KTH Daily
KEEPING THEM HONEST
www.keepingthemhonest.ng
₦300 | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2026 | VOL. 05 NO. 023

Tinubu's 2027 Manifesto Built on Solid Records, Not Empty Promises; You Don't Change a Winning Team — Niboro

PG 15

2027: Judge Me by Lives Touched, Projects Delivered, Not Empty Promises — Tinubu PG 15

US Firm to Build $100m Gas Processing Plant in Bayelsa PG 10

Man Utd Sack Carrick After Dismal Start to Premier League Season PG 13

Speed Darlington Publicly Apologises to Burna Boy, Begs Him to Withdraw Charges PG 3

Tinubu Campaign, Reps, EU Raise Alarm Over Rising Election Violence, Demand Crackdown on Political Thugs



- APC Campaign Council condemns attack on Obi's NDC supporters in Lagos, demands arrest of political thugs; Reps launch nationwide probe as EU warns on intimidation, hate speech PG 9

Nigeria's Economy-Beyond-Oil Gathers Steam as Exports Hit $6.1bn, FG Moves to Make Selling Abroad Easier

- Non-oil sector now contributes 96% of GDP; reserves rise to $55bn—FG to launch digital export processing to boost earnings for Nigerian businesses PG 9



Soft Sell
...with Uche Aghulor



OBI CUBANA GIFTS SON A BRAND NEW CAR AS HE CELEBRATES 18TH BIRTHDAY

Alex, the son of Nigerian billionaire businessman Obi Cubana, has thanked his father after receiving a brand-new car as a gift for his 18th birthday.

The teenager, who appeared surprised by the gesture, thanked his father not only for the gift but also for the love, guidance and wisdom he had received over the years.

In his words: "I didn't expect this. Thank you not just for the gift but for every bit of wisdom you have imparted to me for the past 18 years. I want to thank you for 18 years of enjoyment, family and love. I hope we all spend many more years together."

The birthday celebration was made more memorable with the luxury gift from the businessman.



SPEED DARLINGTON PUBLICLY APOLOGISES TO BURNA BOY, BEGS HIM TO WITHDRAW CHARGES

Nigerian rapper Speed Darlington has publicly apologised to Grammy-winning singer Burna Boy over comments that previously landed him in legal trouble.

In a video shared online, the rapper expressed regret over his remarks about Burna Boy's sexuality and appealed to the singer to withdraw all charges against him, promising never to make direct or indirect comments about him again.

"I apologise for any pain and shame that I have caused you. I made the mistake of thinking that everybody vibrates at the same frequency. That's wrong of me. I apologise, Burna Boy.

"I give you my word that if you withdraw all charges and let everything die down, I will never make any direct or indirect comments regarding your sexuality again. I promise I will never mention your name. Let peace reign," he said.

Recall that Speed Darlington was first arrested in 2024 over allegations of cyberstalking Burna Boy.

The dispute escalated after the rapper made public comments mocking Burna Boy over his alleged association with American music executive Sean 'Diddy' Combs, who was facing serious legal issues in the United States at the time.

Soft Sell



Pastor Funmi Olubakin has expressed concern over the growing number of women choosing not to have children, criticising what she described as the increasing celebration of child-free women.

Speaking on the issue, the cleric suggested that some men's behaviour towards women and their approach to relationships and marriage may be contributing to the trend.

She said, "There is an agenda that is being sponsored now, and it's really painful for me that child-free women are being celebrated. Women who are child-free, from their late 20s into their late 40s, are being celebrated."

Explaining the difference between being childless and child-free, Olubakin noted that the terms have different meanings, with childless referring to women who desire children but do not have them, while child-free describes those who consciously choose not to have children.

She questioned why some people who had the opportunity to experience life would celebrate choosing not to give another generation the same opportunity.

Addressing men, the pastor said their behaviour was making marriage less appealing to some women.

She also praised modern women for being educated, hardworking and capable of managing multiple responsibilities, including their careers, businesses, church activities and family life.

According to her, many women desire marriage and happiness but are unwilling to settle for just anyone.

She therefore urged men to work on themselves and become better partners, stressing that their actions could influence how women view marriage and relationships.



Social media personality Blessing CEO has admitted that she did not have breast cancer, months after claiming she was battling the disease and receiving financial donations from members of the public.

Speaking in an interview with social media activist VeryDarkMan, Blessing CEO disclosed that a medical examination had revealed a lump in her breast, but it was not cancerous.

She admitted that she deliberately presented the lump as cancerous to the public because she wanted financial assistance, describing her actions as an "emotional game".

According to her, she initially gave the impression that she was considering selling some of her personal belongings, including her car and house, before members of the public encouraged her to share her account details so they could support her.

She said donations subsequently began coming in from different people, with some sending varying amounts of money.

However, the situation changed after VeryDarkMan questioned her fundraising claims and demanded evidence of her breast cancer diagnosis.

Blessing CEO said the donations stopped shortly after the activist released a video questioning her claims.

Soft Sell

"I BECAME A BILLIONAIRE 20 YEARS AGO" – TERRY WAYA REVEALS SECRET TO BUILDING HIS WEALTH



Nigerian businessman and billionaire Terry Waya, father of former Big Brother Naija housemate Kiddwaya, has opened up about his journey to wealth, revealing how he built his fortune and the importance of investing in people.

Speaking in a candid interview with popular YouTube platform School of Hard Knocks, Waya disclosed that he became a billionaire about 20 years ago, insisting that he is not just a millionaire.

He also revealed that the highest amount he has made in a single year is approximately $200 million.

According to him, his greatest investment has been in people and building a strong network, which he believes would help him rebuild his fortune even if he lost everything.

Waya also claimed that he played a major role in developing Banana Island in Lagos through his connections in the military, noting that the area is now home to some of Nigeria's wealthiest individuals.

Speaking about Nigerians and their business instincts, he described them as intelligent people who are quick to learn and improve on existing ideas.

The businessman also shared a message for young people, urging them not to lose sight of their families and relationships in the pursuit of wealth and success.

He advised that no level of financial success should make anyone forget the people and values that helped them along the way.

Soft Sell



Media personality and Genevieve Magazine founder, Betty Irabor, has encouraged people not to allow the failed marriages of others to discourage them from believing in the possibility of a successful marriage.

In a post shared on her Instagram page, Irabor acknowledged that statistics on failed marriages could be alarming and might increase the fears of women struggling in their relationships or discourage those considering marriage.

However, she noted that many marriages are still thriving quietly, even though they may not receive the same attention as failed relationships on social media.

According to her, successful marriages require patience, sacrifice, commitment, discipline, emotional maturity and consistent effort from both partners.

She also acknowledged that marriage comes with disagreements, disappointments and difficult seasons but noted that it also offers friendship, companionship, laughter, shared victories and personal growth.

Irabor further advised people to learn from the mistakes of others without allowing their experiences to shape their expectations of marriage.

She maintained that marriage remains a desire for many people and stressed the need for a better understanding of what it takes to build a successful union.

Concluding her message, she wrote: "Other people's marriages are their stories. Yours is still being written. Don't let their endings determine yours."

Tinubu in Akwa Ibom: A Visit That Changed The Story

By AmanamHillary Umo-Udofia

When President Bola Tinubu arrived in Uyo on Friday, November 6, 2026, it was evident that Akwa Ibom State was preparing for more than a routine presidential visit. The atmosphere was charged with excitement, political expectations and a strong sense of occasion. From the presidential reception at Victor Attah International Airport to the commissioning of landmark projects, the massive All Progressives Congress rally at Godswill Akpabio International Stadium and the state banquet at the ARISE Palm Resort, the visit brought together the defining elements of governance, politics, economic ambition and intergovernmental cooperation.

For Governor Umo Eno, it was an opportunity to present his administration's achievements to the President and the nation. For the people of Akwa Ibom, it was an occasion to renew their expectations of the Federal Government, particularly on projects with the capacity to transform the state's economic fortunes. For President Tinubu, it was also an opportunity to consolidate his relationship with a state whose political leadership had increasingly aligned itself with his administration and his 2027 re-election ambition.

The significance of the visit became even more apparent as events unfolded. What began as a presidential commissioning exercise would eventually produce one of the most consequential announcements in the state's development history: the President's approval of the long-awaited Ibom Deep Seaport.

President Tinubu was received at Victor Attah International Airport by Governor Eno, Senate President Godswill Akpabio, members of the National Assembly, state government officials, political leaders and enthusiastic supporters.

The reception set the tone for a day that would showcase the infrastructure and institutional investments undertaken by the Eno administration under the ARISE Agenda.

Among the major facilities commissioned was the new International Terminal Building at Victor Attah International Airport, an important addition to Akwa Ibom's aviation infrastructure and its ambition to become a major destination for business, tourism and investment.

The airport's new facilities, including the International Airport Hospital and Ibom Aviation Village, reflect a broader vision of aviation development beyond flight services. The objective is to build an ecosystem that supports aviation operations, specialised services, employment and the training of skilled professionals.

The President also commissioned Ring Road 3, a strategic road infrastructure linking Idoro Road to Ikot Ekpene Road through Uyo and Ibiono Ibom. The road is expected to improve connectivity, ease transportation and open up communities to greater economic activity.

Another important project on the commissioning schedule was the Airport–Okopedi Road, connecting communities in Nsit Atai and Okobo Local Government Areas. The road forms part of the administration's wider effort to extend infrastructure development beyond the state capital and improve access to rural communities.

Other facilities commissioned during the visit included the Governor's Office Annex, the Akwa Ibom Geographic Information System Office Complex and the Security and Command Centre.

The Command and Control Centre is particularly significant for security management. With its capacity to support surveillance, information coordination and emergency response, it is expected to strengthen the state's security architecture and improve the capacity of relevant agencies to respond to emerging threats.

The President's commissioning engagements also included the ARISE Palm Resort, a major tourism, hospitality and leisure investment developed by the state government. Situated on approximately 70 hectares, the resort represents an ambitious effort to turn tourism into an important component of the state's economic diversification strategy.

Taken together, these projects reflect the administration's emphasis on infrastructure, aviation, tourism, security and urban development. More importantly, they demonstrate an approach to governance in which physical infrastructure is expected to serve as a foundation for investment, employment and improved living standards.

If the commissioning ceremonies provided the developmental narrative of the visit, the gathering at Godswill Akpabio International Stadium supplied its political energy.

The stadium became the meeting point for APC leaders, stakeholders, elected representatives, party faithful and supporters from across the 31 local government areas of the state. It was a grand political reception that also served as an unmistakable endorsement of President Tinubu's second-term ambition.

Governor Eno, in his welcome address, left little doubt about the political direction of his administration and the commitment of the Akwa Ibom APC to the President's re-election project.

He described the gathering as evidence of the APC's growing strength in the state and assured the President that Akwa Ibom would deliver more than two million votes in the 2027 presidential election.



• **Preident Bola Ahmed Tinubu**

But the governor's most consequential intervention was not merely political. He used the occasion to renew the state's demand for the establishment of the Ibom Deep Seaport, describing it as a strategic economic project capable of transforming Akwa Ibom and the entire South-South region.

Eno made a direct appeal to the President, declaring that the state was prepared to deliver two million votes while seeking the Federal Government's commitment to the port.

