived to demonstrate that the people of Warri had far more in common than what separates them.

He announced that the Unity Games would henceforth become part of activities marking his coronation anniversary, with the first Saturday of the anniversary celebration week dedicated to promoting unity among all those who call Warri home.

The monarch said the initiative was also a response to the painful lessons of the past, particularly the need to ensure that the events of previous decades were not repeated.

Reflecting on the early 1990s, the Olu recalled how what was originally intended as a celebration of the coronation anniversary of his predecessor, Ogiame Atuwatse II, degenerated into conflict and violence, leaving consequences from which Warri had yet to fully recover.

He also recalled Warri's unrealised potential as a major national cultural tourism destination, noting that the city had a carnival long before the emergence of the now-famous Calabar Carnival.

"Warri desires to rise again, and to rise better than before," the monarch declared.

The Real Warri Pikin controversy has consequently added another dimension to the renewed conversation about identity, coexistence and the need for dialogue in the Warri axis.

Although the disagreement began over the description of a venue in Effurun as being in "Warri", its escalation demonstrated the sensitivity surrounding the distinct identities of communities that have, over time, become closely interconnected socially, economically and geographically.

The subsequent reconciliation, coming at a time when traditional rulers and the Delta State Government are actively promoting initiatives aimed at rebuilding trust, has provided an opportunity for stakeholders to turn the controversy into a lesson in dialogue and mutual respect.

With the parties now reportedly committed to resolving the disagreement and supporting the comedy event, attention is expected to shift from the dispute to the broader objective of ensuring that Warri and its neighbouring communities "rise again" — this time through peace, unity, cultural renewal and economic development.

The convergence of the Unity Games, the traditional institution's joint call for "total reconciliation" and the peaceful resolution of the Real Warri Pikin controversy has thus renewed hopes that the Warri axis can move beyond old fault lines and build a more united future.

El-Rufai Sues ICPC For Allegedly Denying Family Access to Him

Former Gov. Nasir El-Rufai of Kaduna State has filed a fresh N10 billion suit against the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC).

The ex-governor instituted the suit against the ICPC for allegedly preventing him from having access to his wife, Mrs Aichatou Asabe, and son, Abba El-Rufai, while in custody.

El-Rufai, in the suit filed by his lawyer, Ubong Akpan, also named the ICPC chairman and the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) as 2nd and 3rd defendants.

The originating motion, marked FHC/ABJ/CS/1852/2026 and filed on Aug. 13, was sighted on Sunday in Abuja.

The detained ex-governor, who alleged that his wife and son were denied access to see him, sought nine reliefs.

He prayed the court to declare that his fundamental human rights guaranteed under Part IV of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) remain inviolable and in force notwithstanding his detention by the commission and should be honoured.

He prayed the court to declare that his repeated refusal and/or prevention from access to his family members while in custody, particularly to provide him with food, medication and other necessities, without any lawful justification or court order, breached his rights.

He said these rights are guaranteed under Sections 34 and 37 of the Constitution and Articles 5 and 18 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

El-Rufai sought a declaration that the physical restraint, intimidation and treatment meted out to Asabe and Abba by ICPC's officers on July 7, as well as their alleged arbitrary interference with the spousal and filial relationship, amounted to a violation and breach of his right to the dignity of the person as well as his right to private and family life.

He sought "a declaration that the respondents' continued denial of family access without lawful authority is unconstitutional, illegal, null and void.

The former governor, therefore, prayed the court for "an order directing the respondents to grant the applicant unhindered and reasonable access to members of his family and counsel throughout the period of his detention as earlier directed by the Federal High Court.

He submitted that in spite of the order of court permitting his family members and his lawyers to have access to him, the respondents had prevented his wife and son from having access to him without any justification.

He said, consequently, his wife and son had been prevented from giving him food, medication and other necessities.

"This action has subjected the applicant to humiliation, emotional trauma, anxiety and psychological distress.

"The respondents acted arbitrarily, unlawfully and in a manner inconsistent with Sections 34, 37 and 46 of the Constitution and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

"The respondents' conduct amounts to an unjustifiable interference with the applicant's dignity and family life and is therefore unconstitutional," he alleged.

