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NNPCL raises petrol prices to N925 in Lagos, N950 in Abuja

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) has raised the pump price of petrol, increasing it to N925 per litre at its retail stations in Lagos and N950 per litre in Abuja.

This adjustment, which came into effect on April 2, 2025, marks a significant rise from the previous prices of N860 per litre in Lagos and N880 in the northern capital.

The latest hike represents an increase of N65 per litre in Lagos and N70 per litre in Abuja. This change follows last week's price surge by independent marketers, including MRS, who raised their pump prices to N930 per litre in Lagos and N960 in the northern regions.

Industry experts have linked the recent price adjustments to the suspension of petrol sales in naira by the Dangote refinery, a move that has disrupted the market dynamics.

The price rise is also a reflection of the evolving nature of Nigeria's deregulated fuel market, which is influenced by a range of factors including competition, supply costs, and fluctuations in global oil prices.

Experts indicate that the NNPCL's new pricing structure comes amid increasing challenges related to crude oil sourcing and exchange rate volatility.

Leadership change at NNPCL

The fuel price hike comes shortly after significant leadership changes at the national oil firm. In the early hours of Wednesday, April 2,



President Bola Tinubu appointed Mr. Bayo Ojulari as the new Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) of NNPCL, replacing Mele Kyari. Alongside this appointment, the NNPCL board was also restructured.

As part of the price adjustments, our correspondent noted that several NNPCL stations along key routes in Lagos, including the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway and Ikorodu Road, have now raised their prices to N925 per litre, down from an initial display of N930.

Other stations in Lagos such as those at Fadeyi, Ago Palace Way, Ogba, and College Road have also reflected the new prices. Some outlets, particularly in Ikeja and along major expressways, have followed suit, though not all NNPCL stations in Lagos had updated their prices immediately due to logistical delays.

In Abuja, the price change has been implemented at stations such as those along the Kubwa Expressway, where the price has risen to N950 from N880 per litre. Other stations in the Wuse area have also adjusted

their prices accordingly.

A history of price shifts

The NNPCL's latest move follows a period of price competition. In March 2025, the corporation reduced its petrol price to N860 per litre in response to lower rates from the Dangote Refinery.

However, the rising cost of crude oil and the depreciation of the naira have led to increased pressure on petrol prices, prompting the latest upward revision.

Earlier in December 2024, NNPCL had set its pump price at N925 per litre before making several subsequent price adjustments. Despite this latest increase, the price of petrol in Lagos remains lower than in some other cities, with Abuja's prices now standing at N950 per litre compared to Lagos' current rate of N925.

This latest price adjustment adds to the growing cost burden faced by consumers, with many Nigerians expressing concern over the ongoing rise in fuel prices.

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PRODUCT COLOUR

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SIZE	TOTAL RATE
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QUARTER PAGE	106,500.00
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10X6	261,585.50
10X5	255,238.00
10X4	206,890.50
10X3	179,608.00
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
5X2	42,916.50
4X4	60,166.50
4X3	36,499.50
4X2	29,333.50
3X3	28,000.00
3X2	17,400.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	8,600.00
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SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	329,868.50
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QUARTER PAGE	100,000.00
14X2	109,500.00
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10X3	171,000.00
9X6	232,500.00
9X5	206,000.00
9X4	177,500.00
9X3	150,000.00
8X6	216,000.00
8X3	98,500.00
7X4	164,002.00
6X4	94,010.50
6X3	78,500.00
6X2	47,500.00
5X5	100,000.00
5X4	61,500.00
5X3	57,819.00
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10X5	192,305.50
10X4	142,787.50
10X3	121,355.50
9X6	192,305.50
9X3	107,757.50
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8X3	N/A
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PHOTO NEWS (4X4)	53,333.30	4,250.00	57,583.30
PRESS RELEASE (4X4)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
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Wike denies health rumours, reaffirms commitment to Tinubu

By New Daily Prime



The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike, has addressed rumours about his health that recently circulated on social media. Reports had claimed that Wike collapsed during an event in Abuja and was flown out of the country for treatment. These claims quickly spread, raising concerns among the public.