The request was both a political undertaking and a development proposition. The governor's argument was that the deep seaport would unlock the state's maritime potential, attract industrial investment, create employment and position Akwa Ibom as a major gateway for international trade. Then came the moment that changed the character of the rally.

Responding to the governor, President Tinubu acknowledged the importance of inclusive development and the need to create economic value across the country. He recognised the request made on behalf of the people and leadership of Akwa Ibom and announced:

"Your request for the Ibom Deep Seaport is hereby approved. The Ibom Deep Seaport will bring associated economic value and economic development to the people, just as the governor has said." It was a defining moment for the state.

For decades, the deep seaport has remained one of Akwa Ibom's most ambitious economic aspirations, dating back to the original Ibaka Deep Seaport and Industrial City vision. The President's approval marks an important milestone in the state's efforts to establish a stronger presence in Nigeria's maritime and logistics economy.

The announcement also gave a new dimension to the relationship between the Federal Government and the Akwa Ibom State Government. Beyond political support, the state was seeking a strategic federal commitment that could influence its economic trajectory for generations.

President Tinubu also announced approval to upgrade Victor Attah International Airport to international airport status, further strengthening the state's aviation ambitions.

Beyond the deep seaport announcement, the President used the rally to outline his administration's development priorities and make a case for continuity in government.

He commended Governor Eno for what he described as significant strides in infrastructure development and human capital investment, acknowledging the governor's efforts in positioning Akwa Ibom for greater economic opportunities.

Tinubu also spoke about the importance of agricultural development, particularly the economic potential of palm produce in Akwa Ibom. He challenged the state to look beyond palm cultivation and develop skills, processing capacity and industries that could turn agricultural resources into sustainable wealth.

"There is no reason why Akwa Ibom cannot leverage the value of its palm trees and agricultural produce. There is no reason that we cannot create skills development — skills that are enduring and everlasting," he said.

The President further recalled the request for international status for Victor Attah International Airport, confirming that he had approved it. He connected the approval to his administration's broader commitment to extending development across the country's geopolitical zones.

On education and the economy, Tinubu promised a better future built around development, education, vocational skills and employment opportunities. He also highlighted the gains of his administration's reforms, arguing that the country was moving away from the difficult economic circumstances inherited when he assumed office.

Addressing young people, he urged them to scrutinise the credibility, track records and commitment of politicians seeking their votes. He particularly emphasised the importance of the Permanent Voter Card, describing it as the instrument through which citizens could determine their political future.

"The weapon you have is the PVC," he told the crowd, encouraging eligible voters to collect their cards and participate in the forthcoming election.

The President also pointed to the improvement in the ability of state governments to meet their financial obligations, recalling that 27 of the 36 governors could not meet salary obligations when he assumed office. He maintained that the country had moved beyond what he described as a period of economic uncertainty and possible bankruptcy.

He thanked Governor Eno for his hard work and commitment to the people of Akwa Ibom, a recognition that reinforced the cordial relationship between the two administrations.

Perhaps the most memorable political moment came when Tinubu expressed affection for the people of the state and declared his intention to spend the night in Akwa Ibom.

"Thank you, Akwa Ibom. I love you with my heart. I will sleep in Akwa Ibom tonight. It's going to be a second-term presidential sleep. I will dream of victory too." It was an unmistakable reference to his 2027 re-election ambition, delivered in a manner that drew excitement from the stadium.

The President also danced to the APC campaign anthem, On Your Mandate, as supporters celebrated his presence. The symbolism was unmistakable: the visit was as much about political mobilisation as it was about governance. The rally also gave other prominent political leaders a platform to articulate their support for the President.

Vice President Kashim Shettima commended Akwa Ibom and the wider South-South region for supporting the Tinubu administration. He challenged the people not to be misled by politicians who criticise government policies without offering credible alternatives.

Speaking on behalf of the Nigeria Governors Forum and the South-South governors, Bayelsa State Governor Douye Diri applauded Tinubu's leadership, particularly the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway and the Nigerian Education Loan Fund.

Dr Umo-Udofia is a Special Assistant to the Akwa Ibom State Governor on Media.

KTH Daily
KEEPING THEM HONEST
www.keepingthemhonest.ng

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

OUR TEAM

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

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

Tinubu Campaign, Reps, EU Raise Alarm Over Rising Election Violence, Demand Crackdown on Political Thugs

APC Campaign Council condemns attack on Obi's NDC supporters in Lagos, demands arrest of political thugs; Reps launch nationwide probe as EU warns on intimidation, hate speech

By Jeremy Fregene

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's campaign organisation, the House of Representatives, and the European Union have raised serious concerns over the growing wave of political violence across Nigeria ahead of the 2027 general elections, warning that attacks on political gatherings, intimidation of opposition supporters, and inflammatory rhetoric pose grave threats to the country's democratic process.

The concerns intensified on Thursday following the reported invasion of a Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC) town hall meeting in Lagos by suspected political thugs, an incident that drew condemnation from the All Progressives Congress Presidential Campaign Council (APC-PCC), the NDC, and the Lagos State chapter of the ruling party.

In a statement issued by its spokesperson, Dele Alake, and made available to KTH Daily, the Tinubu campaign condemned attacks on political gatherings irrespective of party affiliation and demanded decisive action by security agencies to identify, apprehend, and prosecute those responsible.

The campaign council specifically denounced the disruption of the NDC meeting in Lagos, where supporters of the opposition party had gathered as part of activities promoting the presidential ambition of former Anambra State Governor Peter Obi.

"Our campaign strongly condemns the disruption of today's scheduled town hall meeting of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC) in Lagos," the statement declared.

The council also expressed concern over reported attacks in Edo, Cross River, and Gombe states, describing the growing incidents of violence against political leaders and supporters across party lines as unacceptable.

"We have observed the recent spate of violent attacks at political gatherings in parts of the country. The reported attacks in Edo, Cross River, and Gombe, and other violence targeted at party supporters and political leaders across party lines are condemnable," Alake stated.

The APC-PCC urged political parties, candidates, and their supporters to exercise restraint as electioneering activities gathered momentum, warning against actions capable of provoking public disorder or undermining the democratic process.

It particularly challenged security agencies to strengthen preventive measures and ensure that perpetrators of politically motivated violence faced the full weight of the law.

"We call on the security agencies to be more responsive and alert in preventing political violence of any type and ensure instigators and perpetrators are apprehended and punished in accordance with the law," the statement said.

The council further urged candidates and political parties to concentrate on programmes capable of improving the welfare of Nigerians rather than encouraging hostility and confrontation.

"Political parties and candidates are enjoined to campaign on issues that uplift the lives of Nigerians and not to instigate violence at political events," it added.

The intervention by the President's campaign organisation represents a significant condemnation of political violence affecting both ruling-party and opposition supporters, amid growing apprehension that the electioneering season could witness further confrontations unless decisive preventive measures are taken.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives has moved to investigate the rising incidents of politically motivated violence, intimidation, and disruption of campaign activities across the country.

At its plenary on Thursday, the House adopted a motion of urgent public importance sponsored by Minority Leader Fred Agbedi and 16 other lawmakers, expressing concern over attacks on political meetings, rallies, and processions in several states.

Presenting the motion, Agbedi warned that continued violence could discourage Nigerians from participating in the electoral process, undermine public confidence, and lead to further loss of lives.

He recalled the disruption of political meetings in Enugu State on September 12, 2026, during which two persons were reportedly injured and another allegedly killed.

The lawmaker also cited an October 28 attack on APC supporters travelling to a rally in Katsina State, which resulted in the arrest of 14 suspects.

In Nasarawa State, he recalled that several people were reportedly injured during an attack on an APC rally in Lafia on November 4.

Agbedi further drew attention to the November 7 political violence in Asaba, Delta State, where police reportedly confirmed that one person was killed and five others injured during a political procession.

He stressed that the constitutional rights of Nigerians to peaceful assembly, association, and political participation must be protected regardless of party affiliation.

Citing Section 40 of the 1999 Constitution, as amended, the Minority Leader reminded the House that every Nigerian was entitled to associate freely with others, including through membership of political parties.

He also invoked Section 88(1), which empowers the National Assembly to investigate matters within its legislative competence and examine the conduct of relevant public authorities.

Following deliberations, the House constituted an ad hoc committee headed by House Leader Julius Ihonvbere to investigate the immediate and remote causes of politically motivated violence nationwide.

The committee, comprising principal officers and members of relevant security committees, was given three weeks to submit its findings.

The lawmakers emphasised that responsibility for the attacks must be established through impartial and evidence-based investigations rather than political accusations.

The National Assembly's intervention came barely 24 hours after the European Union expressed similar concerns over rising political intimidation, hate speech, and election-related violence in Nigeria.

Speaking on Wednesday at the Civil Society and Human Rights Defenders Forum on the State of Human Rights in Abuja, the EU Ambassador and Head of Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Gautier Mignot, warned that such developments threatened democratic gains and could discourage citizens from exercising their electoral rights.

Mignot's remarks underscored growing international concern over the political atmosphere ahead of the February 2027 elections, particularly the need to guarantee peaceful campaigns, freedom of association, and the safety of voters and political actors.

The concerns of the EU, the National Assembly, and the President's campaign council have now converged on the need for stronger security responses and accountability for politically motivated attacks.

Meanwhile, the NDC has demanded an immediate investigation into the reported attack on its supporters during a town hall meeting in Oregun, along Kudirat Abiola Way, Ikeja, Lagos.

In a statement signed by the spokesperson of its National Campaign Council, Dr Chiogo Constance Ikokwu, the party described the incident as an assault on democracy and the fundamental rights of citizens.

The NDC alleged that suspected political thugs invaded the gathering in an attempt to intimidate its supporters and disrupt legitimate political activities.

This incident is an unacceptable assault on democracy, citizens' fundamental rights and the freedom of political association. No political party or group has a monopoly on Nigeria, and no one has the right to use violence, intimidation or thuggery to silence opposing voices," the party stated.

It demanded the arrest and prosecution of those responsible, insisting that intimidation would not prevent its members from participating in the 2027 elections.

The party also expressed sympathy for those reportedly injured during the incident and called for an end to political violence across the country.

However, the Lagos State chapter of the APC rejected suggestions that it was responsible for the disruption.

Its Publicity Secretary, Seye Oladejo, described allegations linking the ruling party to the attack as baseless and challenged the NDC to provide credible evidence to security agencies.

"For the avoidance of doubt, Lagos APC categorically rejects any insinuation of involvement, direct or indirect, in the alleged disruption of the said political gathering," Oladejo declared.

He maintained that the party neither sponsored nor encouraged violence against opposition supporters, pointing out that its leadership and members were engaged in the official flag-off of the APC's 2027 campaign in Epe when the reported incident occurred.

Oladejo urged the Lagos State Police Command and the Department of State Services to investigate the attack and establish the identities of those responsible.

The Lagos APC reiterated its commitment to peaceful and issue-based campaigns, insisting that political differences must never become justification for lawlessness.

KTH Daily reports that with less than three months to the presidential election, the growing catalogue of attacks on supporters of both the ruling and opposition parties has heightened concerns over the safety of political gatherings and the ability of security agencies to guarantee an atmosphere conducive to credible elections.