El-Rufai said he was entitled to the protection and enforcement of his fundamental rights by the honourable court under Section 46 of the 1999 Constitution and the Fundamental Rights (Enforcement Procedure) Rules, 2009.

In the affidavit in support of the suit deposed to by the ex-governor's Principal Secretary, Mohammed Shaba, he said it was common knowledge that his boss is being detained by ICPC in its Abuja office.

He said the facts contained in the affidavit were supplied to him by Asabe, the lawful wife of the detainee, on July 12.

He said Asabe told him that "since the detention of her husband by the ICPC, she has been personally responsible for providing him with food, clothing, medication, and other personal necessities required for his comfort, health, and well-being while in custody."

He said that El-Rufai is the 1st defendant/applicant in charge number: FHC/KD/73C/2025, pending before the Federal High Court (FHC), Kaduna Judicial Division, in which the Federal Republic of Nigeria is the complainant.

He said on April 1, the FHC in Kaduna, presided over by Justice R. M. Aikawa, made an order directing the ICPC to allow the defendants to have access to their counsel and their personal physicians whenever they need to see them.

"Clearly, this order reflects the settled principle of law that detainees are not to be held incommunicado and that the ICPC is subject to judicial oversight regarding the conditions of detention."

He said in addition to the court order, El-Rufai, as a detainee, retains his fundamental rights under the Constitution and the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), 2015, to humane treatment, including reasonable access to family members and the provision of food and medication from family.

Giving a background to the alleged denial of access, Shaba said before July 7, Asabe had been visiting her husband regularly and delivering meals and other items to him without obstruction.

He said this was in accordance with established visiting procedures of the ICPC and the applicant's constitutional and statutory rights.

From left: Chairman, Correspondent's Chapel (CC), Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ,) Enugu State Council, Comrade Lawrence Njoku; Principal, Government Technical College (GTC), Enugu, Mr Christopher Isife; Senior Special Assistant to Enugu State Governor on External Relations Media, Mr Uchenna Anichukwu, and other members of CC, during a facility tour of GTC Enugu by CC in Enugu. PHOTO: NAN

Wike Signs 26,272 Cs of O in Three Years – FCTA

The Federal Capital Territory Administration FCTA has disclosed that nearly three times as many Certificates of Occupancy have been issued to land allottees in the territory in the three years of the President Bola Tinubu administration as were issued across the 13 years of previous administrations.

Senior Special Assistant to the FCT Minister on Public Communications and Social Media, Lere Olayinka, said in a statement on Sunday that 26,272 Certificates of Occupancy have been produced and signed by the FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike, since President Tinubu took office, compared with a combined 8,697 issued between 2010 and 2023 under the administrations of Goodluck Jonathan and Muhammadu Buhari. Jonathan's five-and-a-half years in office accounted for 5,500 of that figure, while Buhari's eight years produced 3,197.

Behind the numbers, Olayinka said, is a backlog problem the current administration inherited rather than created: many beneficiaries of the 26,272 certificates signed under Wike had been sitting on land allocations for over a decade without the paperwork to show for it.

He traced the bottleneck to inefficiencies in the old system that left landowners with little incentive to complete their payments, since there was no guarantee the document would follow promptly, or at all.

That, he said, is what the FCTA has moved to fix. "The moment necessary payments are made, land allottees can now get their C-of-O within two weeks," Olayinka said, adding that an automated notification system now alerts allottees as soon as their documents are ready for collection, replacing a process that previously left applicants to chase updates through informal means.

According to him, the stakes go beyond paperwork, noting that a Certificate of Occupancy is the document banks and financial institutions treat as trusted collateral, and its absence has long been flagged as a specific obstacle to credit for small and medium businesses in the territory. Without it, landowners sitting on real assets have effectively been locked out of loans, mortgages, and expansion capital they could otherwise access.

Troops Kill Five Terrorists, Nab Nine IPOB/ ESN Suspects, Intercept Political Thugs

Troops of the Nigerian Army have killed five terrorists, rescued abductees and arrested several suspects in intelligence-led operations across the country.