However, just two days later, Wike appeared in public during the Sallah homage to President

Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the Presidential Villa in Abuja. He looked energetic, spoke with confidence, and gave no sign of any health issue, putting the rumours to rest.

His media aide, Lere Olayinka, also dismissed the claims as completely false, insisting there was no truth to them at all.

During the visit, Wike took the opportunity to restate his strong commitment to President Tinubu's goals, especially

regarding improvements in infrastructure and development across the FCT. In recent months, he has remained visible and active in the capital, pushing forward with efforts to restore order, boost revenue, and carry out key projects.

His public appearances and continued leadership have reassured many that he is healthy, fully in charge, and focused on his responsibilities.

Nigeria receives \$1.08bn W'Bank loan for education, economy, others

By Dave Oludare Oso

Nigeria has received a loan totalling \$1.08 billion from the World Bank to support education, nutrition, and economic resilience in Nigeria.

The financial institution stated on its website on Wednesday that the concessional loans are aimed at improving the quality of education, building household and community resilience, and enhancing nutrition for underserved groups.

The statement read, "The World Bank has approved three operations in Nigeria, totalling \$1.08bn in concessional financing, to enhance education quality, build household and community resilience, and improve nutrition for underserved groups."

The approved operations include \$500m in additional financing for the Community Action for Resilience and Economic Stimulus Programme, \$80m for Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria (ANRIN 2.0), and \$500m for the Hope for Quality Basic Education for All (HOPE-EDU) initiative.

According to the statement, the NG-CARES Programme, which was initially designed to address the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, will support the government's efforts to expand access to livelihood support, food security services, and grants for poor and vulnerable households.

The programme, which has already reached over 15 million beneficiaries, has evolved into a shock-responsive platform providing multisectoral interventions, including social transfers, labour-intensive public works, livelihood grants, and support for small businesses.

The new financing will bolster the programme's reach, particularly as the



country grapples with economic challenges arising from the 2023 fuel subsidy removal and foreign exchange rate unification.

The Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria programme aims to enhance the use of quality nutrition services for pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls, and children under five.

The initiative is designed to improve maternal and child health, nutrition services, and food security in selected areas. The programme aligns with Nigeria's National Development Plan (2021–2025) and the Multisectoral Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition, focusing on preventive and curative nutrition interventions, improved feeding practices, and increased access to micronutrient-rich foods.

ANRIN 2.0 builds on the success of the initial programme, which delivered nutrition services to over 13 million children under five between 2018 and 2024.

The HOPE-EDU initiative, which forms part of a series of interrelated operations, will support foundational literacy and numeracy, enhance access to basic

education, and strengthen education systems across participating states.

The project is expected to directly benefit 29 million public primary school pupils, 500,000 teachers, and more than 65,000 public primary schools. The initiative will also address issues related to school overcrowding and decentralised allocation of education funds. HOPE-EDU will receive additional funding of \$52.18m from the Global Partnership for Education Fund.

Commenting on the initiative, the World Bank Country Director for Nigeria, Dr Ndiame Diop, said, "Investing in human capital is critical for Nigeria as it offers the best opportunity to unlock the enormous potential of Nigeria."

"These new programmes will help accelerate education quality and support vulnerable citizens. The HOPE-EDU programme will enable better education outcomes by implementing bold reforms and making the right investments to equip the fast-growing young population with foundational skills necessary for rapid and inclusive economic growth."

Natasha: INEC rejects petition over non-compliance with constitution

By Alade Adisa

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on Thursday stated that the petition to recall the Senator representing Kogi Central, Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan, has not met the constitutional requirements.

INEC, in a post on its official X (formerly Twitter) handle, said: ‘The petition for the recall of the Senator representing the Kogi Central Senatorial District has not met the requirement of Section 69(a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended).’ More details to follow.

In an updated statement, INEC cited Section 69(a) of the Constitution, which stipulates that a petition to recall a senator needs the signatures of more than one-half of the registered voters in the lawmaker’s constituency.

“The total number of registered voters in the Kogi Central Senatorial District is 474,554. More than one-half of this figure (i.e. 50%+1) is 237,277+1, which is at least 237,278 voters,” the statement issued by INEC’s National Commissioner and Chairman, Information & Voter Education Committee Sam Olumekun read in part.