The latest developments have also placed renewed attention on the responsibility of political leaders to restrain their supporters and ensure that electoral competition does not degenerate into violence.

For the Tinubu campaign, the position is that political disagreements must be settled through peaceful democratic engagement, with security agencies expected to act firmly against offenders regardless of their political affiliations.

The House investigation and the calls for decisive security intervention are expected to test the willingness of political institutions and law enforcement authorities to confront electoral violence before the country goes to the polls in 2027.

Nigeria's Economy-Beyond-Oil Gathers Steam as Exports Hit $6.1bn, FG Moves to Make Selling Abroad Easier

Non-oil sector now contributes 96% of GDP; reserves rise to $55bn—FG to launch digital export processing to boost earnings for Nigerian businesses

By Yinka Giwa

Nigeria's drive to reduce its dependence on crude oil is gathering momentum, with non-oil export earnings reaching $6.1 billion in 2025, while activities outside the petroleum sector now account for approximately 96 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Against this backdrop, the Federal Government has announced plans to introduce an automated export processing system from December 14, 2026, to make it easier, faster, and less expensive for Nigerian businesses to sell their products in international markets.

The initiative, being implemented under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's National Single Window (NSW) programme, is designed to eliminate cumbersome paperwork, reduce bureaucratic delays, improve regulatory compliance, and plug revenue leakages that have traditionally frustrated exporters.

The developments were disclosed on Thursday at separate events in Port Harcourt and Abuja, where government officials outlined measures to strengthen Nigeria's non-oil economy and accelerate the country's transition towards a more diversified, export-driven economy.

Speaking at the National Single Window Phase Two Export Sensitisation Joint Stakeholders Engagement in Port Harcourt, the project's director, Mr Tola Fakolade, said the Federal Government was moving to consolidate export documentation, permits, and regulatory approvals on a unified digital platform.

According to him, the new system will enable exporters to process essential documentation electronically instead of navigating multiple government agencies and administrative procedures.

The second phase, scheduled to commence on 14 December, will initially cover export permits issued by the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), and the Federal Produce Inspection Service.

A subsequent rollout, involving export processes handled by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), is expected in the first quarter of 2027.

Fakolade explained that the first phase of the National Single Window had already improved coordination among regulatory agencies by integrating their digital systems and strengthening compliance requirements.

"One of the testimonials we received from agencies during the first phase was that enforced compliance on the platform helped users comply with regulations.

"When there is compliance, there is also a reduction in revenue leakages," he said.

He disclosed that the project had completed User Acceptance Testing, while training for exporters and other users would begin on Monday.

The implementation team, he added, had undertaken sensitisation programmes in Enugu, Akure, Jos, Lagos, and Port Harcourt, with further engagements scheduled for Kano and Abuja.

The project is being implemented in collaboration with the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), which maintains a database of registered exporters.

At the same event, NEPC Executive Director, Mrs Nonye Ayeni, disclosed that Nigeria's non-oil export earnings increased by 11.5 per cent from $5.46 billion in 2024 to $6.1 billion in 2025.

Ayeni, represented by the council's Director of Trade Information, Mr Ndubueze Okeke, said export volumes also rose by 10 per cent to 8.02 million metric tonnes.

She revealed that Nigerian exporters shipped 281 different non-oil products to 120 countries during the year, reflecting the growing international market for goods produced outside the petroleum industry.

According to her, sustaining this growth will require more efficient systems that allow Nigerian products to reach foreign buyers without unnecessary delays and excessive administrative costs.

She expressed confidence that the National Single Window would improve coordination among government agencies, eliminate duplication, increase transparency, and reduce the burden of regulatory compliance on businesses.

"Our objective is to ensure a seamless transition that simplifies processes rather than creates additional burdens for businesses," she stated.

The NEPC chief executive said exporters would also receive guidance on the relationship between the new platform, the Trade Monitoring System, Forms NXP and NCX, and the various permits and certifications required for international trade.

Similarly, the Nigeria Customs Service confirmed that it was working with relevant agencies to digitise and integrate export documentation into the platform.

The Controller in charge of Modernisation, Mr Aondona Fanyam, said the system, which had already undergone testing through import processes, was being extended to exports in phases.

"The agencies are ready, but the stakeholders need to be aware of what is happening. That is why we are here to sensitise them and provide avenues for training," he explained.

Meanwhile, President Tinubu has declared that his administration's economic reforms are beginning to produce measurable results, with non-oil activities now accounting for approximately 96 per cent of Nigeria's GDP.

Speaking on Thursday in Abuja at the public presentation of a book titled Economic Diversification and Structural Transformation in Nigeria: Past, Present and Future, the President said the country was moving from economic stabilisation towards sustainable growth and shared prosperity.

Tinubu, represented by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas, disclosed that Nigeria's external reserves had risen to approximately $55 billion, which he said represented more than 14 months of import cover.

He also announced that non-oil revenue had increased from N13.63 trillion in 2023 to N16.4 trillion in the first half of 2026.

The President attributed the improvements to economic reforms undertaken since his administration assumed office in May 2023, including the removal of petrol subsidies, foreign exchange market unification, and measures to improve government revenue.

He acknowledged that the reforms had imposed significant financial pressure on Nigerian households but maintained that the difficult decisions were necessary to restore economic stability.

"These were not easy decisions, and I know the weight they placed on every household, but they were necessary, and today the pain is yielding its promise," he said.

Tinubu reaffirmed his administration's ambition to build a $1 trillion economy by 2030 through increased investment in agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure, energy, technology, and other productive sectors.

He stressed that Nigeria could not achieve lasting prosperity through taxation alone but must expand production, strengthen industries, and create opportunities for businesses to grow.

"We cannot tax our way into prosperity; we must produce our way there," the President declared.

He said the administration was harmonising the country's tax system to address multiple taxation and create a more favourable environment for investment.

According to him, the government is also encouraging private-sector participation through a framework designed to reduce investment risks and mobilise capital for economic development.

On infrastructure, Tinubu highlighted efforts to revive the Mambilla Hydroelectric Power Project, expand Geregu Power's generation capacity to 1,300 megawatts, and rehabilitate the Port Harcourt and Warri refineries.

He identified the Kano–Katsina–Maradi Railway, Lagos–Calabar Coastal Highway, and Sokoto–Badagry Superhighway as major infrastructure projects intended to improve connectivity, facilitate trade, and open new economic opportunities.

The President also outlined measures to improve agricultural productivity through irrigation, mechanisation, and livestock reforms, while encouraging domestic processing of mineral resources to increase their economic value.

In the technology sector, he cited plans to deploy 90,000 kilometres of fibre-optic cables and expand digital skills development through the Three Million Technical Talent programme.

He said the Bank of Industry was extending low-interest loans and grants to market women, artisans, and young entrepreneurs across the country's 774 local government areas.

On education and housing, Tinubu highlighted the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND), university solarisation projects, and the Renewed Hope Cities and Estates Programme, under which more than 10,000 homes were being developed across 14 states and the Federal Capital Territory.

He disclosed that the MOFI Real Estate Investment Fund had provided approximately N128 billion in mortgages to 1,859 families across 25 states.

The President pledged continued collaboration with the National Assembly to strengthen the regulatory framework for housing and real estate development.

He commended the author of the book, Dr Abdulmumin Jibrin, a member of the House of Representatives representing Kiru/Bebeji Federal Constituency in Kano State, for documenting Nigeria's economic development and the policy choices required to diversify the economy.

US Firm to Build $100m Gas Processing Plant in Bayelsa

The Bayelsa Government and US-based energy company, Fulcrum LNG Incorporated, on Thursday sealed a partnership to build a multi-million-dollar gas gathering and processing facility in the state.

This was contained in a statement signed by Mr Daniel Alabrah, Chief Press Secretary to the governor.

According to the statement, the agreement was reached at the close of the two-day inaugural US-Nigeria Governors G2B Forum on Energy, Mining and Infrastructure held at the Sweet Water Country Club, Sugar Land in Texas.

He said that the forum, facilitated by Westpaq International in collaboration with the United States Department of Commerce and the US Commercial Service, Houston, brought together the governor of Bayelsa and representatives of Nasarawa, Ogun and Ondo states, alongside over 15 top American energy, mining and financial firms including Honeywell, KBR, Worley, Lummus Technology, VGas, and others.

"The project will be executed in phases, beginning with the gathering and commercialisation of flared gas to power the state's Independent Power Plant and emerging industrial clusters, while curbing environmental pollution.

"This will be followed by a comprehensive integrated gas monetisation and development plan to harness the state's vast gas reserves."

Speaking after a closed-door meeting with Gov. Douye Diri, the Fulcrum LNG Chief Executive Officer, Mr Jesus Bronchalo, said the governor's presentation at the roundtable sparked his company's interest, describing the partnership as holding great prospects for both parties.

Bronchalo said Fulcrum will begin a comprehensive field study of Bayelsa's flare sites to determine the appropriate technology and gathering infrastructure.

He noted that a similar project the company is executing in Guyana is valued at about 3 billion dollars, adding that the investment size for Bayelsa would be determined after the feasibility study and is likely to exceed the scale of its South American operations.

"From FID to commissioning will take about 12 months.

"First, we need to understand the problem on the ground, where those facilities are and why gas is being flared. We will come to Bayelsa to understand the magnitude.

"Some flares may be so remote or uneconomic that gathering may not be viable. The key question is whether the flaring is due to lack of infrastructure to move the gas or lack of re-injection capacity.

"Once we know that, we can determine the best option. The way we do it, we invest 100 per cent. If government wants equity, then it brings capital for that portion."

Responding, Diri described the deal as a win-win and assured of his government's commitment to immediate commencement, noting the administration had about 15 months left in office.

He said the project remained critical to both environmental protection and industrialisation.

"Our interest is how this project will reduce the effects of environmental pollution on our people and boost our industrialisation drive."

Earlier, during his presentation at the roundtable, Diri noted that Bayelsa holds an estimated 15-20 per cent of Nigeria's proven gas reserves and supplies about 60 per cent of the gas utilised by the NLNG Company in Bonny, Rivers.

He added that the state has the longest Atlantic coastline in Nigeria at 203km, with direct access to the Gulf of Guinea.

He also spoke about the Agge Deep Seaport as a natural deep seaport that required no dredging, describing it as Nigeria's deepest natural port and the natural first port of call for vessels entering the country.

Facilitator of the forum and CEO of Westpaq International, Mr Samuel Diminas, expressed delight at the outcome, commending Sen. Ben Murray-Bruce for his role in ensuring the forum's success.

Diminas affirmed that Westpaq would continue to interface with all parties to ensure prompt commencement, adding that the project holds immense economic opportunities for Bayelsa and Nigeria.



From left: Summit Coordinator, Planning Committee, Mobolaji Lewis (M); Team Member, Hon. AbdulRahman Terab (2nd R); Head of Diaspora Banking, First Bank of Nigeria Ltd., Abimbola Meshinoye (2nd L); the Secretary of Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), Dr Sule Bassi (3rd R); Planning Committee Secretary, Marie David; Director of Media, Public Relations and Protocols Unit, NiDCOM, Mr AbdulRahman Balogun; Team Member, Mr Gabriel Odu, and other members of the Summit Planning Committee, during a panel discussion at the 9th Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit in Abuja yesterday.