This was contained in an operational update made available to the newsmen on Sunday in Abuja.

The report said the operations, conducted between Aug. 14 and Aug. 15, also targeted terrorist logistics networks, illegal bunkering, political thuggery and other criminal activities.

In the North-East, it said the troops of Operation HADIN KAI intercepted three JAS terrorists who surrendered at Sabsawa in Bama Local Government Area (LGA) of Borno.

According to the report, the terrorists reportedly fled their camp following logistical difficulties and clashes with rival ISWAP elements.

"They surrendered two AK-47 rifles, 243 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, 40 empty cases and other ammunition and military items.

"Troops also rescued an abducted woman and her two children along the Amuda Bridge in Gwoza LGA, after she escaped from a terrorist enclave where she had reportedly been held since 2017," it said.

The report also revealed that troops apprehended a suspected terrorist infiltrator at Kukareta in Damaturu LGA of Yobe, adding that he was undergoing further investigation.

It said the troops of Operation FANSAN YAMMA neutralised two terrorists during an engagement at Kurudu village in Kankia LGA of Katsina State, and recovered an AK-47 rifle.

"In the North-Central, troops of Operation ENDURING PEACE raided a suspected kidnappers' hideout at Mista-Ali in Bassa LGA of Plateau, arresting three suspects.

"In a separate operation, troops foiled an attack on residents of Ariri village in Bassa, rescuing an injured victim after the attackers fled.

"In the South-East, troops of Operation UDO KA killed three suspected IPOB/ESN members and arrested nine others during a clearance operation in Osuakwa, on the boundary between Ihiala and Ogbaru areas of Anambra.

"The operation, conducted with the Department of State Services and other security agencies, also led to the recovery of an FN rifle, pump-action rifle, ammunition, four motorcycles and 15 dynamites.

"Other recovered items included a gas cylinder, batteries and handheld-radio chargers, while the suspected terrorist camps were destroyed," the report said.

It added that troops of the operation also arrested three suspects during an anti-illegal bunkering operation at Ihie community in Isiala Ngwa North LGA of Abia.

According to the report, troops recovered a vehicle, five motorcycles, jerrycans, suspected illegally refined AGO and N135,000 before destroying an illegal refinery camp.

The report further revealed that troops deployed for Operation SAFE CONDUCT during the Osun Governorship election apprehended three suspected political thugs at Ikire in Irewole LGA.

It added that the suspects were allegedly detailed by a political party to disrupt the electoral process, with troops recovering a locally fabricated pistol, motorcycle, mobile phones and N163,400.

In the South-South, the army said troops of Operation DELTA SAFE discovered 3,100 litres of fuel allegedly siphoned from a pipeline around Eleme refinery in Rivers.

According to the report, the latest operations demonstrate the continued focus on intelligence-led operations to disrupt terrorist groups, criminal networks, illegal economic activities and threats to public safety.

Security personnel monitoring the ballot box after an argument between voters and party agents during the Osun Governorship Election held on Saturday.

NDLEA Arrests 70-year-old, Others in Multi-state Operations

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has arrested several suspected drug traffickers and intercepted large quantities of illicit substances during operations conducted in several states.

The agency's spokesperson, Femi Babafemi, announced the developments in a statement issued on Sunday.

In Oyo State, NDLEA personnel conducting surveillance on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway stopped a Toyota Sienna and arrested two occupants identified as 70-year-old Abdulfatai Oyelaran and 50-year-old Abdulrauf Ajadi.

A search of the vehicle allegedly uncovered 52,000 ampoules of pentazocine injection and 6,000 ampoules of tramadol injection.

In Kwara State, officers apprehended Abubakar Adamu, 50, and Bilyaminu Nuhu, 30, around the Kam Wire area of Ilorin. They were allegedly transporting 55.96 kilogrammes of skunk in a truck.

The operation also extended to Delta State, where Osaro Ikpoba, 43, and Samuel Godbless, 18, were intercepted along the Onitsha-Asaba Expressway.