“Across the 902 Polling Units in 57 Registration Areas and five Local Government Areas that make up the Senatorial District, the Commission



ascertained 208,132 signatures/thumbprints from the submission made by the petitioners.”

The development comes weeks after the electoral body rejected the petition to recall the embattled lawmaker, citing missing contact details. The petitioners later submitted the missing item, a fact INEC acknowledged.

But on Thursday, it said the petition did not meet all requirements for the recall of Senator Natasha as enshrined in Nigeria’s constitution.

“Consequently, the petition has not met the requirement of Section 69(a) of the Constitution. Therefore, no further action shall be taken on the recall of the Senator,” Olumekun said.

Senator Natasha was suspended for breaching Senate rules, prompting some of her constituents to initiate her recall. They claimed the move

was to ensure their constituency did not lack representation following the suspension of the 45-year-old senator.

The lawmaker has made headlines in recent months after she accused Senate President Godswill Akpabio of sexual harassment, a claim the Akwa Ibom lawmaker has equally denied.

She was thereafter suspended by the Red Chamber for violation of its rule of conduct.

On Tuesday, Senator Natasha received a rousing welcome by her constituents, despite the Kogi State Government’s ban on rallies and public gatherings. At the ceremony attended by a crowd of supporters in Okehi Local Government Area (LGA) of the North-Central state, she told the gathering that: “Nobody and nothing can stop me from coming home. I’m an Ebiraland woman; this is my land”

CBN denies fake circular introducing N5,000, N10,000 notes

By Oluwatosin Ologun



The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has categorically disowned a circular claiming it has introduced two new denominations—N5,000 and N10,000 notes—set for circulation on May 1.

The apex bank described the circular as “fake” in a statement via its official handle on X (formerly Twitter).

The viral circular widely shared on social media, falsely attributed to the CBN, stated, “The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has officially announced the introduction of two new denominations – N5,000 and N10,000 banknotes; as part of ongoing efforts to streamline cash transactions and improve liquidity management.”

The document further alleged

that one Deputy CBN Governor, Dr. Ibrahim Tahir Jr., justified the move as a way to reduce cash-handling costs while offering Nigerians more efficient options for larger transactions.

However, the apex bank refuted the claims, urging the public to verify information through its official website.

“The content is not from the Central Bank of Nigeria. Kindly note that the official website of the CBN is cbn.gov.ng,” the CBN stated, emphasising its commitment to transparency and accurate communication.

In 2023, the bank dealt with controversies surrounding the redesign of the N200, N500, and N1,000 notes.

Later that year, the CBN raised

concerns about the circulation of counterfeit banknotes, particularly higher denominations.

CBN

These fake naira notes were reportedly used in food markets and commercial centers in major cities across Nigeria.

At the time, Acting Director for Corporate Communications at the CBN, Hakama Ali warned that falsifying or counterfeiting any CBN-issued note or coin is a criminal offense punishable by at least five years imprisonment.

She reassured the public that the CBN remains in active collaboration with security and financial agencies to combat counterfeit operations and ensure the integrity of Nigeria’s currency system.

Ibas announces key focus areas for 2025 budget

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Sole Administrator of Rivers State, Vice Admiral Ibok Ete Ibas (retd.), has revealed that preparations for the state's 2025 budget are well underway, with a sharp focus on healthcare, education, agriculture, infrastructure, and job creation.

Ibas made the announcement on Thursday, April 3, during a meeting with a delegation of the Rivers State National Assembly caucus, led by Senator Barinada Mpigi, at Government House in Port Harcourt.

The administrator explained that the new budget is being developed in response to the Supreme Court's ruling on the state's previous budget.

He emphasised that efforts are being expedited to draft a new appropriation bill that would reflect the government's commitment to social services and economic growth.

The delegation, which included prominent figures such as Senator Allwell Onyesoh, the minority leader of the House of Representatives; Kingsley Chinda; Dumnamene Dekor; Solomon Bob; Cyril Godwin Hart; Blessing Amadi; Felix Nwaeke; Kelechi Nwogu; and Victor Obuzor, was present to discuss the next steps in moving the state forward.

Ibas assured that his administration had prioritised restoring law and order in Rivers State since assuming office. He noted that with the support of the security agencies, efforts had been made to create an environment where residents feel both safe and valued.