Afreximbank Facilitates $3bn Investment Opportunities in Nigeria, 20 Other African Countries

The African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) says its African Sub-Sovereign Governments Network (AFSNET) has facilitated investment opportunities worth more than three billion dollars across 21 African countries, including Nigeria, in five years.

Mr Gainmore Zanamwe, Director of Trade Facilitation and Investment Promotion at Afreximbank, disclosed this on Thursday in Calabar during a news conference at the sixth edition of the AFSNET platform.

Zanamwe said the initiative had also trained more than 2,000 people in investment promotion, entrepreneurship and project development to strengthen their capacity to identify opportunities and attract financing.

He explained that the platform was established in 2021 to extend Afreximbank's development interventions beyond national governments to states and other sub-national authorities.

According to him, the initiative seeks to connect entrepreneurs, investors and financial institutions while enabling states to maximise opportunities in agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and the creative industry.

He said the platform was also designed to ensure that young African entrepreneurs benefited from opportunities created by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Zanamwe explained that although AfCFTA was negotiated by national governments, sub-national authorities and businesses needed to understand its provisions and position themselves to benefit from emerging continental markets.

He said the initiative was helping businesses identify investment opportunities, develop bankable projects and access potential investors beyond their immediate environments.

He added that Nigerian entrepreneurs could explore markets in countries such as South Africa and Ghana, as well as other destinations across the continent.

The director said Afreximbank was targeting all 55 African countries but prioritising those requiring technical support to develop their investment promotion capacity.

He disclosed that the bank had also committed a two-billion-dollar facility under the initiative to support agricultural production, processing and exports.

"Some people say funding is a problem. From Afreximbank, we say no. The two billion is there.

"We have this facility ready to finance projects. We will be showing you how you can tap into the two billion to do your projects," he said.

Zanamwe urged state governments to develop clear investment visions, identify priority projects and package them appropriately to attract investors and financial institutions.

He said Afreximbank was also strengthening state investment promotion agencies through training in project identification, development and investment readiness.

According to him, the platform will promote African Direct Investments by encouraging investors within the continent to finance viable projects in other African countries.

He said the sixth edition of the network would also prepare Nigerian businesses and investment institutions for the next Intra-African Trade Fair, scheduled to hold in Lagos from Nov. 5 to Nov. 11, 2027.

Zanamwe said the broader objective was to stimulate intra-African trade, promote industrialisation and create decent employment opportunities, particularly for young people across the continent.

He expressed optimism that the engagement would strengthen collaboration among governments, entrepreneurs, investment promotion agencies and financial institutions.

This year's AFSNET edition is holding in Calabar from Thursday to Sunday.

2027: Look Beyond Campaigns, Hold Political Leaders Accountable, Kukah Urges Nigerians

Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sokoto, Reverend Matthew Kukah, has urged Nigerians to look beyond campaign promises and hold political leaders accountable during election campaigns.

Kukah, who is the founder of Kukah Centre, spoke virtually at a symposium on political communication, election security and the future of Nigerian Democracy, urging accountability beyond campaign speeches and promises.

The symposium was organised by the Kukah Centre and National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) on Thursday in Abuja.

Kukah said communication should enable citizens to interrogate campaign promises and demand accountability from elected officials rather than waiting until after elections had been concluded.

He urged Nigerians to move beyond ethnic, religious and class considerations when assessing candidates, stressing that political communication should present a clear vision for society.

He said democracy remained the best platform for managing Nigeria's diversity and resources, adding that citizens must challenge politicians seeking to divide the country and create chaos.

In his opening remarks, the NILDS Director-General, Prof. Abubakar Sulaiman, said responsible political communication was essential to strengthening democratic institutions and safeguarding elections in Nigeria.

Sulaiman said that irresponsible political messaging could deepen divisions, spread misinformation, encourage intolerance and undermine public confidence in the electoral process, particularly amid social media's growing influence.

He noted election security goes beyond protecting polling units, electoral materials and voters, requiring an information environment where citizens participate freely, and institutions communicate credibly.

According to him, political parties, candidates, the media, electoral institutions, security agencies, civil society organisations and citizens have responsibilities in promoting peaceful political participation.

"We must move beyond recognising the challenges to identifying practical measures that can improve political communication and strengthen public institutions across the country," Sulaiman said.

Declaring the event open, Sen. Babangida Hussaini, a member of the NILDS Governing Council, commended the institute and the Kukah Centre for organising the symposium.

Hussaini said political communication had become important because of globalisation and the speed at which information travelled, noting that statements could shape Nigeria's image internationally.

While urging political leaders to be mindful of their utterances, he warned that one unfortunate remark could create serious consequences for society and national stability.

In her goodwill message, an activist and politician, Aisha Yesufu, said respect for the rule of law was essential to responsible political communication and democratic engagement.

Yesufu urged citizens and institutions to challenge political intimidation, irrespective of the positions held, saying that no individual should consider themselves above the law.

She said that security agencies owed allegiance to Nigerians and the constitution, not an individual or political party, adding that voters must exercise their rights without fear.

The activist challenged the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to demonstrate its independence, stressing that its actions would determine how future generations would remember its performance.

"The office of the citizen is the highest office in the land, while the office of the president is the highest political office," she said.

Also speaking, Mr Chinedu Obi, the National Rescue Movement National Chairman and Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) Director-General, urged political stakeholders to exercise caution during election campaigns.

Obi said the country was more important than individual political ambitions, adding: "If one wins at the country's expense, the whole country loses."

In a special message, a former INEC Chairman, Prof. Attahiru Jega, said credible elections depended on sound laws, efficient administration, communication, public trust and stakeholder conduct.

Jega said delayed or inconsistent communication by electoral institutions could create uncertainty, fuel speculation and undermine public confidence, urging responsible engagement ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Presenting a paper on media framing of political messages and election security, a Political Scientist, Prof. Ibrahim Jibrin, said political communication differed in democratic and dictatorial societies across the world.

Jibrin said communication in a democracy should reflect citizens' interests, promote accountability and enable the public to assess elected officials' performance and demand better governance.

He said social media had transformed political communication by allowing individuals to create and distribute content without observing professional journalism standards or accountability in the media.

He warned that this development had increased misinformation and politically motivated narratives, while political interests influenced media framing and encouraged character assassination and inflammatory messages.

In a paper on positive campaign framing and negative messaging, Prof. Okechukwu Ibeanu said negative campaigns involved orchestrated attacks on opponents, parties and electoral institutions.

Ibeanu identified similarities in party manifestos, unfulfilled campaign promises, social media and unequal media access as factors encouraging politicians to resort to negative campaigns.

He warned that negative political messaging could undermine democratic institutions, heighten ethnic and religious tensions, fuel electoral insecurity and discourage citizens from participating in elections.

He urged political stakeholders to embrace responsible, issue-based campaigns, saying that constructive engagement would strengthen democratic institutions and improve the quality of electoral competition in Nigeria.

On his part, INEC National Commissioner and Chairman of Information and Voter Education Committee, Mallam Mohammed Haruna, identified misinformation, disinformation, insecurity and vote-buying as major challenges to preparations for the 2027 general elections.

Haruna said controversies surrounding the voter register also posed challenges, adding that the commission had removed more than 1.6 million irregular entries nationwide through its ongoing clean-up exercise.

He identified AI-generated voices, deepfake videos and fabricated electoral documents as growing threats to credible public information, warning that falsehoods could undermine public trust.

Haruna urged media organisations to verify information before publication and avoid announcing privately collected election results, stressing that the Electoral Act reserved declaration authority for INEC.



L-R: Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, Sen. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi; Governor of Niger State, Governor Mohammed Umaru Bago; Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, with other party stalwarts at the APC Presidential and Gubernatorial Campaign Kick-off in Niger State yesterday.

Matawalle Mobilises Zamfara APC for Tinubu's Re-election

Minister of State for Defence, Bello Matawalle, has pledged to mobilise support for President Bola Tinubu's re-election in the 2027 general elections.

Matawalle made the pledge on Thursday while addressing a large gathering of All Progressives Congress (APC) supporters at his residence in Gusau.

The gathering preceded the arrival of First Lady, Sen. Remi Tinubu, scheduled to visit Zamfara on Friday.

"I am highly committed to ensuring that President Tinubu secures a second term.

"I am highly committed to ensuring the President completes his eight-year tenure.

"Insha Allah, we will do everything possible to mobilise support for President Tinubu's re-election," he said.

Matawalle urged party supporters and stakeholders to work for Tinubu's re-election and the victory of Gov. Dauda Lawal and other APC candidates in the state.

He commended Tinubu's efforts in tackling insecurity, developing infrastructure and promoting political cohesion across the country.

The minister said his next priority, after discharging his responsibilities at the Defence Ministry, would be mobilising support for Tinubu's re-election.

He also pledged to sustain unity within the APC in Zamfara ahead of the 2027 general elections.

On security, Matawalle said the Federal Government would deploy additional personnel along major highways in the state to protect commuters from persistent bandit attacks.

Earlier, Director-General of the Tinubu Again Movement, Dr Auwal Abdullahi, urged APC supporters to intensify mobilisation for Tinubu's re-election.

Abdullahi said the organisation had introduced welfare and empowerment programmes targeting youths, women and other groups ahead of the elections.

He said the initiatives were designed to ensure equitable distribution of empowerment opportunities among beneficiaries at different levels.

He urged party supporters to participate actively in the mobilisation drive ahead of the 2027 general elections.

2027 AFCON Qualifier: Chelle Warns Super Eagles Against Underrating Tanzania



Coach Challe

Super Eagles handler Éric Chelle has urged his players to give their all in the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying double-header against the Taifa Stars of Tanzania.

Chelle's men were thrashed 3-0 by the Djurtus of Guinea-Bissau in their last game.

The Super Eagles will now be eager to get their campaign back on track when they host the Taifa Stars in Uyo on Friday.

The two countries will also resume hostilities in a matchday four encounter at the Amman Stadium, Zanzibar next Tuesday.

Chelle declared that his team cannot afford any slip-up in the two matches.

The Malian also said it is important for the team to banish the memory of the defeat against Guinea-Bissau.

"We must work hard in these two matches and do everything to win. It is important to sustain the hope and all the players are in that mood to banish the memory of that defeat to Guinea-Bissau and show their true quality," Chelle told thenff.com.

Enyimba Target Victory Against Ikorodu City

Two-time CAF Champions League champions Enyimba FC of Aba have declared their readiness for the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) matchday 13 encounter against Ikorodu City.

The People's Elephant will host Ikorodu City at the Enyimba International Stadium, Aba, on Sunday.

The coach Emmanuel Deutsch's side will be aiming to bounce back from last weekend's disappointing 1-0 away defeat to Ranchers Bees in Minna.

The nine-time champions took to social media to express their readiness for the clash against Ikorodu City.

They also urged their fans to come out in large numbers to support the team.

"This Sunday, we host Ikorodu City. Come and cheer the People's Elephant to victory. Enyimba Enyi!" read the short message.

The two-time African champions currently occupy 17th position on the NPFL log with 11 points from 12 matches.