According to the agency, officers recovered 124,100 tramadol pills, 786 bottles of codeine syrup, 2,598 Rohypnol tablets, 4,800 diazepam tablets, 470 pentazocine ampoules and 200 tramadol ampoules.

Another suspect, 50-year-old Emeka Tony, was arrested on the Kwale-Ozoro Expressway. NDLEA officers reportedly recovered 1,244 cartridges and N8 million from him.

In Plateau State, a Toyota Corolla stopped on the Riyom-Jos Road was found carrying 239,490 capsules of Tramaforce, a tramadol-based product. Kasum Sherif was arrested in connection with the seizure.

Kano State also recorded substantial drug seizures. Six suspects were arrested on the Zaria-Kano Road, where officers recovered 728,958 pills comprising tramadol, Rohypnol and other opioids.

The seizure also included 360 grammes of cocaine, 99.8 grammes of methamphetamine, 50 bottles of codeine syrup and 2.7 kilogrammes of Loud, a synthetic form of cannabis.

The agency conducted another operation in Zawaciki Gida Dubu, Kumbotso Local Government Area, on Friday. Two men, Mustapha Iliya, 30, and Abdulwahab Abdulrashid, 24, were arrested after officers allegedly discovered 171 blocks of skunk weighing 106.8 kilogrammes.

The NDLEA said the operations formed part of its continued efforts to disrupt the supply chains used to distribute illicit drugs across the country.

Thousands Displaced by Deadly Indonesia Earthquake as Rescue Efforts Continue

Around 5,000 people have been displaced by a powerful earthquake in Indonesia that has caused at least 51 fatalities.

Rescuers continue to search for survivors of the shallow magnitude 7.7 quake, which struck the island of Flores shortly before 05:00 local time on Saturday (22:00 GMT on Friday).

Preliminary reports indicate more than 900 homes and hundreds of other buildings have been severely damaged by the tremor and 341 subsequent aftershocks, the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) said.

The full scale of the disaster is still being uncovered, with news of a second magnitude 6.9 earthquake elsewhere in Indonesia serving as a reminder of why this region is called the Ring of Fire.

The initial earthquake, which occurred just 15km below the surface, was the south-east Asian nation's deadliest since 2022, when hundreds of people were killed in West Java.

Tremors were reportedly felt by residents as far west as Bima, the BNPB said, but Manggarai province was among the most affected.

Preliminary data shows 24 fatalities had been recorded there, while 17 deaths were recorded in East Manggarai province, three in Sikka province, and at least one in each of the Ngada, Ende and West Manggarai provinces.

A total of 3,356 people had been displaced in Sikka, with a further 2,078 evacuated in Manggarai, the agency said.

Thirty-six people were seriously injured in East Nusa Tenggara province, while 77 suffered minor injuries, Deputy Health Minister Benjamin Paulus Octavianus said.

It will take time to assess the full extent of the destruction in the region, which is remote and mountainous.

Morocco Detains Dozens of Migrants Trying to Cross into Ceuta

Moroccan authorities have intercepted dozens of migrants seeking to cross into the Spanish North African exclave of Ceuta, reports say.

More than 100 people were blocked as they tried to make their way to the border on the outskirts of the town of Fnideq, according to Moroccan security sources cited by Spanish media and the news agency Reuters.

It comes a fortnight after roughly 78,000 migrants arrived in the exclave by sea in a matter of hours - 100 of whom died, according to the city's mayor, who also said the vast majority of arrivals had returned to Morocco.

Security had been stepped up in the area after the influx and amid suggestions on social media of a second mass crossing attempt this weekend.

The security sources said 111 people had been detained in or around Fnideq, known in Spanish as Castillejos, about 3km (1.8 miles) from the border, the majority of whom were from sub-Saharan Africa.

Moroccan police, including some in riot gear, reportedly used tear gas to disperse groups of migrants gathered on nearby hills.

Earlier this week, Morocco's government said it was monitoring "the circulation of social media posts and messages of unknown origin" calling for a mass crossing on Saturday, and warned that it would prosecute organisers and participants.

