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2027: Southern Kaduna trashes El-Rufai's coalition, vows support for Tinubu

By Dave Oludare Oso

Ahead of the 2027 general elections, the people of Southern Kaduna have pledged support for President Bola Tinubu and assured him of block votes in his reelection bid.

The Southern Kaduna people hinged their loyalty to the president for his administration's support for the region.

The group's pledge comes in response to the defection of former Kaduna State governor, Nasir El-Rufai to the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and his reported efforts to form a coalition against the current administration.

In a statement issued by its National Coordinator, Dr. Joseph G. Ibrahim, and Director of Media and Public Affairs, Hon. Victor Bobai Mathew, the group said President Tinubu's emergence has changed the fortunes of Southern Kaduna.

The statement read, "With President Tinubu's leadership and the collaborative efforts of Governor Uba Sani, we have witnessed transformational policies that have given us renewed hope for a more secure and prosperous future,"

The group stated that Tinubu's appointment of General Christopher Gwabin Musa as the Chief of Defence Staff was a demonstration of trust in the people of Southern Kaduna.

"This appointment is a testament to our region's contributions to nation-building and a strategic move toward ensuring security and stability," it noted.

Among the key infrastructural and security interventions credited to the Tinubu administration was the approval and construction of a military barracks in Samaru Kataf, which the group described as a "game-changer."



"For years, Southern Kaduna was plagued by insecurity, making life unbearable for farmers, traders, and families. This permanent security presence will deter attacks, enhance safety, and restore confidence among our people," it stated.

In the healthcare sector, the group lauded President Tinubu for approving the establishment of a Federal Medical Center in Kafanchan, describing it as a major milestone that would improve healthcare services, reduce maternal and infant mortality, and enhance the well-being of residents.

Education was also a focal point of the group's commendation, as it celebrated the approval of the Federal University of Applied Sciences in Kachia.

"For decades, Southern Kaduna was marginalized in education development. This institution will provide quality education, skill development, and create employment opportunities for our youth," the group stated.

The group further credited President Tinubu's leadership for improving security, allowing farmers to return to their lands, and fostering an economic revival in the region.

"The proactive security strategies by the Nigerian Armed Forces, led by General CG Musa, have ensured that farmers and business owners can operate without fear.

"With improved security and infrastructure, Southern Kaduna is experiencing a business revival. Traders, entrepreneurs, and investors now have the confidence to expand their businesses, leading to job creation and economic prosperity," it added.

Expressing confidence in the government, the group reaffirmed its commitment to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), stating that supporting the party at both state and federal levels was a demonstration of unity, patriotism, and commitment to national progress.

The group also praised Kaduna State Governor Uba Sani for his dedication to the development of Southern Kaduna, particularly in the areas of infrastructure and security.

"His collaboration with General CG Musa has yielded significant gains. We will continue to stand by him to ensure that he completes his good works for the state," the group assured.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

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SIZE	TOTAL RATE
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10X5	255,238.00
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9X6	254,977.00
9X5	225,738.00
9X4	193,500.00
9X3	166,223.50
8X6	225,368.50
8X3	106,934.50
7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.50
6X3	82,750.00
6X2	52,499.50
5X6	123,749.50
5X5	110,000.00
5X4	76,833.00
5X3	66,875.00
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3X3	28,000.00
3X2	17,400.00
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POLITICAL COLOUR

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CONTACT US

Correspondent Address:
Real Group Plaza, No.1 Junaid Dosumu
Street, CBD, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos
Call the Editor on: 07025014298, 09014323792

E-mail Address:
info@newdailyprime.news
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Uguamaye saga: Corpers berate FG for delaying implementation of N77k allowance amid hardship

By Damilola Olufemi and Friday Omosola

Corps members have criticised the federal government (FG) over the continuous delay of the implementation of the proposed allowance amid economic hardship facing the country.

For some days, the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) was all over the internet making headlines.

Ushie Uguamaye, a youth corps member serving in Lagos State, in a video last week criticised President Bola Tinubu's administration over the economic hardship resulting from inflation and non-implementation of their allowance increase via her TikTok page.

In the video, she stated the effect of the economy on her as a corps member and lamented that the financial strain has dragged her into a depressed state.

The corps member further described Tinubu as "a terrible leader" and urged him to intervene in the suffering of Nigerians and added that Lagos State, where she serves, "smells" of poor living conditions.

She had since claimed her life was in danger since the release of the video.

She wrote on her social media, "Dear Nigerians, I am already getting threatened by the NYSC board to stop speaking on this issue. In less than 24 hours, I'm already getting threatened by the government, starting with the NYSC board.

"Dear Nigerians, they have my address. In case you guys don't see me online, please you know who to hold accountable. I didn't do anything wrong I just asked that they



work on the inflation.

"Why can't I speak up? Being an NYSC corper doesn't mean I signed up my right to complain."

"Why can't the government listen to the critics of its citizens? They believe they have a chain on me, which is NYSC, and they are using it to hold me. #officialasiwajubat I didn't do anything wrong. I criticised your government and I demand that we are being heard."

The federal government had in September 2024 approved the increase of the monthly allowance for NYSC members from N33,000 to N77,000.

A statement by the acting director press and public relations unit of the NYSC, Caroline Embu, stated that the development was in line with the enactment of the national minimum wage (amendment) act 2024.

However, as of March 17, 2025, NYSC corps members are still

receiving the old allowance of N33,00, despite the approval of a new minimum wage of 77,000 Naira, which was approved in September 2024.

Corps members berated FG's non-implementation of allowance increase

NYSC members serving in the country expressed their grievances over the non-payment of the increment.

Corps members are feeling the pinch of the delay, citing the high cost of living and the difficulties of making ends meet with their current allowance

One of the corps members in Lagos, who preferred to be anonymous said, "We're finding it difficult to cope with the high cost of living.

**Continue reading
on next page**

Cont from page 4

The current allowance is barely enough to cover our expenses, and the delay in implementing the increment is making things even harder.”

Another corps member serving in Enugu state, identified only as Nneka, expressed similar sentiments. “I spend an average of N1,500/N2,000 on a one-way trip to town. The new increment won’t change the situation drastically, but it’ll go a long way in helping us make ends meet.”

“I’m disappointed, but not surprised,” says Chika, a corps member serving in Kogi State.

“We’ve been hearing promises of an increment for months, but nothing has been done. It’s like they’re not taking us seriously.”

Emma, a corps member serving in Rivers state, added that the “delay is affecting our morale. We’re supposed to be serving the country, but it feels like the country is not serving us. We need this increment to survive.”

Struggles

Additionally, a corps member serving in Ogun State, who requested anonymity, admitted that she, too, was struggling with the high cost of living.

She affirmed Uguamaye’s stance, emphasizing that the ₦33,000 allowance was barely sufficient to meet basic needs, let alone sustain a decent standard of living.

Condemning the threat directed at Uguamaye by her Local Government

Inspector (LGI), the corps member stressed that freedom of expression is a fundamental right and that no one should face intimidation for speaking out against economic hardship.

“I haven’t been directly threatened, but the fear of backlash often makes people hesitate to speak their truth. The government must acknowledge the realities corps members face and review their allowance to reflect the current economic situation.

“The threats against her should be investigated, and those responsible must be held accountable. Corps members should feel safe to express their concerns without fear of intimidation,” she added.

Another corps member serving in Oyo State criticized the NYSC’s handling of the issue, arguing that the scheme should provide an avenue for serving corps members to give feedback.

The corps member, who withheld his name for fear of facing the same challenges as Uguamaye, emphasized that in the absence of such platforms, corps members have no choice but to voice their grievances about the high cost of living caused by inflation in Nigeria.

“The scheme should look inward, seek feedback from members, and take necessary action. My transportation fare to and from my PPA is ₦600. I work from Monday to Friday and spend almost the same amount on transportation for CDS. In total, I spend about ₦5,000 on transportation weekly.

The school pays me ₦13,000

monthly, which is almost the same as my transportation costs. Yet, the government stipend, known as ‘allowee,’ can’t even buy foodstuffs that will last a month,” he said.

READ ALSO: How my NYSC khaki became a price tag in Asaba

Furthermore, he advocated for the restructuring of the NYSC and called for the abolition of the bylaw that prohibits corps members from voicing their grievances.

The corps member added, “In January, the former NYSC DG confirmed that the government had approved an increase in the allowance to ₦77,000. However, as of now, nothing has changed—we still receive the same ₦33,000 despite rising inflation and the soaring prices of foodstuffs and other commodities.”

“Yet, no corps member can openly speak about this. The law is designed to silence us and deny us our right to good governance and accountability. My position is that the law should be scrapped, and there should be a comprehensive reform.”

Meanwhile, since the establishment of the NYSC in 1973, allowance paid to corps members has been increased eight times. The average amount of this is ₦17,904.38.