2,000 Students to Participate in First Bank-sponsored Sports Festival in Ogun

No fewer than 2,000 students from more than 200 schools participated in the 2026 Starlets Ogun State School Sports Festival sponsored by First Bank and other partners.

Mr Alex Okonkwo, the Coordinator of the festival, who spoke on the sidelines of the grand finale of the festival at the MKO Abiola Sports Arena in Abeokuta on Thursday, noted that the initiative gives students a platform to test their abilities and potential.

Okonkwo explained that the festival, organised by Five Media Communications, provided a platform for students to showcase their sporting talents, compete, develop skills, and interact with their peers.

He said the competition was initially organised across Ogun's four academic zones: Remo, Ijebu, Yewa and Egba, with successful participants qualifying for the state-level finals.

According to him, the students competing in Abeokuta are zonal champions who earned their places through preliminary contests.

He described sports as an integral part of education, stressing that physical activities complemented academic development and contributed to students' overall well-being.

He said sporting competitions also offer opportunities for friendship, networking and life-changing relationships, while enabling talented students to secure educational scholarships.

The coordinator urged the government to provide more infrastructure, logistics and financial support to strengthen grassroots sports development across the state.

He commended the Commissioner for Sports, Mr Wasiu Isiaka, for making the sporting facility available, noting that it had exposed many students to standard sporting infrastructure.

He also commended First Bank and other partners for supporting the festival since the beginning.

"The sustained collaboration among government, corporate organisations and other stakeholders is necessary to identify, nurture, and expose promising athletes to national and international opportunities.

"This festival featured football, long jump, track and field events, including relay races and 100-metre races, with boys and girls competing across the categories.

Okonkwo added that every student who qualified and competed at the MKO Abiola Sports Arena was already a winner.

Mr Olarotimi Okelola, Director of Ogun School Sports and Chairman, Nigeria School Sports Federation (NSSF), Southwest, said the festival was helping to discover and nurture young talents.

According to Okelola, the competition is the second edition, following its inaugural event in 2024, adding that grassroots competitions were organised from local government to state levels.

He commended Gov. Dapo Abiodun and the Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Abayomi Arigbabu, for supporting school sports.

Oba Saka Matemilola, the Olowu of Owu Kingdom, congratulated athletes participating in the competition.

He encouraged them to build lasting friendships, noting that their skills, conduct and character could attract recommendations and opportunities from influential individuals.



Oguntimehin Emerges New FCT SWAN Chairman, Promises Improved Welfare

Tolu Oguntimehin was yesterday elected the new Chairman of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja Chapter, after defeating his challenger, Raphael Ekpang, with 88 votes against four at the chapter's elective congress held on Thursday, November 12, 2026.

Speaking after his inauguration, pledged to work towards building a N200 million bank account for SWAN FCT, saying the proposed financial target would strengthen the association and create opportunities for members to travel for sporting assignments.

Oguntimehin said his administration would focus on rebuilding the association, improving members' welfare, strengthening professional capacity and restoring the vibrancy of SWAN in the nation's capital.

He assured members that their welfare would remain a priority, while promising to work collectively with stakeholders to ensure that every member had a sense of belonging.

"We need to make the association great again, and I promise you, with your support, that we will go the extra mile to make the association enabling for every member. The welfare of every member will be paramount," he said.

The new chairman also announced plans to introduce regular professional training programmes and retreats to equip members with the skills required to improve sports journalism in the FCT.

He specifically identified the radio department as an area requiring attention, promising specialised training for radio presenters to restore its vibrancy and improve broadcasting standards.

On members' access to assignments, Oguntimehin said his administration would explore opportunities for journalists who had not previously travelled to cover sporting events to do so.

He acknowledged that achieving the N200 million financial target would require strategic partnerships and support beyond the traditional sports sector.

According to him, his administration would engage the National Sports Commission (NSC), Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), private sector organisations and government agencies to attract investments and institutional support for sports development in the FCT.

"We need to go outside the box. We are the landlords in the FCT, and we need government processes and agencies to identify with sports in the FCT," he said.

The election was held at the main bowl of the Moshood Abiola National Stadium, Abuja, following the expiration of the previous leadership's tenure and the dissolution of the caretaker committee.

The chairmanship was the only contested position, as candidates for other elective offices reportedly emerged unopposed.

Immediately after delivering his acceptance speech, Oguntimehin copted Ojo to occupy the vacant position of Financial Secretary, following her earlier withdrawal from the contest for the office.


Oguntimehin

Lungu Withdraws from Zambian Squad

Orlando Pirates winger Ghampani Lungu has had to withdraw from Zambia's squad for their Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers this week and could miss the club's Carling Knockout Cup semifinal against Stellenbosch next weekend.

Lungu has a right ankle strain, according to the Football Association of Zambia, that will take 14-21 days for him to recover from, putting his chances of playing in the cup tie in the Cape on the weekend of 20-21 November in jeopardy.

The 28-year-old Lungu only returned to the Zambia squad setup after his pre-season move from Siwelele to Orlando Pirates.

He made his international debut in 2019 but played his last game for Zambia in 2024 before a call-up again, after more than two years in the international wilderness, in September at the start of the Cup of Nations qualifiers.

Lungu came on as a substitute in the 3-1 away loss to Algeria and then the 2-0 home win over Togo, which has Zambia on three points in Group I.

They are up against Burundi in Ndola on Friday and then again in Bujumbura next Tuesday.

Lungu has played as a right-sided attacker for Pirates since his arrival at the club but also filled in at right back, where Kamogelo Sebelebele has been first choice but is now also injured.

On Wednesday night, Villa released a statement saying a meeting had taken place between Emery, club chairman Nassef Sawiris, and executives Roberto Olabe and Damian Vidagany.



Lungu



Carrick

Man Utd Sack Carrick After Dismal Start to Premier League Season

Manchester United sacked manager Michael Carrick on Thursday after their worst-ever start to a Premier League campaign, with USA boss Mauricio Pochettino widely tipped to replace him.

Former United captain Carrick led the team to an impressive third-place finish last season, but they have taken just eight points from 10 games in the current campaign and are in the relegation zone.

The club confirmed in a statement that it had parted ways with the 45-year-old, following mounting speculation he would be axed during the international break.

"After a disappointing start to the season, the club has come to the extremely difficult conclusion that a change is necessary in order to achieve our ambitions," United's statement said.

"Michael is, and always will be, a Manchester United legend. Just as he did as a player, he has conducted himself with the highest standards of dedication and professionalism throughout his time back with the club."

United said they intended to appoint a permanent successor "as quickly as possible".

Carrick impressed after taking over as interim boss following Ruben Amorim's acrimonious exit in January, leading United to Champions League qualification.

He was rewarded with a two-year permanent deal but, hampered by the club's underwhelming recruitment in the summer transfer window, his side has endured a steep decline this season.

Carrick has struggled to maintain discipline, dropping captain Bruno Fernandes after he criticised his manager's tactics following a 4-1 thrashing at Champions League debutants Como.

Rugby: Blitzboks in Final Stretch as HSBC SVNS Looms Large

The Springbok Sevens squad are in their final two weeks of preparation for the forthcoming HSBC SVNS season, and according to Blitzbok head coach Philip Snyman, the anticipation of getting their series title defence underway is real and exciting.

The Blitzboks will travel to Dubai on 23 November for the opening leg of the 2027 series, to be held at The Sevens on 28 and 29 November, with the HSBC SVNS Cape Town a week later.

Snyman will name his 13-player squad for Dubai next Friday, but until then, he will keep a watchful eye on a large training group that includes all but two of the 2026 squad that won both the HSBC SVNS Series and World Championship double.

Mfundo Ndhlovu and Donavan Don have left the squad for Vodacom United Rugby Championship opportunities, while Impi Visser, Zander Reynders, Jayden Nell, and Shilton van Wyk are busy with rehabilitation and will miss the opening leg of the new season.

Like last season, when he blooded six new players, Snyman is looking to do more of the same, but said the focus for the season will change slightly.

"With Olympic Games qualification determined by the final placings of the 2027 World Championship tournaments, we will make sure we have our best team ready for those events, and to be able to do that, we will use the first six tournaments of the series to build depth and cover in certain crucial positions," Snyman said from their Stellenbosch training base on Tuesday, after yet another tough session in hot conditions.



Andreeva Powers Past Sabalenka to Reach WTA Finals Last Four

French Open champion Mirra Andreeva stormed past Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 6-0 to reach the last four of the WTA Finals on Wednesday as Elina Svitolina kept her bid on track with a three-set win over Karolina Muchova.

Russian 19-year-old Andreeva held her nerve after falling behind 4-1 in the opening set -- winning the last 11 games to seal the round-robin victory in just 62 minutes.

"Oh my God, I'm even happier than I was after my first match," Andreeva said. "I feel like I can play another two matches, I'm so full of energy. I'm so pumped up. I'm so happy."

Andreeva, whose three titles this year include her maiden major at Roland Garros, is making her singles debut in the elite season-ending event.

The world number three seemed to be feeling the nerves in the early going against second-ranked Sabalenka.

Irked that she had given up a break with a double fault, she was able to flip the switch, dealing handily with Sabalenka's big serves and pushing the Belarusian star back with her own big groundstrokes.

Andreeva crucially kept momentum on her side with a break for a 3-0 lead in the second set.

Sabalenka, trailing 0-40, saved three break points, but Andreeva gave herself another with a swinging volley winner and grabbed another break when a Sabalenka forehand flew just long.



Andreeva

The increasingly demoralised Sabalenka had no answer. After the Belarusian smacked a backhand into the net to give her opponent match point, Andreeva polished things off with a service winner.

It was another disappointing performance for the 28-year-old Sabalenka, whose three wins this season include prestigious back-to-back victories at Indian Wells and Miami but no Grand Slams.

Making her sixth straight Finals appearance, Sabalenka can still advance if she beats Svitolina in their final round-robin match on Friday.

Svitolina roared back from a set down to beat Muchova 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Ukrainian veteran Svitolina lifted the WTA Finals trophy in 2018 but hadn't been back to the elite season-ending event since 2019.

She got off to a rocky start against Muchova, who broke Svitolina three times in the opening set.

Trailing 2-1 on serve in the second, Svitolina found her range, winning five straight games to force a third set.

feature



ENTREPRENEURSHIP 101
with
Olubunmi Oluwadare

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

How To Structure Good Finance For SMEs In Nigeria

Small and Medium Enterprises are the backbone of the Nigerian economy. They account for over 90% of businesses, contribute nearly 50% to the national GDP, and employ more than 80% of the workforce. Yet, despite this importance, most Nigerian SMEs die within their first five years — not because their ideas are bad, but because their finances are unstructured.

Good finance is not just about making money. It is about knowing where money comes from, where it goes, how it is protected, and how it grows. An SME that structures its finance well can survive recession, attract investors, access loans, and scale. An SME that does not will always struggle, even when sales are high.

Here is how to structure good finance for SMEs in Nigeria, with lessons from developed nations.

1. Separate The Business From The Owner

This is the number one financial disease killing Nigerian SMEs. The owner's pocket becomes the business account. School fees, family feeding, rent, and church donations are all paid from the same account that is supposed to buy stock.