Security at the breakwater entrance was "10 times stronger than the previous day", Spanish newspaper El País reported.

Morocco had dispatched army officers, navy speedboats and drones to the border on Saturday, it said.

Meanwhile, Madrid deployed more than 1,500 security officers to patrol the area.

Spain has also installed a metal fence and a floating barrier following last month's influx.

The crisis had calmed since breaking out in late July, but it has sparked tensions between EU nations that share open borders as well as criticism of the Spanish government.

Italy suspended the 29-member Schengen arrangement of free movement with Spain and introduced border checks on arrivals from Spain.

Italy was backed by Finland and Denmark, while the Czech Republic called for Spain's membership to be temporarily suspended.

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What Investing in Africa Means to Aliko Dangote

OPINION

BY

EHI BRAIMAH

When conversations turn to investment in Africa, one name consistently dominates the discussion: Aliko Dangote. Over the past four decades, the Nigerian industrialist has become more than Africa's richest businessman – he has emerged as one of the continent's most influential advocates for industrialisation, value addition and economic self-reliance. His investments tell a story that goes beyond profit; they reflect a philosophy that Africa can no longer afford to remain merely a supplier of raw materials while importing finished products at enormous cost.

Dangote's vision is rooted in a simple but transformative belief: Africa must produce what it consumes and trade more with itself.

This conviction aligns perfectly with the aspirations of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which seeks to create a single African market and stimulate manufacturing, investment and intra-African trade.

Unlike many investors who view Africa as a collection of disconnected national markets, Dangote has consistently viewed the continent as one vast economic space with immense potential. His strategy has therefore been to establish industries that solve critical supply gaps while creating jobs, developing local expertise and reducing dependence on imports.

His most visible success story is cement. Through the Dangote Cement Group, he transformed Nigeria from one of the world's largest cement importers into a net exporter. Today, the company operates manufacturing plants in numerous African countries, including Ethiopia, Tanzania, Senegal, Zambia, Cameroon, Congo, South Africa and Ghana, among others. Collectively, these investments have created tens of thousands of direct and indirect jobs while supplying the materials needed for roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, housing and other infrastructure that underpin economic development.

Dangote has repeatedly argued that infrastructure is impossible without locally available cement. By manufacturing close to African markets, his company reduces transportation costs, conserves foreign exchange and builds domestic industrial capacity. The result is not merely commercial success but the strengthening of Africa's productive economy.

Dangote's US$45 billion capital expansion programme (2026 – 2030) across Africa clearly underscores his vison of prosperity for the continent. Dangote Cement alone has invested US$8.5 billion across Africa in 15 years. However, his commitment extends beyond cement into agriculture and food security. Through Dangote Sugar Refinery, he has invested heavily in integrated sugar production with the objective of reducing Africa's dependence on imported sugar. The strategy combines cultivation, processing and refining, creating agricultural value chains that benefit farmers, transporters, processors and distributors.

Sugar, often overlooked in discussions of industrialisation, illustrates Dangote's broader philosophy. Africa possesses fertile land, favourable climate and abundant labour. Yet, billions of dollars leave the continent annually to import products that could be produced locally. Dangote believes reversing this trend is essential for sustainable development.

The same philosophy explains his investment in fertiliser. The Dangote Fertiliser Plant in Nigeria is among the largest granulated urea fertiliser facilities in the world. Its significance extends well beyond Nigeria's borders. Fertiliser is fundamental to improving agricultural productivity across Africa, where millions of smallholder farmers struggle with declining soil fertility and low crop yields.

By producing fertiliser locally, Africa reduces import dependence while making a strategic input more accessible to farmers. In Ethiopia, Dangote has invested over US$4 billion in the country's fertiliser plant to cut imports and reduce forex pressure. Higher agricultural productivity contributes directly to food security, export competitiveness and rural prosperity. For Dangote, industrialisation and agriculture are complementary pillars of economic transformation rather than competing priorities.