The increment timeline read, “1973 – 1980 = ₦60; 1981 – 1988 = ₦100; 1989 – 1998 = ₦200; 1999 – 2007 = ₦3,500; 2008 – 2010 = ₦9,775; 2011 – 2018 = ₦19,800; 2019 – 2024 = ₦33,000 and 2024 – present = ₦77,000 (proposed).”

Fubara's impeachment process begins

By **Damilola Olufemi**

The Rivers State House of Assembly has accused Governor Siminalayi Fubara and his deputy Ngozi Odu of gross misconduct.

The Speaker of the State Assembly, Martin Amaewhule forwarded the notice to the House of Assembly. The legislature members cited the action was in line with the Nigerian Constitution.

“In compliance with Section 188 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and other extant laws, we the undersigned members of the Rivers State House of Assembly hereby forward to you a Notice of Gross Misconduct by the Deputy Governor of Rivers State in the performance of the functions of her office,” the notice read.

Earlier, the lawmakers accused Fubara of frustrating the implementation of the Supreme Court's judgment, particularly the directive requiring him to represent the 2025 budget to the lawmakers.

The Chairman, House Committee on Information and spokesperson, Dr Enemi George, said the governor must be reminded that the House of Assembly is not an



appendage of the executive and its members are not his slaves, bondservants and serfs.

He said the Assembly was the worst hit in the ongoing crisis,

lamenting that the lawmakers had suffered untold hardship insisting that the governor must be stopped from extending such punishment to Rivers people.



APC slams El-Rufai, says self-interest drove his exit from party

By Friday Omosola

The All Progressives Congress (APC) has fired back at former Kaduna State Governor, Nasir El-Rufai, over his recent criticisms of the party, accusing him of being driven by self-interest and personal grievances.

In a statement signed by its National Publicity Secretary, Felix Morka, the ruling party dismissed El-Rufai's claim that the APC had deviated from its founding ideals.

Instead, the party suggested that his frustration stemmed from his failed ministerial bid under President Bola Tinubu's administration.

El-Rufai, in a recent interview with BBC Hausa, alleged that the APC had abandoned its progressive principles, turning into a party where 'everyone is now pursuing personal interests.'

However, the APC argued that the former governor's statements were nothing more than an attempt to 'weaponize personal grievances garbed as principled dissent.'

The APC insisted that its commitment to progressive governance remains intact and rubbished claims of ideological drift.

The party also questioned El-Rufai's decision to align with the Social Democratic Party (SDP), asking how it serves as a better ideological alternative.

'El-Rufai's allegation of a drift from



our Party's founding values exists only in his foggy imagination," the statement read.

"His call for opposition members to join him under the SDP banner is nothing short of an invitation to drink from a chalice poisoned by selfishness, vengefulness, and delusion of grandeur."

The APC also used the opportunity to highlight President Tinubu's economic and governance achievements, countering El-Rufai's claims of failure.

According to the party, Tinubu's administration has implemented bold economic reforms, including the removal of fuel subsidies, foreign exchange unification, and customs and tax reforms, which have led to increased foreign direct investments and higher non-oil revenue.

The party further noted that under Tinubu's leadership, Nigeria's oil production has increased to over 1.8 million barrels per day, and GDP

growth surged to 3.8% in Q4 2024, the highest since 2021.

APC said the country recorded a trade surplus of \$14.31 billion in 2024 due to a push for non-oil exports and increased federal allocations have empowered state and local governments to drive grassroots development.

Dismissing El-Rufai's attacks as 'grudge-laden tirades', the APC urged him to either offer constructive criticism or move on with his new political affiliation.

"Rather than engaging in scurrilous propaganda and deliberate misinformation, El-Rufai should offer constructive criticism or alternative policies as expected of serious-minded political opposition," the statement read.

The party advised the former governor to quit sulking, get a grip, and salvage some respectability.

Jandor makes surprise return to APC

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

Dr Abdul-Azeez Adediran, widely known as Jandor, the former governorship candidate for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Lagos State, has officially defected to the All Progressives Congress (APC), citing internal conflicts and a lack of discipline within the PDP as his main reasons for the move.

The announcement was made during a press conference held on Monday at his office in Ikeja, Lagos, weeks after he had tendered his resignation from the PDP.

Jandor expressed his frustration with the party's internal dynamics, particularly pointing to the failure of party leadership to address what he described as "anti-party activities" during the 2023 general elections.

"Our story in the PDP was one of working with perennial political saboteurs," Jandor said. "But we have resolved to love our future more than we hate our past."

He continued by explaining that, after extensive consultations with family, political associates, elder statesmen, and well-meaning Lagosians, he came to the conclusion that the fundamental goal of any political party should be to win elections and form a government that serves the welfare and development of the people.

"Having identified that the primary purpose of a political party is to win elections, we have decided to join a political party that places the priority of winning above all else—regardless of who is on the ballot. We have decided to return to the All Progressives Congress."

Jandor revealed that his decision to rejoin the APC was not made in isolation. He disclosed that he had engaged in talks with political leaders and supporters



across various parties, including the Social Democratic Party (SDP), African Democratic Congress (ADC), and the Young Progressive Party (YPP), before ultimately choosing the APC.

In addressing questions regarding his previous departure from the APC, Jandor referred to a Yoruba proverb, suggesting that one cannot truly know which option is best until they have experienced both.

"Before you are quick to remind me of the reasons upon which we left APC in the first place," he remarked, "let me respond with a popular Yoruba adage: 'If a woman has not tried two husbands, she probably would not know which is better.'"

He went on to highlight the leadership contrast between the APC and the PDP in Lagos, stating, "In APC, we have a leader, and even if you disagree with his choice of candidates, you can never fault his desire to win for the benefit of the party and the state. On the other hand, in Lagos PDP, there is a leader who repeatedly works against his own party and dashes the hopes of many loyal members."

Jandor stressed that his return to the APC was a thoughtful decision, driven by his firm belief in the importance of unity among progressives for the betterment of Lagos State.

He also acknowledged the role of President Bola Tinubu's Chief of Staff, Femi Gbajabiamila, and Tinubu's son, Seyi Tinubu, in persuading him to rejoin the ruling party. "I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to President Bola Tinubu, who recognised our modest contributions to democracy and nation-building," Jandor said.

"I must also thank Rt. Honourable Femi Gbajabiamila, who has been persistently encouraging me to come 'home'. When news of my resignation from the PDP broke, Seyi Tinubu immediately reached out to encourage me to return."

Jandor assured his supporters that his decision was made with Lagos' best interests in mind and called on them to join him in this new political chapter.

"We remain committed to the values of service, integrity, and progress. Together, we will continue to champion the cause of a better Lagos for present and future generations," he said.

This defection marks a significant shift in the political landscape of Lagos State, with Jandor's return to the APC expected to have considerable implications for the party's political strategies going forward.

TUC warns FG against targeting corps member over viral video

By **Friday Omosola**

The Trade Union Congress (TUC) has weighed in on the controversy surrounding a National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) member who faced threats from NYSC officials after criticising President Bola Tinubu's administration.

Speaking on Sunday Politics on Channels Television, TUC President Festus Osifo urged the government to exercise patience.

He emphasised that the corps member's remarks stemmed from frustration.

He advised authorities against retaliating, instead calling for tolerance towards dissenting voices.

The corps member, Ushie Uguamaye, posted a video on TikTok lamenting the economic difficulties Nigerians face under the current administration's policies.

The video quickly gained traction online, drawing the attention of NYSC officials, whom she later accused of threatening her to take it down.

The NYSC is yet to release an official statement on the matter.



Osifo argued that the government should not view such criticism as a personal attack, as it reflects the growing frustration among citizens.

“They must develop the resilience to understand that Nigerians are struggling—people are hungry, exhausted, and disillusioned.

“If they express their frustrations, I believe the government should not take it personally or retaliate,” he said.

Referring to Uguamaye, he questioned, “What power does a young corps member have to destabilize the government? She simply voiced her frustration.”

He urged the government to exercise greater tolerance and patience, acknowledging the hardships many Nigerians are currently enduring.

However, he also encouraged critics to express their views with a sense of responsibility and decorum.

Meanwhile, Amnesty International has condemned the reported threats against the corps member.

In a statement released earlier on Sunday, the organisation criticised the Nigerian government's pattern of intimidating dissenters.

“The authorities must stop using threats and coercion against individuals and groups expressing opposing views.

“Silencing criticism is a violation of both the Nigerian constitution and international law. Dissent is not a crime,” Amnesty International stated on its X handle.

Edo gov calls for arrest of PDP-sponsored thugs in possession of arms

By Friday Omosola

The Edo State Government has raised alarm over rising insecurity allegedly fueled by armed thugs linked to the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

In a statement issued yesterday, Governor Monday Okpebholo's administration accused PDP leaders of shielding criminals who still possess over 5,000 illegal firearms.