In developed nations like the United States, the United Kingdom, and Germany, separation is non-negotiable. A business is a legal entity. The owner is an employee of that entity. The owner takes a salary or dividend, not daily withdrawals.

What to do in Nigeria:

- Register your business with CAC as a Business Name or Limited Liability Company.
- Open a dedicated business bank account. All sales must enter it. All business expenses must leave it.
- Pay yourself a fixed monthly salary. If the business cannot pay you, it is not yet profitable — do not hide that fact by taking cash randomly.

This single discipline will transform your cash flow and make your business bankable.

2. Create A Simple But Solid Bookkeeping System

You cannot manage what you do not measure. Many Nigerian SMEs run on memory. They do not know their profit, their debtors, or their creditors.

In Canada and Australia, even small traders use accounting software like QuickBooks, Xero, or Wave to track every transaction. The government also requires accurate records for tax, which forces discipline.

What to do in Nigeria:

- Record every sale, expense, and loan daily. Use a notebook if you must, but an app is better.
- Use tools like QuickBooks, Zoho Books, or even free tools like Wave and Google Sheets.
- Reconcile your bank account weekly. Your bank balance must match your books.
- Keep receipts and invoices for at least 6 years for FIRS and state tax purposes.

Good bookkeeping is not for accountants. It is for you, the owner, to make better decisions.

3. Build A Cash Flow Management System

Profit is not cash. Many Nigerian businesses are profitable on paper but dead because customers owe them and suppliers demand payment.

In the UK, SMEs are taught to manage the Cash Conversion Cycle: how fast you collect from customers, how fast you sell stock, and how slow you pay suppliers without damaging relationships.

What to do in Nigeria:

- Create a 12-week cash flow forecast. List expected money in and money out every week.
- Do not give credit you cannot afford. Set a clear credit policy: 7 days, 14 days, or 30 days — and enforce it.
- Negotiate payment terms with suppliers. If your customers pay you in 30 days, you cannot pay suppliers in 7 days and survive.
- Keep a 3-month emergency reserve for salaries and rent. This is your business survival fund.

In Nigeria where inflation and naira devaluation are constant, cash flow discipline is survival.

4. Budget And Control Costs

A budget is a financial plan, not a punishment. Most Nigerian SMEs spend first and calculate later.

In Japan, the concept of Kaizen continuous small improvements is applied to cost control. Small businesses review costs monthly and cut waste aggressively.

What to do in Nigeria:

- Prepare a monthly budget: Expected Revenue - Fixed Costs - Variable Costs = Target Profit.
- Separate needs from wants. A new office, expensive car, or lavish launch party is not growth.
- Review your top 5 expenses every month. Can you renegotiate rent, data, diesel, logistics, or packaging?
- Set approval limits. Staff should not spend above N50,000 or N100,000 without your approval.

Cost control is not stinginess. It is protecting your profit margin in a high-cost economy.

5. Structure Your Capital: Debt, Equity, And Grants

Nigerian SMEs often rely on only one source of money: personal savings or family loans. When that dries up, the business stops.

Developed nations have a layered capital structure. In the United States, a small business might combine owner equity, a bank loan from the Small Business Administration (SBA), a line of credit, and later venture capital. In Germany, the government-owned KfW Bank provides low-interest loans specifically for SMEs.

What to do in Nigeria:

- Equity: Your own money and investors who buy a share of the business. Do not give away 50% for small money. Value your business properly.
- Debt: Bank loans, microfinance, cooperative loans, and fintech loans like Moniepoint, Renmoney, or Carbon. Only borrow for productive assets that will generate more than the interest.
- Grants and Intervention Funds: Bank of Industry (BOI), CBN Intervention Funds, SMEDAN, Tony Elumelu Foundation, and Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF). These are cheaper than commercial loans.
- Trade Credit: Buy stock now, pay later. This is debt, but interest-free if managed well.

A good rule: Never use short-term loans to buy long-term assets like machines or land. Match the loan duration to the asset life.

6. Understand And Plan For Tax

Many Nigerian SMEs avoid tax out of fear. That fear later becomes a bigger problem when they need a loan, a government contract, or want to scale.

In developed nations like Sweden and Singapore, tax compliance is seen as a business asset. It builds trust with banks and investors.

What to do in Nigeria:

- Get your TIN from FIRS and register for VAT if your turnover is N25 million and above.
- File your annual returns, even if you made a loss. Zero filing is better than no filing.
- Separate tax money immediately. When you collect VAT, it is not your money. Keep it in a separate wallet.
- Hire a tax consultant for at least once a year. The cost is far less than penalties from FIRS or LIRS.

Good tax planning is legal. Tax evasion is not.

7. Build Financial Governance And Internal Controls

As your business grows from 1 person to 5, 10, or 50 people, you cannot be everywhere.

In the US and UK, even small companies have basic governance: two people must sign for payments above a threshold, stock is counted monthly, and the owner reviews financial reports weekly.

What to do in Nigeria:

- No single person should collect cash, record it, and bank it. Separate duties.
- Use transfers and POS, not cash. Cash is the easiest to steal.
- Do monthly stock-taking and bank reconciliation.
- Have a board of advisors — even if it is just 2 experienced mentors who review your numbers quarterly.

Governance protects you from fraud, including fraud from trusted staff.

8. Plan For Growth And Exit

Good finance is not just for today. It is for tomorrow.

In developed nations, founders are taught to think of exit from day one: Will I sell the business? Will my children inherit it? Will I list it?

What to do in Nigeria:

- Reinvest at least 30-50% of profit back into the business in the first 5 years.
- Build business credit. Pay loans on time. Your business credit score will determine your future access to capital.
- Get insurance: fire, burglary, health for staff, and key-man insurance for you.
- Write a succession plan. If you are sick for 3 months, who runs the business?

Conclusion

Structuring finance for SMEs in Nigeria is not about being a finance expert. It is about discipline, separation, records, cash flow, and planning.

Developed nations did not become developed because their businesses are luckier. They became developed because their small businesses are structured, transparent, and bankable. Their governments also support them with low-interest loans, stable policies, and reliable infrastructure — something Nigeria must continue to improve.

But while we wait for the system to improve, Nigerian entrepreneurs must build systems that can survive the system.

Start today: Separate your account, record every naira, budget monthly, and pay yourself a salary. That is how a hustle becomes a company, and a company becomes an institution.

If you structure your finance well, money will stop being your biggest problem and start becoming your biggest tool.

.

About the Author

Olubunmi Oluwadare is a renowned expert in entrepreneurship development, a National Business Development Service Provider (NBDSP), and business growth strategies. As the founder of www.uni-preneur.com and www.getajob.ng, he has empowered thousands of entrepreneurs and job seekers across Nigeria and Africa. As Chairman of BEEXO GROUP www.beexogroup.com, he continues to drive business growth and innovation in the region. His book, "I SEE MONEY IN AFRICA", highlights the vast opportunities for entrepreneurs in Africa.

Get in Touch
Email: info@digiconvertltd.com
WhatsApp: 0816 474 2609
www.uni-preneur.com

Tinubu's 2027 Manifesto Built on Solid Records, Not Empty Promises; You Don't Change a Winning Team – Niboro

Former presidential spokesman, and member of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council, Ima Niboro, has described President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's newly unveiled 2027 election manifesto as a departure from traditional campaign promises, saying it represents a transition from difficult but necessary economic reforms to prosperity for ordinary Nigerians.

Niboro, who is also the Chief Strategist of Accent and Rover Strategic Communications and a former Managing Director of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), made the remarks during an extensive interview on TVC Breakfast Show during the week, where he defended the administration's economic record, outlined the government's plans for employment and electricity, and dismissed suggestions of divisions within the President's re-election campaign.

According to him, the manifesto, themed around the transition from reforms to prosperity, is fundamentally different from conventional political manifestos because it builds on policies and achievements already recorded by the administration.

"This manifesto is not your traditional manifesto. It is not a manifesto that simply says, 'This is what I want to do.' On the contrary, it is a kind of reverse manifesto," he declared.

"It says, 'This is what I have done, and this is what you are going to get from what I have done.'"

Niboro explained that the administration's immediate priority was to translate macroeconomic stabilisation into improvements in the everyday lives of Nigerians.

"We are not moving into uncharted territory. This territory has already been charted. It has been mapped. Significant achievements have been recorded in the macroeconomic stabilisation of the country. The question now is: How do we move from the macroeconomy to the microeconomy?"

Addressing concerns about the cost of living, the ex-presidential spokesman identified exchange rate stability as one of the administration's most consequential achievements.

He recalled a period when unpredictable foreign exchange movements made it virtually impossible for traders to plan, with prices sometimes doubling within days.

"There was a period when you could buy a phone for ₦100,000 today and return the following morning to discover that the same phone was selling for ₦250,000. It was chaotic," he said.

"Am I saying that things have become cheap? No. But I am saying that inflation has trended down from over 30 per cent to less than 14 per cent. And the target under this manifesto is 8 per cent."

He argued that the President's willingness to confront longstanding economic distortions, particularly the foreign exchange regime, demonstrated a commitment to Nigeria's long-term future.

"Politicians look towards the next election, while statesmen look towards the next generation," Niboro said, maintaining that Tinubu could have preserved a system that enabled privileged individuals to profit from foreign exchange arbitrage but chose instead to pursue reforms.

On the manifesto's target of achieving 6 per cent annual GDP growth, Niboro expressed confidence that improved economic predictability would attract investment and accelerate expansion.

"The most important fundamental in a thriving economy is stability. Stability is predictability," he said.

"If your external partners know that they are dealing with an economy that is stable and predictable, growth follows naturally. People will bring their money. They will bring their resources. They will invest."

He cited improved assessments by international rating agencies and growing interest from major financial institutions as evidence of increasing investor confidence.

Asked whether the 6 per cent growth target was overly ambitious, Niboro responded that Nigeria possessed the potential to surpass it.

"If I were the one setting the target, I might even add another one or two percentage points," he remarked.

Turning to employment, the former presidential spokesman said the administration's plans to train two million young Nigerians and create one million export-linked jobs would be driven principally by private-sector expansion rather than direct government recruitment.

"Government is not the employer of choice. Government's primary responsibility is to create the enabling environment in which employment can thrive," he explained.

"To export, you must first produce. To produce, you must employ people. That is how employment is generated."

He argued that the growth of non-oil exports, alongside reforms aimed at reducing multiple taxation and arbitrary levies, would strengthen businesses and encourage job creation.

Drawing from his experience as a business owner, Niboro said excessive levies had previously placed enormous pressure on small enterprises, particularly in Abuja and Lagos.

"If I am no longer spending half of my income paying levies whose destinations I cannot even explain, I can use that money to expand my business. I might even employ another 40 people," he said.

He nevertheless acknowledged the government's role in direct employment, citing plans to recruit additional military and police personnel.

On electricity, Niboro attributed Nigeria's persistent power challenges to decades of underinvestment, arguing that successive administrations had failed to expand generation capacity sufficiently to meet the country's growing needs.

"If every government, over all those decades, had added just 1,000 megawatts of electricity generation capacity every year, where would we be today? We would have been producing more than 60,000 megawatts," he said.

Using a building analogy, he explained that the administration was confronting the difficult task of rehabilitating an ageing power system while simultaneously expanding capacity.