Perhaps no investment better illustrates his long-term vision than the Dangote Petroleum Refinery. For decades, Nigeria – despite being one of Africa's largest crude oil producers – imported much of its refined petroleum products. This paradox imposed enormous costs on the economy and exposed the country to supply disruptions and foreign exchange pressures.

The refinery seeks to reverse this historical anomaly by refining crude oil domestically on an unprecedented scale. Beyond meeting Nigeria's needs, it has the capacity to supply refined petroleum products to many African countries, reducing the continent's dependence on imports from Europe, Asia and the Middle East. It also demonstrates that Africa can execute world-scale industrial projects despite enormous financial, technical and logistical challenges.

Dangote's ambitions are increasingly continental. Reports of planned refinery investments and partnerships in Kenya reflect his broader vision of strengthening Africa's energy security and industrial base beyond Nigeria. The proposed 700,000 bpd refinery in Kenya will cost about US$17 billion, and it is projected that it will take about three to five years to build. Whether through new investments, partnerships or strategic supply arrangements, the objective remains consistent: creating integrated African value chains capable of supporting economic growth across multiple countries.

The Dangote Petroleum Refinery in Ibeju Lekki, Lagos has significantly strengthened Nigeria's energy security at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, where conflicts have disrupted global oil supply chains and fuel markets. By refining crude oil locally, Nigeria has reduced its dependence on imported petroleum products, making the country less vulnerable to external supply shocks, freight disruptions and price volatility.

Had the refinery not come on stream, Nigeria would likely have faced acute petrol shortages, steeper pump prices and intensified pressure on scarce foreign exchange needed for fuel imports. Increased demand for U.S. dollars would have placed further strain on the naira, worsening exchange rate instability and fueling inflation across the economy. While Nigeria remains exposed to global crude oil price movements, the Dangote Refinery has provided a vital buffer, enhancing energy resilience, conserving foreign exchange and reinforcing the country's economic stability during a period of global uncertainty.

Central to Dangote's philosophy is his confidence in Africa's future. He has frequently encouraged both African and international investors to stop seeing Africa through the narrow lens of political instability, poverty and risk. Instead, he points to the continent's rapidly growing population, expanding middle class, abundant natural resources and entrepreneurial energy as compelling reasons to invest.

He often reminds audiences that every successful economy was built by investors willing to take calculated risks. In his view, Africa's challenges should not discourage investment; rather, they represent opportunities to create solutions that generate both commercial returns and lasting social impact.

His message to African governments is equally consistent: sustainable development requires policies that encourage industrial investment, protect legitimate businesses, improve infrastructure and create predictable regulatory environments. Investors need confidence that long-term projects will receive stable policy support.

Dangote also believes that African capital should play a leading role in Africa's development. While foreign direct investment remains valuable, local investors understand African markets more deeply and are often willing to commit for the long term. Their success, he argues, inspires confidence among international investors.

The emergence of the AfCFTA makes Dangote's vision even more relevant. A continent-wide market of over 1.4 billion people offers manufacturers unprecedented opportunities to achieve economies of scale. Companies producing cement, fertiliser, sugar and refined petroleum products can increasingly serve multiple African markets under a more integrated trading framework. This is precisely the future Dangote has anticipated through decades of cross-border investment.

Ultimately, Aliko Dangote's legacy will not be measured solely by his wealth but by the industries he has built and the confidence he has inspired in Africa's economic potential. His investments demonstrate that African entrepreneurs can conceive, finance and execute projects of global significance. They show that industrialisation is not an abstract aspiration but a practical pathway to jobs, technology transfer, export growth and shared prosperity.

As global investors gather at Africa-focused business summits from Abuja to Nairobi, Accra, Kigali, Lome, Abidjan, Johannesburg, London, New York, Washington DC, Paris, Dubai, Beijing, Moscow, Singapore and beyond, Dangote's journey offers an important lesson: investing in Africa is not an act of charity; it is a strategic economic decision grounded in the continent's vast opportunities.

His life's work is an enduring reminder that Africa's greatest wealth lies not only beneath its soil but also in its capacity to manufacture, innovate and create value for its own people and for the world.

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