According to the government, these weapons were stockpiled before the 2024 Edo Governorship Election, but rather than surrender them, the armed groups have continued to perpetrate robbery, kidnapping, and violent attacks across the state.

The statement, signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Fred Itua, referenced a pre-election remark by former Governor Godwin Obaseki, in which he allegedly threatened that "Nigeria would burn."

The government claims this was more than political rhetoric, describing it as a coordinated effort to arm thugs and touts under the cover of the Edo State Security Network.

"The Edo State Government is aware that PDP leaders, who had direct control over these armed operatives, have refused to assist in disarming



them.

"Instead, they continue to shield these criminals, providing them with cover as they unleash terror on innocent citizens," the statement read.

Additionally, the government alleges that intelligence reports indicate PDP leaders are stockpiling more arms in preparation for possible violence if their candidate, Asue Ighodalo, does not emerge victorious at the Election Tribunal.

Governor Okpebholo's administration has called on security agencies to launch immediate investigations,

track down the alleged armed criminals, and bring their sponsors to justice.

"No individual, regardless of political affiliation, is above the law, and Edo State will not tolerate any attempt to destabilize the peace and security of our people," the government declared.

The governor reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of Edo residents, stressing that politically motivated violence will not be allowed to thrive in the state.

Security agencies are yet to officially respond to the allegations.

Wike revokes 5,000 land titles over unpaid ground rent in Abuja

By Dave Oludare Oso



The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister, Nyesom Wike has revoked over 4,794 land titles due to non-payment of Ground Rent for over 40 years.

The FCT Administration (FCTA) said the affected properties are located in key districts of Abuja, including the Central Area, Garki I and II, Wuse I and II, Asokoro, Maitama, and Guzape.

The revocation follows multiple warnings and public notices urging defaulters to clear their outstanding arrears.

The Minister's Senior Special Assistant on Public Communications and Social Media, Lere Olayinka disclosed the development in a press briefing alongside the FCTA Director of Lands, Chijioke Nwankwoeze.

Olayinka noted that the FCTA made numerous publications in national newspapers and announcements on broadcast media since 2023.

He said the minister called on defaulters to pay up all outstanding bills and ground rents but "all these yielded little response, as several allottees failed to pay."

He further highlighted that payment of Ground Rent on landed properties in the FCT is backed by existing legislation and stipulated in the terms and conditions of the Right of Occupancy.

"Ground Rent payments are due annually on the first day of January, without demand.

"As at the end of 2024 and up till today, a total of N6,967,980,119 is owed as Ground Rent by 8,375

property owners. In other words, a total of 8,375 property owners have not paid Ground Rent up to last year, 2024," the Director of Lands, Nwankwoeze, revealed.

The Director emphasized that out of the total defaulters, 4,794 property owners had failed to pay Ground Rent for over a decade, violating the terms of their Rights of Occupancy.

Consequently, he said that the lands titles have been revoked in accordance with the provisions of Section 28, Subsections 5(a) and (b) of the Land Use Act.

"A grace period of 21 days has also been extended to property owners who have defaulted on Ground Rent payments for between one and ten years. Should they fail to comply within this period, their titles will also be revoked," he said.

Security agencies probe Natasha's IPU New York meeting attendance

By Dave Oludare Oso

In a new twist, Nigeria's secret police, the Department of State Services (DSS), and the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), are reportedly probing how Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan, attended the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in New York without official nomination.

According to sources, the probe is seeking to uncover how she secured accreditation, who facilitated her trip, and whether her participation was orchestrated to embarrass the Nigerian government.

Noteworthy is the fact that the IPU, a global organisation of national parliaments, requires member countries to nominate delegates before meetings.

The Kogi Central senator was said to have attended the IPU meeting, despite not being authorised.

The intelligence agencies joint investigation, it was learned, was triggered by complaints from the Senate.

The DSS and NIA are reportedly investigating whether Akpoti-Uduaghan obtained unauthorised credentials or if external facilitators aided her participation.



The probe is also expected to determine if her attendance breached IPU regulations or National Assembly's protocol.

THE BACKSTORY

Akpoti-Uduaghan had recently accused Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, of sexually harassing her.

The allegation came in the wake of her seating arrangement altercation with Akpabio in the red chamber.

She was subsequently suspended from the Senate for "gross misconduct" over the debacle.

Speaking at the New York IPU meeting on March 11, Akpoti-Uduaghan claimed her suspension was designed to silence her over the sexual harassment allegation.

In response, the IPU said it would take steps to address her concerns and listen to both sides.

Subsequently, the Senate responded through Kafilat Ogbara, a member of the House of Representatives, who told the IPU meeting that Akpoti-Uduaghan was not suspended over her allegations against the Senate president.

She explained to the IPU meeting that Akpoti-Uduaghan was suspended for gross misconduct and disobedience of senate rules.

Ogbara is the chairperson of the House Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development, and the parliamentarian representing Nigeria at the IPU meeting in New York.

Foremost Northern group lauds Tinubu's govt on fight against insecurity

By Dave Oludare Oso

Gamji Heritage, a pressure group dedicated to preserving the legacies of the late Sardauna of Sokoto, Sir Ahmadu Bello, has praised the President Bola Tinubu-led administration's fight against banditry, terrorism, and other forms of insecurity in the country.

President-General of northern-based socio-cultural group, Ahmed Abdullahi, made the assertion during a chat with journalists in Abuja on Monday in Abuja.

The group has its membership cutting across religious lines from all the 19 states of the north.

Abdullahi, an architect, commended the Federal Government for its diligent pursuit of war against banditry, terrorism and other forms of insecurity across the country.

He, however, said the fight should not be left in the hands of the government alone, adding that all hands must be on deck to tackle the menace.

The president-general particularly said that the North had no other option than to tackle the problems of insecurity, which had posed a serious challenge to the zone, headlong.

"I had said before now that we need to commend the Federal Government under President Bola Tinubu for the fight against terrorism, banditry and general insecurity. "Still, there are a lot to be done. There was an exposé in America where President



Donald Trump revealed the interference and sponsorship of terrorism by certain agencies of America, especially USAID.

"This is not something we are taking lightly at Gamji Heritage. We are studying the situation and we are going to take it up both locally and internationally.

"Our major concern in this matter is to ensure that nothing is done to undermine nations, especially the number one pride of the Black race, which is Nigeria.

"Nigeria needs to make progress; Nigeria needs to be at peace and it needs to develop and advance, in the interest of Africa and the Black race," he said.

Abdullahi said northerners were now more mindful and more security conscious and were now helping security agencies more than before.

"Take the issue of Katsina State for

example; the state government has now established a vigilance outfit which is assisting the security agencies.

"And I want to recommend this for other states because it is working and has succeeded in bringing down the rate of insecurity in the state.

"There is serious cooperation and inter-relationship amongst members of the public, the vigilance group members, government of the state and security agencies," he said.

Corroborating the concerns expressed by President Trump, Abdullahi said that some international NGOs were actually aiding and abetting banditry and terrorism in the north.

"When the state started registering the NGOs in order to closely look into their activities like in Katsina, insurgency activities went down significantly.

Cynthia Morgan slams Tinubu over fuel subsidy removal

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Nigerian dancehall singer Cynthia Morgan has joined the chorus of criticism against Tinubu's decision to completely remove fuel subsidies. In a series of posts on her Instagram story, Morgan described the move as "terrible" and Tinubu as the "most terrible president Nigeria has ever had."

Morgan argued that reducing the fuel price to ₦500 per liter would ease the cost of living. She emphasized the need for a gradual transition, supported by proper development and infrastructure.

"When you read *The Soldiers of Fortune*, you will realize Tinubu is not the most terrible president Nigeria has ever had, but nevertheless, removing 100 percent of the subsidy was a terrible move," Morgan wrote.

She urged the government to reconsider its approach, noting that drastic economic policies should be implemented in phases. "A baby can't go from breast milk to yam in just a day. Abeg consider us," Morgan added.

The 33 year old singer's criticism reflects the concerns of many



Nigerians who are struggling to cope with the rising cost of living. The removal of fuel subsidies has led to a significant increase in fuel prices, which has had a ripple effect on the economy. Many Nigerians are finding it difficult to afford basic necessities, and there are fears that the situation could worsen if the government does not intervene.

President Tinubu has defended his decision, stating that removing fuel subsidies is necessary for Nigeria's economic growth. According to him, the subsidies were benefiting the rich more than the poor, and the government needs to free up resources to invest in critical areas such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

However, many Nigerians are skeptical about the government's claims, and they argue that the removal of fuel subsidies will only exacerbate the country's economic woes. They point out that the government has not done enough to address the underlying issues that are driving the high cost of living, and that the removal of fuel subsidies is just a quick fix that will not provide any long-term benefits.