"It is easier to build a new house than to renovate an old one. When you are renovating an old house, you must first break down sections of the existing structure. You spend money demolishing what is defective, and then you spend more money rebuilding."

He said the administration was pursuing alternative energy sources, including solar power, while addressing legacy debts that had undermined investment and financial viability in the electricity industry.

Although acknowledging that electricity remained expensive for many households and businesses, Niboro maintained that resolving structural problems would ultimately improve reliability and affordability.

On the political front, the former NAN boss dismissed suggestions that rivalry between state governors and the Rainbow Coalition associated with Federal Capital Territory Minister Nyesom Wike was undermining Tinubu's re-election campaign.

He pointed to the APC presidential rally in Port Harcourt as evidence of growing unity among the President's supporters.

"Have you seen any friction? Or have you not seen the tremendous show of unity across the country?" he asked.

"Look at what happened in Port Harcourt. Everybody was working together in one direction. Whether it was Governor Siminalayi Fubara or Nyesom Wike himself, everybody was united in support of the President."

Niboro said he had predicted that disagreements among political stakeholders would eventually give way to cooperation once the campaign gathered momentum.

He urged governors and other political leaders to concentrate on grassroots mobilisation rather than public disagreements.

"Don't just go to television stations and blow grammar. Go to your base and deliver. That is what matters," he declared.

In his closing remarks, Niboro rejected suggestions that the President's political courage alone was insufficient justification for another term, insisting that the administration had already demonstrated measurable progress.

"You don't change a winning team! That is my answer," he declared.

"This team has done fantastically well. It has pulled Nigeria back from the edge of the precipice."

He contrasted the financial difficulties faced by previous administrations with what he described as improved fiscal conditions under Tinubu, particularly increased resources available to state governments.

"Governors now have substantially more money. They can pay salaries. They can pay pensions. They can pay gratuities. And they still have resources to build flyovers, construct highways and undertake other development projects."

Niboro concluded that the President's second-term campaign would be anchored on consolidating economic stability, expanding opportunities and ensuring that Nigerians increasingly experienced the benefits of reforms.

"It is a big, bright new day for Nigeria," he said.



Health personnel from Nisa Premier Hospital examining the Editor-in-Chief, News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Hajiya Hadiza Mohammed-Aliyu (L), during a one-day sensitisation workshop on the management, treatment and prevention of diabetes, high blood pressure and cardiovascular diseases, at NAN headquarters in Abuja on Wednesday. PHOTO: NAN

2027: Judge Me by Lives Touched, Projects Delivered, Not Empty Promises — Tinubu

By Abu Adamu

President Bola Tinubu has urged Nigerians to assess his administration by the lives affected by its policies and the projects delivered, as former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar accused his government of failing to protect citizens amid rising insecurity.

Tinubu made the appeal through Vice-President Kashim Shettima at the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential campaign rally in Benin City, Edo State, on Thursday, where he sought public support for his re-election bid in 2027.

"We ask that our stewardship be judged by the lives our decisions have touched and the work we are determined to complete," Shettima said on behalf of the President.

Acknowledging that several government projects remained unfinished, the Vice-President said the administration was seeking another mandate to complete its outstanding commitments.

"My good people of Edo, some work has been completed, some is underway, while other commitments remain before us.

"We have come this far with your trust, and we seek your mandate to finish the work we have begun," he stated.

Shettima said the Federal Government had sustained its commitment to infrastructure development in Edo State, while also supporting efforts to secure the return of historical artefacts taken from the Benin Kingdom during the colonial era.

He cited the transfer of ownership of some Benin treasures by institutions in Cambridge and Sweden as progress towards their restitution.

Edo State Governor Monday Okpebholo, who welcomed the campaign delegation, pledged to deliver 2.5 million votes to Tinubu in the January 16, 2027 presidential election.

The governor attributed his support for the President to federal interventions in the state and his administration's performance in infrastructure development and workers' welfare.

"Today, we don't owe salaries. We don't owe pensioners. Construction work is going on everywhere," Okpebholo said.

Senate President Godswill Akpabio also expressed confidence that the South-South geopolitical zone would support Tinubu's re-election, while Imo State Governor Hope Uzodimma urged residents to collect their Permanent Voter Cards and participate in the election.

The Director-General of the APC Presidential Campaign Council, Abdul'aziz Yari, said improvements in security across oil-producing communities had contributed to increased crude oil production, which he put at approximately 1.8 million barrels per day.

The rally was attended by governors, former governors and party leaders, including Abdullahi Ganduje and Adams Oshiomhole.

Earlier, Shettima led members of the APC Presidential Campaign Council to the palace of the Oba of Benin, Ewuare II, where he sought the monarch's prayers and counsel ahead of the elections.

"As we approach another democratic season, we seek Your Majesty's prayers, counsel, and goodwill. We value the role of the Benin throne as a promoter of peace, reconciliation, and mutual respect," he said.

The Vice-President acknowledged the historical significance of the Benin Kingdom and described the ongoing return of artefacts looted during the 1897 British invasion as a matter of justice and national pride.

Responding, the monarch welcomed the delegation, acknowledged the role of the Minister of Art, Culture, Tourism, and the Creative Economy, Hannatu Musa Musawa, in efforts to recover Benin artefacts, and assured the visitors of his prayers for the nation.

Meanwhile, Atiku Abubakar, presidential candidate of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), challenged Tinubu's record on security, citing reports that 638 Nigerians were killed in insecurity-related incidents in October.

The former Vice-President referred to an investigative report by the Foundation for Investigative Journalism (FIJ), which recorded an increase in fatalities from 396 in September to 638 in October, with the North-East accounting for 409 deaths.

He also cited United Nations figures indicating that nearly 64,000 people had fled violence in northern Nigeria to neighbouring Niger Republic since the beginning of 2026, while several hundred others sought refuge in the Benin Republic.

Atiku described the figures as evidence of a worsening security crisis and demanded greater accountability from the Federal Government.

"These figures are a devastating indictment of the security situation in our country. Behind every number is a Nigerian whose life has been lost, a family in mourning, or a community forced to abandon its home. Nigerians should not have to flee across our borders to find safety," he said.

He maintained that the protection of lives and property remained the government's primary responsibility and called for a clear account of measures being taken to stop the killings.

"A government that cannot protect its people has failed in its most basic duty," Atiku declared.



Outgoing Air Officer Commanding Mobility Command, Yenagoa, AVM Michael Onyebuchi (6th L), his wife, Jennifer (7th L), senior officers and members of the Nigerian Air Force Wives Association (NAFOWA), during the NAFOWA outreach programme for widows of fallen heroes in Yenagoa.

Court Sentences Couple to Five Years Each for Attempting to Sell One-year-old Son

The Federal High Court in Calabar on Thursday sentenced a couple to five years' imprisonment each for attempting to sell their one-year-old son for N800,000.

The convicts, Emmanuel Okechukwu Ogbodo, 28, and Peace Ufeabuchi Nnamonu, 22, were convicted on two counts bordering on conspiracy and attempted child trafficking.

Delivering judgment, Justice Rosemary Oghoghorie convicted both defendants on the two counts and sentenced each to five years' imprisonment on count one and two and a half years on count two, with the sentences to run concurrently.

She further ordered that the sentences commence from their respective dates of arrest.

According to the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Cross River Command, the couple had attempted to sell their one-year-old son.

The child was to be sold to a third party for N800,000 only.

The agency said it received a tip-off from the intended buyer, who reported the transaction, prompting its intervention and leading to the interception of the proposed sale.

The convicts pleaded guilty to the two-count charge filed on Oct. 12, and were arraigned on Nov. 3.

They were charged under Sections 27 and 29 of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015.

Court Commits Faisal Maina to 7 Years' Imprisonment

The Federal High Court in Abuja has ordered that Faisal, son of the ex-convict, Abdulrasheed Maina, be committed to a correctional centre to serve his seven-year jail term following his recent re-arrest.

Justice James Omotosho gave the order after the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) filed an ex parte motion, which was moved by its lawyer, M.K. Hussain.

Abdulrasheed was the former chairman of the defunct Pension Reform Taskforce Team, who was also convicted on a N2 billion money laundering charge and had since served his prison term.

Faisal was re-arrested by the Department of State Services (DSS) on Oct. 14 and handed over to the EFCC after he jumped bail and failed to attend his trial about six years ago.

He was arraigned in 2019 before the Federal High Court in Abuja on a three-count charge of money laundering and failure to make full disclosure in an asset declaration form.

After Faisal took his plea on the charges preferred against him before Justice Okon Abang, who is now an Appeal Court Justice, the defendant jumped bail and avoided his trial, prompting Justice Abang to proceed with the trial in his absence.

The judge delivered the judgment on Oct. 7, 2021, and he was convicted and sentenced to five years' imprisonment on counts 1 and 3, and 14 years on count 2.

Justice Abang ordered that all the counts should run concurrently and that Faisal should be arrested anywhere he is found and taken to a correctional centre to serve his jail term.

After his re-arrest, the EFCC filed the ex parte motion seeking an order granting leave to the commission to apply for the order enforcing Justice Abang's judgment delivered against Faisal on Oct. 7, 2021.

It sought an order issuing a warrant to commit the defendant/convict to the Nigeria Correctional Service (NCoS) or prison to enable him to serve the jail sentence imposed on him by Justice O.E. Abang, pursuant to the judgment delivered on Oct. 7, 2021 and the Court of Appeal judgment of the 24th November, 2022.

It also sought an order directing that the defendant/convict serve the jail terms as ordered against him from Oct. 14, 2026, being the day he was rearrested."

After Hussain moved the motion, Justice Omotosho granted it.

The judge, who gave leave for the EFCC to apply for the order enforcing the judgment, issued a warrant to commit Faisal to NCoS to enable him to serve the jail sentence imposed on him by the FHC and Appeal Court's judgments, beginning from Oct. 14 when he was arrested"

Justice Omotosho said that, in accordance with the Appeal Court decision dated Nov. 24, 2022, the sentence shall be three years' imprisonment in count 1, seven years in count 2 and three years' jail term in count 3, respectively, which shall run concurrently from Oct. 14, being the date he was re-arrested.

US Envoys Arrive in Moscow for Ukraine Talks With Putin

US envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff have arrived in Moscow for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, a day after the latest talks aimed at ending the war in Ukraine wrapped up in Abu Dhabi.

Videos shared by Russian media showed Kushner and Witkoff disembarking a plane and being welcomed by Kremlin envoy Kirill Dmitriev with handshakes and hugs.

The American negotiators were due to meet Putin at 12:00 local time (09:00 GMT), and will then fly to Dublin to speak to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

On Tuesday, Kushner said the US had seen "some openings and some opportunities" and that they would try to "make some progress" at the meeting with Putin.

The in-person talks with the Russian and Ukrainian presidents were only announced on Wednesday after two days of talks which were framed as centred around the postwar security architecture of Europe.

Nearly five years since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Moscow shows no sign of backing down from its maximalist demands for sovereign Ukrainian territory and for Western countries to give up any future commitment to protecting Kyiv in case of further attacks.

During the first years of the war, Europeans cut communications with the Kremlin and refused to engage with Russia directly.

However, in recent times many have grown concerned about the current US administration's commitment to European security and its softening towards the Kremlin, and have been pushing for a seat at the negotiating table.

The talks in Abu Dhabi were led by the Americans and only included Russia and Ukraine, but Kushner said he and Witkoff would ask Putin to "give his blessing" to invite European representatives in future discussions - particularly with regard to the future configuration of their continent's security architecture.

Kushner also urged Europe to "identify one person to speak on their behalf" in the negotiations.

But the Russians have been opposed to the idea, citing Europe's support for Kyiv as an obstacle.

Vladimir Medinsky, who headed the Russian delegation in Abu Dhabi, said he thought all parties had "moved closer to achieving peace" but that now "a lot depends on Ukraine, on the position of the United States, and on whether Europe comes to its senses".



Israeli Strike on Gaza Hospital Kills Six Palestinians, Health Ministry Says

Six people have been killed and about 20 injured in an Israeli air strike on Nasser hospital in the southern Gaza Strip, the Hamas-run health ministry said.

The hospital's director said two missiles hit a building containing surgical wards and intensive care units overnight, but that one of the missiles did not explode.

The health ministry said medical staff, patients and companions were killed, among them surgeon Dr Rizq Abu Shaira. It condemned the attack as a "flagrant violation of international laws and conventions".

The Israeli military said it targeted a commander of Hamas's armed wing and other fighters who had used the hospital as a "headquarters" to plan attacks on its forces.

Hamas said that Israel was spreading "false narratives" in a "blatant attempt to cover up a new war crime".

Under international law, hospitals have a protected status, but they have been repeatedly targeted during the Gaza war.

Israel accuses Hamas, which retains security control of parts of Gaza not occupied by Israeli troops, of cynically exploiting civilian infrastructure. It says the group stores weapons and runs command and control rooms in hospitals, which Hamas denies.

Israel does not allow international news organisations, including the BBC, into Gaza, making it difficult to verify what is happening in the territory.

The Nasser Medical Complex is located in the city of Khan Younis and is the largest hospital in southern Gaza, serving almost one million people.

In a video posted on social media, a paramedic from the Hamas-run Civil Defence agency who arrived at the building after the strike early on Thursday said a missile penetrated the five-storey structure and hit a room in the surgical department.

Other footage shared by activists showed thick smoke inside the building and extensive destruction on the second floor, where medical equipment and beds had been scattered by an explosion.



KTH Daily
KEEPING THEM HONEST
www.keepingthemhonest.ng
₦300 | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2026 | VOL. 05 NO. 023



An Open Letter to Joseph O.Tegbe, Minister of Power Another Performance of Promises

OPINION

BY

LANRE OGUNDIPE

Dear Chief Tegbe,

Your appointment as Minister of Power has generated expectations, partly because of your professional background in institutional transformation, financial management and governance. Nigerians would naturally hope that these experiences will bring a different approach to a sector that has frustrated successive administrations and imposed enormous economic and social costs on the country.

But permit me to begin with a caution. You are entering an office whose occupants have repeatedly confronted the same problems, announced similar interventions and promised gradual improvement. The vocabulary of reform has changed over the years; the experience of electricity consumers has not changed sufficiently.

Nigeria has heard this before.

From Professor Chinedu Nebo, through Babatunde Fashola and Abubakar Aliyu, to Adebayo Adelabu, successive Ministers of Power have spoken of increasing generation, stabilising the national grid, improving gas supply, expanding transmission capacity and delivering more reliable electricity. Their individual statements and circumstances differed, but the recurring pattern is difficult to ignore. Each administration inherited a troubled sector, identified its weaknesses and announced measures intended to improve performance. Yet the country remains trapped in an electricity crisis that has outlived successive ministers.

Nebo's administration operated during the transition to privatisation and spoke of achieving 10,000 megawatts by the end of 2014. Fashola promoted incremental power and a progression towards more reliable supply. Aliyu confronted recurring grid instability, while Adelabu acknowledged that uninterrupted electricity could not be achieved through unrealistic promises or short-term declarations.

These historical references are not intended to dismiss whatever improvements individual administrations may have recorded. They are reminders that identifying the problems and announcing remedies have never been sufficient. The question is why the interventions have failed to produce a durable transformation.

The 2013 privatisation of the generation and distribution companies was expected to introduce investment, commercial discipline and improved efficiency. It transferred important assets to private operators, but did not resolve the underlying weaknesses of the electricity market. Inadequate transmission infrastructure, gas supply constraints, poor metering, commercial losses, accumulated debts and weak enforcement of contractual obligations continued to undermine performance.

The lesson is straightforward: changing ownership does not automatically repair a defective system.

Your own public statements suggest that you recognise the complexity of the task. During your Senate screening, you cautioned against promises of immediate uninterrupted electricity and acknowledged that the sector required structural intervention. That was a realistic position. But Nigerians have heard similar assurances about incremental improvement. What matters now is whether your administration can move beyond diagnosis and demonstrate a measurable difference.

Your remark at the commissioning of a solar hybrid power project at Yakubu Gowon University on 16 September 2026 deserves particular attention. You reportedly told Nigerians that some areas which had endured as much as three months without electricity were now receiving up to 18 hours of supply. You added that some consumers had asked you to slow down because their freezers were freezing continuously.

If those communities genuinely experienced such improvement, it was welcome. But a minister responsible for national electricity supply must distinguish between local progress and national performance. Which communities enjoyed the reported 18 hours? Which distribution companies and feeders were involved? How long was the improvement sustained? Was it reflected in independently verifiable operational records?

A freezer working continuously in one neighbourhood is welcome news. It is not evidence that Nigeria's electricity crisis has been resolved. The public needs more than an amusing anecdote to establish the performance of a national electricity system.

Developments in November make the need for such evidence even more pressing. On 5 November, the Ministry acknowledged reduced electricity supply affecting Lagos, Abuja, Ogun, Kwara and Oyo. The Nigerian Independent System Operator attributed the generation shortfall to inadequate gas supply to thermal plants and reduced hydroelectric output. National generation was reported at approximately 3,659 megawatts that afternoon.

On 7 November, you assured Nigerians that electricity supply would begin to improve within 48 to 72 hours. You attributed the disruption to planned maintenance at Egbin Power Station, gas supply constraints affecting some thermal plants and damage to critical transmission lines. Two days later, you reported that power had been restored to many of the affected areas in Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Kwara and the Federal Capital Territory. You also announced that the vandalised Benin-Egbin 330kV transmission line had been repaired and returned to service. However, you acknowledged that your teams were still working to restore full supply to the remaining affected locations.

That qualification matters. Restoration in several communities is welcome, but it should not be confused with the complete resolution of the wider supply problem. On 8 November, the day before your restoration announcement, generation was still reported at approximately 2,945.62 megawatts, with 12 generating plants recording zero output, according to figures attributed to the NISO portal. The public therefore needs to know whether the generating units affected by the disruption returned to service as anticipated, whether electricity allocations to the affected distribution companies recovered, and whether consumers experienced a sustained improvement after the repairs.

What exactly had been restored, where had normal supply resumed, and what remained outstanding? These are not hostile questions. They are the minimum requirements of public accountability. If the Ministry reports restoration, it should also publish the operational evidence showing the extent of that restoration and whether the improvement has been sustained.

The underlying problems are well known. The electricity market remains financially distressed. Generating companies struggle with payment arrears; gas suppliers face commercial and payment risks; distribution companies contend with revenue collection problems and network losses. Government interventions may settle some outstanding obligations, but unless the conditions producing those debts are corrected, the liabilities will accumulate again.

Your administration must therefore establish a transparent account of the sector's financial position. Nigerians should know the verified liabilities, the amounts actually settled, the outstanding obligations and the safeguards against a fresh cycle of debt. A debt settlement that leaves the causes of the debt untouched is only temporary relief.

The gas-to-power problem also requires a coordinated response beyond the boundaries of your Ministry. Nigeria possesses substantial gas resources, yet power stations frequently lack adequate supplies. This is not simply a question of resource availability. It involves payment arrears, domestic gas pricing, transportation infrastructure, pipeline security and the commercial confidence of suppliers. The relevant ministries, regulators, gas producers and generating companies must establish arrangements that make supply dependable and payment credible.

The same practical approach is necessary in transmission and distribution. Additional generation capacity has limited value if the national network cannot evacuate the electricity or distribution companies cannot deliver it reliably. Installed capacity, available generation, actual generation and electricity received by consumers are different measurements. They should never be presented as interchangeable evidence of progress.

Metering also remains a major consumer concern. Years of programmes and public expenditure have not eliminated estimated billing. The Ministry should work with NERC and the distribution companies to establish how many meters have actually been installed and activated, what the programmes have cost and what remains to be done. Consumers should not continue paying arbitrary estimates for electricity they may not have received.

The Electricity Act 2023 has also created opportunities for states to develop their own electricity markets. This should be treated as an opportunity to expand investment and improve local supply, not as a reason to abandon the national grid. Your Ministry has a responsibility to coordinate federal and state initiatives, support credible investment frameworks and ensure that decentralisation does not produce regulatory confusion.

Chief Tegbe, your professional experience may help you understand these challenges, but the electricity sector is not a consulting assignment. It is a politically exposed, financially distressed and technically demanding industry involving powerful public and private interests. Reform will require more than policy announcements. It will require transparent information, contractual discipline, effective regulation and the willingness to confront institutional failures.

I would therefore urge you to publish a concise public performance framework covering generation, gas supply, transmission, distribution, metering and sector finances. It should establish measurable targets, identify responsible institutions, provide implementation timelines and report actual results at regular intervals. The figures should be independently verifiable and should distinguish between projects announced, funds committed, expenditure incurred and improvements delivered to consumers.

There should also be a clear mechanism for investigating persistent operator failures and enforcing existing obligations. Where wrongdoing is established, accountability should follow. Where the problem is defective policy or institutional weakness, the remedy must address its cause rather than merely announce another intervention.

Above all, resist the temptation to measure progress by favourable anecdotes or temporary improvements. Nigerians do not expect you to produce uninterrupted electricity overnight. They expect honesty about the difficulties and evidence that your interventions are changing the situation. If a target cannot reasonably be achieved within a particular period, explain why and publish the stages required to achieve it. Public confidence is more likely to grow from credible commitments than from optimistic declarations that cannot be sustained.

You have inherited a difficult assignment, but not an unfamiliar one. Your predecessors encountered many of the same constraints. The country does not need another minister to rediscover them. It needs someone prepared to confront why previous interventions failed and establish a system in which improvements can endure beyond the tenure of any individual office holder.

Mr Minister, Nigerians are not asking you to slow down because their freezers are freezing. They are asking why, after decades of reforms, public expenditure and ministerial assurances, millions of households and businesses still cannot depend on electricity.

Do not seek public applause for announcing improvement. Let the evidence speak. Do not mistake a temporary restoration for a lasting solution. And do not allow your administration to become another chapter in the long history of promises that the Nigerian electricity sector has failed to fulfil.

The country has heard enough assurances. What it needs now is reliable electricity, transparent performance and accountability for results.

•Ogundipe, Public Affairs Analyst, former President Nigeria and Africa Union of Journalists writes from Abuja.

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