Morgan's criticism of President Tinubu's decision is just the latest in a series of protests and condemnations from various quarters. Many Nigerians are calling on the government to reconsider its decision and to find alternative solutions that will not hurt the poor and vulnerable.

Rema insists he's among Afrobeats' greatest

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian Afrobeats star Rema has once again declared himself one of the genre's greatest artists, crediting his success to talent, hard work, and passion.

He credits his success to relentless hard work, dedication, and a deep passion for music.

In a recent interview with Rolling Stone, the 24-year-old singer addressed the backlash over his earlier statement. Previously, he boldly ranked himself among Nigeria's top four artists. Critics accused him of arrogance, but Rema insists his words come from confidence, not pride.

Hard work, not arrogance

Rema explained that his claim is based on his achievements, not an inflated ego. He believes recognizing one's greatness is not boastful—it's a form of self-belief.

"I work tirelessly," he said. "I push myself beyond limits. I create, innovate, and give my all to this music. If that makes me one of the greats, then I stand by it."

He added that accepting one's success is part of an artist's journey. According to him, acknowledging his impact on Afrobeats is not about disrespecting others but embracing his role in shaping the genre.

A call for unity in Afrobeats

While defending his stance, Rema



also took the opportunity to promote unity among Afrobeats artists. He distanced himself from recent rap feuds, particularly Kendrick Lamar's controversial diss line, which stirred debates in the hip-hop world.

In his song Heis, Rema made strong statements about his place in the industry. However, he clarified that his words were not meant to tear others down.

"So on Heis, I was talking a lot of s**t," he admitted. "But it's not cocky. Why should anyone hold back from saying they're the best? You can claim it and stand your ground. Even calling myself 'top four' is humble. I didn't say I'm number one. I didn't say I'm above anyone. I simply see myself as one of the greats. That's a problem for some people."

Different from Kendrick's approach

Rema made it clear that his approach differs from the competitive energy seen in other music genres. He emphasized that his goal is to uplift Afrobeats, not divide it.

"I'm not saying 'f**k everybody,'" he continued. "It's different from what Kendrick said—'It's just big me.' My message is not about rivalry. I truly support the unity of Afrobeats."

A rising star with a global impact

Since his breakthrough, Rema has played a major role in taking Afrobeats to the world stage. His hit song Calm Down, featuring Selena Gomez, became a global sensation, topping charts in multiple countries. His unique blend of rhythm and melody has won him fans far beyond Africa.

Despite the criticism, Rema remains focused on his journey. He believes artists should embrace their success without fear of judgment. For him, confidence is key, and he won't apologize for believing in his greatness.

As Afrobeats continues to grow internationally, Rema's influence cannot be ignored. Whether people agree with his statement or not, his impact on the genre is undeniable.

'Asake needs love, not drama' – Dayo Amusa

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood actress Dayo Amusa has shared her thoughts on the ongoing debate about popular musician Asake's childhood.

The conversation, which has taken over social media, revolves around parental rejection and its lasting emotional scars. Many users have shared their views, reflecting on how childhood experiences shape a person's life.

A Deeper meaning behind Asake's tattoos

Amusa took to Instagram to express her perspective. She pointed out that Asake's choice to cover his face in tattoos could be more than just a style change. According to her, it might be a sign of rebranding or an attempt to hide a deeper emotional wound. However, rather than criticizing him, she urged people to show love and support instead of public judgment.

The lasting impact of parental rejection

The actress stressed how deeply parental rejection can affect a child's future. She explained that neither fame nor wealth can erase the emotional damage caused by an absence of love during childhood. A child who grows up feeling unwanted carries those wounds into adulthood, no matter how successful they become.

Amusa reflected on her own experiences with childhood struggles. She expressed empathy for Asake, acknowledging that emotional pain can shape a person's life choices. She shared her thoughts in a heartfelt post:

"When Asake covered his face in tattoos, I once said he was either rebranding or trying to mask a pain he wasn't ready to



face. His childhood remains a mystery—some say his father was absent, others claim his mother was harsh. But I won't judge a father who left or a mother who did what she could. What matters is that Asake deserves love, not a public spectacle."

Success does not heal emotional wounds. She further explained that external success does not heal inner wounds. She compared the experiences of children raised with love to those who face rejection.

"Fame doesn't heal the wounds of parental rejection. A child raised on 'I love you' walks through life with confidence. But a child who grows up hearing, 'I want nothing to do with you,' carries that pain forever. Some wounds money cannot fix—only deep, intentional healing can."

A message to parents

Amusa made it clear that instead of criticizing Asake, she chooses to support him. She also directed an important message to parents. She urged them to be present in their children's lives,

reminding them that the love and words they offer at home shape their child's self-worth.

"To parents: Be there. Be the voice your child hears before the world tries to define them. A child who feels seen and loved at home has less to prove to the world. As someone who has faced similar struggles, I understand what he might be going through. I wish him well."

Social media reactions

Her words resonated with many online. Several users praised her for speaking out about the emotional challenges that childhood rejection can bring. Others reflected on how such experiences have shaped their own lives.

The discussion about Asake's past continues to spark debates, with many agreeing that personal struggles often go unnoticed beneath the surface of fame. Amusa's message serves as a reminder that kindness and understanding go a long way, especially when addressing someone's deeply personal battles.

'I want her back' - Seyi VibeZ mourns late mother on death anniversary

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian singer Balogun Afolabi Oluwaloseyi, popularly known as Seyi VibeZ, marked the second anniversary of his mother's passing on Sunday, March 16.

The singer took to social media to express his grief, sharing a heartfelt message on his Instagram story.

"If you ask me, I want my mum back. March 16," he wrote, reflecting on his deep sorrow.

Seyi VibeZ lost his mother on March 16, 2023. At the time, he described it as the most painful moment of his life. In an emotional tribute, he referred to her as his "ancestor" and vowed to love her forever.

A painful loss that still hurts

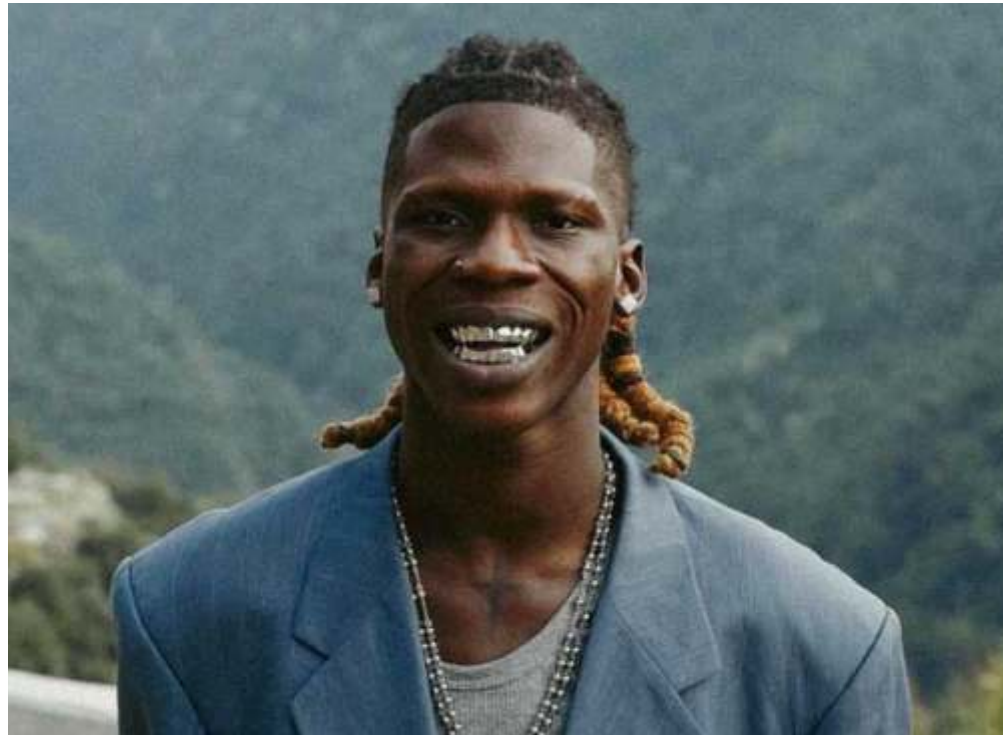
The singer first broke the tragic news on March 16, 2023, calling it "the darkest day of my life." His words reflected the immense pain of losing a parent.

"Today, the darkest day of my life, March 16. I lost my ancestor! Love you till I go six feet, mum. RIP," he wrote on Instagram.

Since then, he has continued to honor her memory. His posts often show how much he misses her, proving that her absence remains a deep wound.

Music and grief: A personal journey

Seyi VibeZ, known for his emotional and soulful music, often draws inspiration from personal experiences. The loss of his mother influenced his music, with some of his songs reflecting themes of pain, struggle, and perseverance. Fans have connected with his heartfelt lyrics,



making him one of Nigeria's most relatable artists.

His ability to channel his emotions into his songs has earned him a loyal following. Many listeners see his music as a reflection of their own struggles, especially those who have lost loved ones.

Fans show support

After his recent post, fans flooded social media with messages of encouragement. Many shared their condolences, reminding him that he is not alone in his grief. Some fans also expressed admiration for his strength and dedication to his music despite the personal loss.

"Stay strong, Seyi. Your mum is watching over you," one fan commented.

Another wrote, "She's proud of you. Keep making her proud."

This overwhelming support from fans shows the strong bond he has built with his audience. His openness about grief has made him even more relatable to those who have faced similar losses.

Keeping her legacy alive

Even as he continues to rise in the music industry, Seyi VibeZ has not forgotten his roots. He frequently speaks about his late mother and the impact she had on his life. In interviews, he has credited her for shaping his values and guiding him through tough times.

Her memory remains a driving force behind his music. While the pain of her loss is still fresh, he keeps her spirit alive through his art.

As another year passes without her, Seyi VibeZ's words serve as a reminder that grief does not fade easily. But with time, love, and support, healing becomes possible.

It's okay to expect men to pay your bills – Toke Makinwa

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular media personality Toke Makinwa has advised singles to uphold high standards when choosing a partner, urging them not to settle due to societal pressure.

She warned against lowering expectations due to societal pressure, stressing that everyone deserves a partner who aligns with their values.

Speaking in the latest episode of her podcast, Toke Moments, Makinwa addressed criticism often directed at women who expect financial security from their partners. She argued that there is nothing wrong with a woman depending on a man for financial support if that is what she desires.

‘Stop letting society dictate for you’

“You don’t need to lower your standards. There are over a billion people in the world,” she said. “Go and find someone who has what you are looking for. Stop letting society dictate your choices.”

Her remarks have reignited debates on relationship expectations. Some believe financial dependence reinforces outdated gender roles, while others see it as a valid personal preference.

Makinwa insisted that men who are unwilling to support women financially should not criticize those who expect it. Instead, she suggested they seek partners with different values.

A message for critics

“If you think, ‘Oh, this girl is just after money. All she wants is a man to take care of her,’ and you can’t do that, then leave. There is another man who will,” she stated.



She criticized people who attack others for their relationship choices, saying that such negativity often reflects personal insecurities.

‘Move on instead of criticising’

“We make things harder than they need to be,” she added. “People spend time arguing online, trying to prove their opinions. If someone doesn’t match what you are looking for, move on. Don’t waste energy finding faults in them. It’s often a reflection of your own issues, not theirs.”

Her comments have sparked mixed reactions. Some agree that financial expectations in relationships should be a personal decision, while others argue that true partnerships should be based on mutual effort.

A history of bold opinions

Makinwa is known for sharing strong views on relationships, self-worth, and career growth. She has built a reputation for empowering women to embrace confidence and demand what they want

in life.

Over the years, she has consistently encouraged women to set boundaries and refuse to settle for less than they deserve. Her latest remarks continue this trend, reinforcing her belief in personal choice.

The ongoing debate

Her comments have fueled ongoing conversations about modern dating expectations. Some see her perspective as a reflection of shifting relationship dynamics, while others argue that financial independence should be a priority for both partners.

Despite the mixed reactions, one thing is clear—Makinwa is not afraid to challenge societal norms. She remains firm in her stance, urging singles to pursue relationships that align with their values without guilt or compromise.

As the debate continues, her message resonates with those who believe in setting personal standards and refusing to be swayed by external pressure.

‘Not every talent lasts’ – Blaqbonez

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian rapper Blaqbonez has advised creatives to remain humble, emphasizing that not every talent will stand the test of time.

He highlighted that early success does not always guarantee longevity in the music industry.

Despite this, Blaqbonez expressed confidence in his career, stating that he would stay relevant for as long as he desired. He credited his unique style, strong work ethic, and loyal fan base as key reasons for his lasting success.

Mocked by a fellow rapper in 2017

Blaqbonez recalled an experience from 2017 when a fellow up-and-coming rapper belittled him in a freestyle performance. The unnamed artist had just been signed to YBNL Nation, the record label founded by Nigerian superstar Olamide.

According to Blaqbonez, the newly signed rapper used his name in a freestyle, saying he would never succeed in the music industry. At the time, the comment was meant to dismiss his chances of making it big.

Although he did not directly name the rapper, fans speculated that he was referring to Limerick, a former YBNL signee.

“You thought Olamide was God?” – Blaqbonez Fires Back

Taking to social media, Blaqbonez reflected on the incident and addressed the rapper directly in a series of tweets.

“Because you got a deal before me, you added my name to your freestyles,



saying, ‘You no go ever blow like Blaqbonez.’ All because Olamide signed you, you thought he was God, right?” he wrote.

He continued, “I pray you see these tweets and reflect on your life. Look at how quickly you were ready to bring others down. We were in rap battle groups together for years. But the moment you got signed, you felt the need to insult my work ethic. You thought you could predict the future and decided I would never make it, right?”

“I Know Who I Am” – Blaqbonez on longevity

He used the opportunity to emphasise that not every artist will remain relevant over time.

“Not every kind of talent lasts for years,” he stated. “But I know who I am. I will be here for as long as I want to be. The music I make is unique—nobody else can create it.”

He also showed appreciation for his dedicated fan base. “I have fans who have been with me since the

beginning. Not just those who discovered me through ‘Bling’ or other hit songs. The ones I’m talking about know themselves.”

Fans applaud Blaqbonez’s resilience

Many fans praised Blaqbonez for his determination and work ethic. Some pointed out that his career has outlasted several artists who once doubted him.

Blaqbonez has built a strong reputation in Nigeria’s music scene with his blend of humour, creativity, and sharp lyrical skills. Over the years, he has gained a loyal following and carved out a unique space in the industry.

His journey serves as a powerful reminder that success is not about who rises first but who stays the longest.

As the music industry continues to evolve, Blaqbonez remains confident in his path. His story is a testament to perseverance, hard work, and self-belief.

“My son has nothing to learn from you” – Baby Mama slams Portable

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Singer Portable’s third baby mama, Honey Berry, has accused him of threatening her life amid their ongoing custody battle.

She also declared that their son has nothing to learn from the singer, further intensifying their public feud.

The dispute between the two dates back to January 2023 when Honey Berry accused Portable of neglecting their child, Akorede Badmus. Since then, their relationship has remained strained, with repeated clashes over parental responsibilities.

On Monday, Honey Berry took to Instagram to call out the singer once again. She shared screenshots of messages allegedly sent by Portable, warning that if anything happened to her, the public should hold him responsible.

Alleged threatening message

In one of the messages, Portable reportedly expressed frustration over being denied access to his son for two years. He demanded that Berry bring the child to him, implying that she would face severe consequences if she did not comply.

His alleged message read:

“Bring my son before I make life tire you. Hope you get a lawyer. I no see my son for two years now. I dey send food money before, but as you no bring my son, how you go collect money again? Bring my son before I say make them dey look for you.”

The message suggests that Portable stopped providing financial support because Berry had not allowed him to see the child.

Honey Berry fires back

Responding to the message, Honey Berry condemned Portable’s remarks,



calling them a direct threat to her safety. She insisted that if anything happened to her or their son, the singer should be held accountable.

“I consider this a threat. You said you want nothing to do with me or my son. If you do not want misfortune in your life, don’t ever threaten me again. Everyone, if anything happens to me or my son, hold Portable, a.k.a. deadbeat father, responsible.”

She made it clear that she would not back down, warning that she would retaliate if pushed further.

“If you go low, I will go lower. If you bring fire to my door, I will bring hell to yours.”

Berry also criticized Portable’s approach to fatherhood, stating that being a parent is not something one can choose only when convenient. She insisted that their son had nothing to learn from the singer, hinting at his alleged lack of positive qualities.

“Even if you want a relationship with your son, you don’t pick or choose when to be a father. My son has nothing

to learn from you. The evidence is there.”

Ongoing controversy

This latest exchange is just one of many public altercations between the former lovers. Portable has faced multiple accusations of neglect and irresponsibility from different women with whom he shares children.

Despite the heated argument, the singer has not issued a formal statement addressing Berry’s allegations. However, fans and followers have taken to social media to express mixed reactions. Some criticize Portable for his alleged threats, while others argue that both parents should resolve their issues privately.

As the feud continues, it remains unclear whether legal action will be taken. Berry has hinted at seeking legal intervention, but no official steps have been confirmed.

For now, the public awaits Portable’s response and whether he will take any steps to mend his relationship with his son.

Diana Ross tells fans 'I'll never retire' ahead 81st birthday

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Diana Ross is still “The Boss” at 80 — and, over six decades into her legendary career, she’s working on keeping up that title.

“I’ll never retire,” Ross, who will turn 81 on March 26, told an audience of adoring fans at the second of two sold-out shows at Brooklyn’s Kings Theatre on Monday.

In a year that has seen the deaths of such other music legends as Roberta Flack, Marianne Faithfull and Sam Moore of Sam & Dave, it was a welcome reminder that we still have other eternal pop icons among us.

Indeed, Ross’ shows at Kings Theatre, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the venue, came as other octogenarian all-timers are still making moves — from 82-year-old Paul McCartney’s string of club shows at NYC’s Bowery Ballroom to Paul Simon, 83, announcing that he was un-retiring from the road for his “A Quiet Celebration” tour starting April 4 to Mick Jagger, 81, rocking the Oscars with a surprise appearance to present the Best Original Song award on Sunday.

If anything, Ross’ two-night stand was a reminder that we should appreciate this eternal goddess while she is still here, blessing us with her presence.

Diana Ross with the Supremes.

Motown diva Diana Ross (right) launched her career with the Supremes in the early '60s. Michael Ochs Archives

While other divas of her generation have passed on — from Aretha Franklin and



Tina Turner to, most recently, Flack — Ross is still flexing her “Muscles.”

When she opened to “I’m Coming Out” — her 1980 anthem that continues to symbolize liberation and empowerment for both the LGBTQ community and anyone else who needs a feather-boalifting boost — Ross was a true living legend in red ruffles.

As she made her way from her ‘60s career with the Supremes — remembered with “You Can’t Hurry Love,” “More Today Than Yesterday,” and “Love Child” — to her solo superstardom with classic such as “Reach Out and Touch (Somebody’s Hand),” “Love Hangover” and “Upside Down,” the love for Ross hadn’t gone anywhere.

And she reminded us about the movie magic she had made with her Oscar-nominated turn as Billie Holiday in “Lady Sings the Blues,” delivering her best vocals of the night on “My Man” and “Good Morning Heartache.” And then she took us back to Oz with “Ease on Down the Road,” from her starring role

as Dorothy in the screen adaptation of “The Wiz” in 1978.

Diana Ross, who appeared at the Grammys last month, also showed up for music’s biggest night in 2019. ROBERT HANASHIRO / USA TODAY NETWORK via Imagn Images

Then — as she has been doing for decades — Ross brought it home with “Theme from Mahogany (Do You Know Where You’re Going To),” her No. 1 hit from her 1975 cult classic “Mahogany.”

As it has since her 1983 Central Park concert, that segued into “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough,” the 1970 hit that saw Ross climb to the top of the charts as a solo artist after leaving the Supremes.

And in the midst of it all, she mixed in tunes from her Grammy-nominated 2021 album “Thank You” — including a “Count on Me” duet with oldest daughter Rhonda — that showed that Miss Ross is far from done yet.

Council Tax set to rise for most people in England

By **Fatimah Idera**

Nearly nine in ten (88%) of the 153 upper-tier authorities in England are set to impose a 4.99% council tax increase this year, the highest amount allowed without triggering a local referendum.

When councils increasing bills by 4.5% or more in April are included, the proportion rises to more than nine in ten (94%). According to an analysis, for just over two-thirds (68%) of top-tier authorities, this marks the third consecutive year that bills have increased by at least the maximum legal amount.

By contrast, only nine councils have opted for a smaller increase below 4.5% this year are: Sunderland: 4.49%, Kensington & Chelsea (London): 4.00%, Doncaster and Derby: 3.99%, North East Lincolnshire: 3.98, Essex: 3.75%, Rotherham: 3.00%, Lincolnshire: 2.99% and Wandsworth (London): 2.00% (the lowest increase in England and a freeze on the main element of council tax for the third year in a row).

A spokesperson for Wandsworth Council said:

“Sound financial management is at the heart of everything we do.”

Despite some councils implementing smaller hikes, the vast majority of English households will still face maximum council tax increases. The 4.99% cap, which includes a 2% adult



social care precept, has been in place for the past three years.

While 68% of upper-tier councils have raised council tax by the maximum amount in each of the last three years, 84% have done so in both 2024/25 and 2025/26.

Government and Local Authority Responses

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government stated:

“While councils are ultimately responsible for setting their own council tax levels, we are clear that they should put taxpayers first and carefully consider the impact of their decisions.

“That’s why we are maintaining a referendum threshold on council tax rises, so taxpayers can have the final say and be protected from excessive increases.”

Meanwhile, a Local Government Association (LGA) spokesperson,

representing councils across England, highlighted the financial pressures facing local authorities:

“Councils continue to face severe funding shortages and soaring costs, along with increased demand for local services. Many councils have had to make the difficult decision to raise bills to secure desperately needed funding, despite being acutely aware of the financial strain this place on households.”

However, the spokesperson emphasized that council tax alone cannot address the funding shortfalls:

“While council tax is an important revenue stream, it cannot fully cover the significant financial pressures facing local services. Additionally, council tax revenue varies across different regions, often failing to reflect actual needs.”

The LGA is calling on the government to address this issue in the upcoming Spending Review, ensuring that councils receive adequate funding to deliver essential local services.

Canada's new PM meets King Charles amid rising US tensions

By New Daily Prime

Canada's newly sworn-in Prime Minister Mark Carney is set to meet King Charles III and UK Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer in London, as he seeks to reinforce diplomatic ties with European allies. His visit follows a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris, signaling an urgent push to strengthen relations amid growing tensions with the United States.

Meeting with King Charles and Sir Keir Starmer

Mr. Carney, who officially took office on Friday, will be hosted at Buckingham Palace for an audience with King Charles III, who serves as Canada's head of state. This marks a significant diplomatic gesture, highlighting the continued close ties between Canada and the British monarchy.

During his London visit, Mr. Carney will also meet with Sir Keir Starmer, the UK's opposition leader, to discuss transatlantic relations and potential cooperation in global trade and security. This meeting underscores Canada's commitment to aligning with key European allies as it navigates a complex geopolitical landscape.

Diplomatic Tour and Tensions with the U.S.

Mr. Carney arrives in London from Paris, where he held talks with French President Emmanuel Macron. The two leaders emphasized the importance of Canada's role in European diplomacy and discussed strategies to bolster economic and political cooperation.

At a joint press conference, Mr. Carney stated: "I want to ensure that France, and the whole of Europe, works enthusiastically with Canada—the most European of non-European countries. At



the same time, we remain resolutely North American, determined, like you, to maintain the most positive relations possible with the United States."

His remarks come at a time of escalating tensions with the United States, following President Donald Trump's aggressive trade policies and controversial statements regarding Canada's sovereignty.

Trump's Tariffs and Canada's Retaliatory Measures

President Trump has imposed 25% tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum, igniting a trade dispute that could further strain U.S.-Canada relations. Additionally, he has threatened to extend tariffs to all Canadian products starting April 2, a move that could significantly impact Canada's economy.

In response, Canada has announced \$20 billion in retaliatory tariffs on American metals, computers, sports equipment, and other key imports. The Canadian government is preparing for further economic countermeasures, should U.S. policies continue to escalate.

Firm Stance on Canadian Sovereignty

During his swearing-in ceremony, Mr. Carney made a bold statement, reaffirming Canada's distinct identity

from the United States:

"Canada is fundamentally different from America. We will never, ever, in any way, shape, or form, be part of the United States."

His words come in direct response to Trump's repeated claims suggesting Canada could become the 51st U.S. state—a notion widely rejected by Canadian leaders and citizens alike.

As Canada faces increasing pressure from its southern neighbor, Mr. Carney's European outreach signals a strategic shift in Canada's foreign policy. Strengthening ties with France, the UK, and the broader European Union may provide economic and diplomatic leverage against the Trump administration's aggressive trade stance.

His meetings with King Charles and Sir Keir Starmer reflect an effort to reinforce Canada's historical ties with the UK while also building new political alliances in Europe.

With trade wars, diplomatic challenges, and global realignments on the horizon, Prime Minister Mark Carney's leadership will be tested as he navigates Canada's path on the world stage.

Moves underway to divide assets between Ukraine, Russia – Trump

By Dave Oludare Oso

President Donald Trump, said late Sunday that negotiators in Washington and Moscow have begun discussing the division of assets between Russia and Ukraine in an effort to end the fighting, Russia's Kommersant newspaper has said..



A few miles behind the front line with Ukraine on Monday, there were clear signs of fierce fighting in Russia's southwestern Kursk even as the Trump administration touted its efforts to end the three-year war.

On Monday, an NBC News team saw three trucks carrying what appeared to be bodies of Russian soldiers, and many more transporting the injured away from the battlefield in the heavily militarized region.

Two other trucks hauled a pair of American Bradley Fighting

Vehicles — a tank-like workhorse used to carry troops into battle — apparently left by retreating Ukrainian forces.

Meanwhile, Russia's Kommersant newspaper also ran a large picture of President Donald Trump, who said late Sunday that negotiators in Washington and Moscow have begun discussing the division of assets between Russia and Ukraine in an effort to end the fighting.

Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One that he plans to speak with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday

and that they would discuss “dividing up certain assets,” including land and power plants.

“I think we have a lot of it already discussed by both sides — Ukraine and Russia,” Trump said. “We want to see if we can bring that war to an end. Maybe we can, maybe we can't, but I think we have a very good chance.”

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov confirmed the planned call between the two leaders during a press briefing Monday, but provided no further details.

Brown professor deported to Lebanon after allegedly attending Hezbollah funeral

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A professor at Brown University's medical school, who was sent back to Lebanon last week despite having a valid visa, allegedly told customs agents that she had attended the funeral of Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Iran-backed Hezbollah, the Department of Homeland Security said Monday in a statement.

Dr. Rasha Alawieh, a 34-year-old Lebanese citizen with a valid H-1B visa, returned to the U.S. after visiting her family, according to the court petition filed by her cousin.

She was detained Thursday at Boston Logan International Airport, where she was allegedly held for 36 hours "without any justification," during which time she was unable to speak to legal counsel or contact others, the petition states.

Homeland Security alleged Monday that Alawieh told agents during her detainment that she had traveled to Beirut, Lebanon, last month to attend Nasrallah's funeral.

"A visa is a privilege not a right — glorifying and supporting terrorists who kill Americans is grounds for visa issuance to be denied," the agency said.

NBC News was unable to reach an attorney for Alawieh for comment on Monday.

Tens of thousands of people attended the funeral, which was held at the 48,000-seat Camille Chamoun Sports City Stadium in Beirut.

Nasrallah led Hezbollah, a Lebanese militia and political party, for decades before he was killed by an Israeli strike last year. He was also an Islamic scholar who was seen as a defender of Shia Muslims within Lebanon.

Hezbollah formed in the 1980s after Israel



occupied southern Lebanon to oppose Israel's presence in the country and is a U.S.-designated terror group.

Nasrallah and Hezbollah's close ties to Iran divided Lebanon, and some critics say its support for Hamas in Gaza helped plunge the country into a war with Israel that it could not afford last year.

The petition states that after her airport detainment, Alawieh was sent back to Lebanon — despite an order from the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts that she should not be removed from the state without 48 hours' notice and a reason to "give the Court time to consider the matter."

Customs and Border Protection denied accusations that it "willfully" disobeyed the court order, according to court records. Federal prosecutors in the case said the CBP officers did not receive notice of the order until Alawieh had already departed.

Prosecutors said that at no time "would CBP not take a court order seriously or fail to abide by a court's order."

A hearing had been set to take place Monday in Boston, but the case was delayed another week. According to court

records, Alawieh also retained new legal counsel, who on Sunday requested time to catch up on the case.

Alawieh's current attorney and her former attorney did not immediately respond to requests for comment Monday.

According to the initial petition, Alawieh has been in the U.S. since 2018. She obtained her medical degree from the American University of Beirut in 2015 and completed her residency at the university's medical center.

Alawieh arrived on a J-1 visa and completed programs at Ohio State University, the University of Washington and the Yale Waterbury Internal Medicine Program.

Through her work as an assistant professor at Brown, she obtained an H-1B visa. She is a kidney and transplant specialist.

Dr. George Bayliss, who worked closely with Alawieh at Brown's division of nephrology in East Providence, Rhode Island, said he and other colleagues are outraged and saddened.

Carney visits Macron, Starmer, seeks alliances against Trump

By Dave Oludare Oso

Canadian Prime Minister stresses the importance of 'reliable allies' in Paris before travelling to London where he was received by king

Canada is the "most European of the non-European countries", Mark Carney has said during his first overseas trip as prime minister to France and the UK, where he is seeking stronger alliances to deal with Donald Trump's attacks on his country's sovereignty and economy.

Without mentioning the US president by name, Carney and the French president, Emmanuel Macron, made a joint appearance in Paris to show a united stance against what they said were economic and geopolitical crises – a reference to Trump's trade war and "America first" diplomacy that has left longtime allies scrambling.

"Canada is a unique friend," Macron said, adding that fair trade was more effective than tariffs. Carney spoke in French and English, and said it was important for Canada to strengthen ties with "reliable allies".

"I want to ensure that France and the whole of Europe work enthusiastically with Canada, the most European of non-European countries, determined like you to maintain the most positive possible relations with the United States," he said.

Carney and Macron embrace

Carney and Macron embrace at the Élysée Palace on Monday. Photograph: Maya Vidon-White/UPI/Rex/Shutterstock

A senior Canadian government official who briefed reporters on Carney's plane



said the purpose of the trip was to strengthen partnerships with Canada's two founding countries. The official said Canada was a "good friend of the United States but we all know what is going on".

Carney, who turned 60 on Sunday, travelled later on Monday to London where he was received at Buckingham Palace by King Charles, Canada's head of state. After a 30-minute private conversation with the king, he was greeted warmly by Keir Starmer on the doorstep of 10 Downing Street.

The UK prime minister said: "The relationship between our two countries has always been strong. Two sovereign allies, so much in common – a shared history, shared values, shared king."

Carney said the relationship between the two countries was "built on shared values" and that "we're at a point in history where the world is being reordered".

The trip to London is something of a homecoming for Carney as a former

governor of the Bank of England, the first non-citizen to be named to the role in its more than 300 years.

The former economist is deliberately making his first foreign trip to the capital cities of the two countries that shaped Canada's early existence. At his swearing-in ceremony on Friday, he noted the country was built on the bedrock of three peoples: Indigenous, French and British.

He said Canada was fundamentally different from the US and would "never, ever, in any way shape or form, be part of the United States".

Nelson Wiseman, professor emeritus at the University of Toronto, said: "The Trump factor is the reason for the trip. The Trump factor towers over everything else Carney must deal with."

On his trip home from Europe, Carney will travel to the edge of Canada's Arctic to "reaffirm Canada's Arctic security and sovereignty" before returning to Ottawa, where he is expected to call an election within days.

Trump ends Secret Service protection for Biden's adult children

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

President Donald Trump said Monday he was ending "immediately" the Secret Service protection details assigned to Democrat Joe Biden's adult children, which the former president had extended to July shortly before leaving office in January.

The Republican president on social media objected to what he said were 18 agents assigned to Hunter Biden's protective detail while in South Africa this week. He said Ashley Biden has 13 agents assigned to her detail and that she too "will be taken off the list."

There was no immediate reaction from the former president's office.



Former presidents and their spouses receive life-long Secret Service protection under federal law, but the protection afforded to their immediate families over the age of 16 ends when they leave office, though both Trump and

Biden extended the details for their children for six months before leaving office.

While touring the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Monday afternoon, a reporter asked Trump if he would revoke the protection for the former president's son.

"Well, we have done that with many. I would say if there are 18 with Hunter Biden, that will be something I'll look at this afternoon," Trump said, who added this was the first time he heard about the matter.

"I'm going to take a look at that," he said.

Fisherman found alive after 90 days at sea eating turtles, cockroaches

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

In an astonishing tale of survival, a Peruvian fisherman has been found alive after spending 95 grueling days lost at sea. Máximo Napa Castro, 61, was rescued by an Ecuadorian fishing patrol on March 11, after drifting 680 miles off the coast of Ecuador.

Castro's ordeal began on December 7, when he set sail from his hometown of Marcona, a coastal town in southern Peru. He had enough food to last him two weeks, but bad weather struck just 10 days into his trip, sending his boat off course.

When Castro did not return home, his family reported him missing, and Peru's maritime patrols launched a search operation. However, it wasn't until months later that Castro was finally found, heavily dehydrated and in critical condition.



According to Castro, he survived on rainwater and resorted to eating insects, birds, and even sea turtles to stay alive. "I ate roaches, birds, the last thing I ate was turtles," he told Reuters. "I did not want to die."

Castro credited his family for keeping him motivated to survive. "I said I didn't want

to die for my mother," he said. "I thought about my mother every day, and my granddaughter, who was just born."

Meanwhile, Castro's mother, Elena Castro, had started to lose hope. "I told the Lord, whether he's alive or dead, just bring him back to me, even if it's just to see him," she told TV Peru.

Castro's daughter, Inés Napa Torres, took to Facebook to express her gratitude to the Ecuadorian fishing patrol for rescuing her father. "THANK YOU ECUADORIAN BROTHERS FOR RESCUING MY DAD GOD BLESS YOU," she wrote.

After being rescued, Castro was taken to Hospital Nuestra Señora de las Mercedes in Paita for medical evaluation and was discharged on Saturday.

US withdraws from international war crimes prosecution group on Ukraine

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

The European Union (EU) has officially confirmed that the United States has withdrawn from the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine (ICPA)—a multinational initiative dedicated to investigating Russian war crimes.

In a statement released by Eurojust, the EU's judicial cooperation agency, officials confirmed that the U.S. has informed European authorities of its decision to discontinue its participation in the center's operations.

“Eurojust has been informed by the US authorities that they will no longer continue their involvement in the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine (ICPA). The ICPA, hosted by Eurojust, continues its work in support of national investigations into the crime of aggression related to the war in Ukraine,” the statement read, as cited by Sky News.

A Strategic Shift in U.S. Policy?

The withdrawal represents a notable shift in U.S. engagement in international efforts to hold Russia accountable for its invasion of Ukraine. The ICPA was established on July 3, 2023, in The Hague to facilitate coordination among national prosecutors investigating crimes of aggression linked to Russia's military actions. The center works to exchange evidence, develop joint investigative strategies, and prepare legal cases against individuals



responsible for war crimes.

The decision to exit the ICPA coalition is unexpected, particularly given Washington's continued military and financial support for Ukraine and its public condemnation of Russian aggression. No official reason for the withdrawal has been provided by the U.S. government. However, analysts speculate that the move may be linked to legal concerns over U.S. jurisdiction, a broader recalibration of American foreign policy, or political considerations ahead of the upcoming U.S. elections.

Potential Impact on War Crimes Prosecution

Despite the U.S. withdrawal, Eurojust and the ICPA reaffirmed their commitment to pursuing justice for crimes committed in Ukraine. The ICPA remains an essential mechanism for building legal cases against high-ranking Russian officials, including President Vladimir Putin, and other

military figures involved in the invasion.

The absence of American legal expertise and intelligence-sharing may, however, impact the efficiency of ongoing investigations. Some legal experts argue that U.S. withdrawal could weaken international coordination, while others suggest that European-led efforts will remain robust even without direct American participation.

As geopolitical tensions escalate, the implications of this decision remain uncertain. It is yet to be seen how the U.S. exit will affect the international legal strategy against Russia and whether Washington will continue to support alternative mechanisms for war crimes prosecution outside the ICPA framework.

For now, the EU and its allies continue to push forward with their mission, underscoring their commitment to ensuring accountability for war crimes in Ukraine despite shifting political dynamics.

Authorities investigate 15 people over North Macedonia club fire

By Fatimah Idera

North Macedonia is grappling with the tragic loss of dozens of young lives in a nightclub inferno while working to hold those responsible accountable and prevent another such catastrophe.

A fire tore through the overcrowded Club Pulse early Sunday in the eastern town of Kocani, killing 59 people and injuring 155 from burns, smoke inhalation, and trampling as panicked attendees rushed toward the building's single exit.

Although the investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing, video footage shows sparkling pyrotechnics on the stage hitting the club's ceiling, igniting the blaze while a band played.

Among the casualties were people as young as 16, prompting the government to declare seven days of mourning.

In a national address on Sunday night, North Macedonian President Gordana Davkova Siljanovska expressed shock and grief over the tragedy.

"We are all in shock, and I am shocked myself: as a mother, as a person, and as a president," she



stated.

"I still cannot believe that this terrible tragedy in Kocani has happened. I do not know how to express my condolences to the parents and loved ones of the deceased," she continued. "No one responsible should escape the law, justice, or punishment! We must ensure that no one endangers the lives of innocent people again."

Bribery and Corruption Suspicions Interior Minister Panche Toshkovski announced that 15 people have been detained for questioning following a preliminary inspection, which revealed that Club Pulse was operating without a proper license.

Authorities suspect bribery and

corruption allowed the nightclub to remain open despite clear safety violations.

"We have grounds for suspicion that bribery and corruption were involved in this case," Toshkovski told reporters, though he did not elaborate further.

In response to the tragedy, North Macedonia's government has launched a sweeping three-day inspection of all nightclubs and cabarets across the country, beginning Monday.

Authorities are also investigating whether lax enforcement of safety regulations contributed to the disaster, and whether other venues pose similar risks.

2026WCQ: Osimhen, other players arrive Super Eagles Camp

By Oluwatosin Ologun

Super striker Victor Osimhen, Bruno Onyemaechi, Papa Daniel Mustapha, and Kayode Bankole were the first players to arrive in Nigeria's camp for the crucial 2026 World Cup qualifier against Rwanda.

The players in a video post shared on the team's social media handles were spotted at the Kigali International Airport in the Rwandan capital.

Coach Eric Chelle and some of the team's officials welcomed the players for camping ahead of Friday's clash.

"Early arrival of Super Eagles officials and four players – Victor Osimhen, Bruno Onyemaechi, Papa Daniel Mustapha, and Kayode Bankole," the caption on the social media post shared early Monday read.

Osimhen who is in fine form this season is expected to lead Nigeria's line for the Rwandan game.

Nigeria are fourth in the five-team group with just three points from four games.



Chelle who will be in charge of his first game as the Super Eagles coach had listed 23 players for the match as well as another Group C World Cup qualifiers with Zimbabwe billed for Nigeria next Tuesday.

More players are expected to storm the team's camp for the clash.

The Super Eagles are fourth in the

five-team group with just three points from four games. They are yet to win a match and are four points behind leaders Rwanda, leaving them at the risk of missing out on the second World Cup in a row.

Having missed the last edition of the competition held in Qatar, Nigeria are under pressure to hoist the country's flag in the US, Canada, and Mexico next year.



World Cup 2026 qualifiers: African fixtures, previews for round five

By Oluwatosin Ologun

The African qualifiers for the 2026 Fifa World Cup resumes this week after nine-month break and the stakes are high for some big names in the continent.

The qualification race for the 2026 World Cup is set to take place across Africa this week and early next week.

In matchdays 5 and 6 qualifying fixtures in Africa, Nigeria's Super Eagles will set to revive their dwindling hopes of reaching the US, Canada, and Mexico where the competition is billed to be held.

World Cup Qualifying Fixtures in Africa

Below are the fixtures for Matchday 5 and 6 across Africa

Matchday 5

March 19, Wednesday

Group D: Eswatini v Cameroon; Group H: Liberia v Tunisia; Group I: Central African Republic v Madagascar (all 1600)

March 20, Thursday

Group A: Sierra Leone v Guinea-Bissau (1600); Group C: Zimbabwe v Benin (1600); Group D: Cape Verde v Mauritius (1600), Libya v Angola (1900); Group F: Gabon v Seychelles, Gambia v Kenya (both 1900); Group G: Mozambique v Uganda (1300); Group H: Malawi v Namibia (1600); Group I:



Comoros v Mali (2100)

March 24, Monday

March 21, Friday

Group A: Burkina Faso v Djibouti (1600), Ethiopia v Egypt (2100); Group B: Democratic Republic of Congo v South Sudan (1600); Group C: South Africa v Lesotho (1600), Rwanda v Nigeria (1600); Group E: Niger v Morocco (2130); Group F: Burundi v Ivory Coast (1900); Group G: Botswana v Algeria (1300), Guinea v Somalia (2100); Group H: Equatorial Guinea v Sao Tome e Principe (1300); Group I: Ghana v Chad (1900)

March 22, Saturday

Group B: Togo v Mauritania (1600), Sudan v Senegal (1900)

Matchday 6

March 23, Sunday

Group D: Eswatini v Mauritius; Group F: Kenya v Gabon (both 1300)

Group A: Guinea-Bissau v Burkina Faso (1600), Ethiopia v Djibouti (2100); Group F: Ivory Coast v Gambia (1900); Group H: Namibia v Equatorial Guinea (1300), Liberia v Sao Tome e Principe (1600), Tunisia v Malawi (2100); Group I: Central African Republic v Mali (1600), Madagascar v Ghana (1900)

March 25, Tuesday

Group A: Egypt v Sierra Leone (1900); Group B: Sudan v South Sudan (1900), Mauritania v Democratic Republic of Congo (2100); Senegal v Togo (2100); Group C: Benin v South Africa, Nigeria v Zimbabwe, Rwanda v Lesotho (all 1600); Group D: Angola v Cape Verde (1600), Cameroon v Libya (1900); Group E: Morocco v Tanzania (2130); Group F: Burundi v Seychelles (1900); Group G: Botswana v Somalia (1300), Uganda v Guinea (1600), Algeria v Mozambique (2100); Group I: Comoros v Chad (2100)