"Our commitment is to make Rivers State a model of peace among the states of the federation. A place with a stable economy where our citizens can pursue their livelihoods without fear of molestation," Ibas said.



The Sole Administrator highlighted the importance of the state's budget being centred around key development priorities.

"Since the Supreme Court's verdict on the state's budget, we have acted swiftly to put together a new budget that reflects our commitment to healthcare, education, social services, and continued infrastructural development. We are working hard to ensure that the process is transparent, inclusive, and expedited. Our goal is to make investments that will improve the lives of Rivers residents without delay," he added.

Ibas further emphasised the urgent need for job creation and investments in vital sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, and technology. The administrator reassured the public that these initiatives would be implemented promptly and effectively.

"The urgency of this initiative is not lost on us. We are committed to ensuring that these projects are rolled out without further delay," he said.

To achieve these ambitious goals, Ibas stressed that the support of the legislators would be essential.

"Your partnership is critical to ensuring that Rivers State continues on the path of progress and enduring peace for future generations," he told the National Assembly delegation.

The Sole Administrator also discussed the challenges that led to the state of emergency declared by President Bola Tinubu in Rivers State, noting that efforts to restore peace have included dialogue, community engagement, and reconciliation initiatives. He praised the people of Rivers for their resilience and patience as the government works to restore stability and trust in the region.

"We are determined to strengthen unity in Rivers State. Through dialogue and reconciliation, we aim to build an environment where every citizen feels valued, heard, and respected. Together, we are making strides towards making peace a permanent feature of our state," Ibas said.

Senator Mpigi, on behalf of the delegation, commended Ibas for his leadership and expressed their unwavering support for the initiatives aimed at stabilising and developing Rivers State.

From Marinho to Ojulari: A timeline of NNPC leadership

By Friday Omosola

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPC) has seen various leaders at its helm since its inception in 1977.

Over the decades, these individuals have steered the country's state-run oil company through significant transformations and challenges.

From the early days of the organisation to the present leadership under Engineer Bashir Ojulari, New Daily Prime has compiled a comprehensive list of NNPC leadership over the years.

1. R. A. Marinho (July 1977 – April 1980)

R. A. Marinho was the first person to serve as the head of NNPC following its establishment in 1977, laying the foundation for the company's operational structures.

2. Odiligi Lolomari (April 1980 – August 1981)

Odiligi Lolomari took over shortly after Marinho, steering the corporation through its formative years in the Nigerian oil sector.

3. Lawrence Amu (October 1981 – November 1985)

Lawrence Amu led the NNPC through the early 1980s, a period marked by continued oil exploration and growing industry demands.

4. Aret Adams (November 1985 – April 1990)



Under Aret Adams, NNPC worked on enhancing its production capacity and expanding its international footprint, helping Nigeria solidify its place in the global oil market.

5. Dr. Thomas John (April 1990 – June 1990)

Dr. Thomas John had a brief tenure, serving for only two months, but he was pivotal in overseeing key decisions before the next leadership transition.

6. Edmund Daukoru (June 1992 – October 1993)

Edmund Daukoru's leadership was marked by efforts to modernise and expand Nigeria's petroleum industry infrastructure during the early 1990s.

7. Chamberlin Oyibo (November 1993 – August 1995)

Chamberlin Oyibo's leadership coincided with a period of political unrest in Nigeria, yet NNPC continued to play a significant role in global oil production.

8. Dalhatu Bayero (August 1995 –

May 1999)

Dalhatu Bayero's tenure saw the strengthening of the NNPC's financial and operational capacities, expanding the corporation's international relationships and refining its internal processes.

9. Dr. Jackson Gaius-Obaseki (May 1999 – November 2003)

Dr. Gaius-Obaseki's leadership occurred during a crucial phase of modernisation, with significant developments in Nigeria's oil and gas policies.

10. Funsho Kupolokun (November 2003 – September 2007)

Funsho Kupolokun worked on refining NNPC's role in the global energy market and was an advocate for new policies that focused on maximising Nigeria's resource potential.

11. Abubakar Lawal Yar'Adua (September 2007 – January 2009)

Continue reading
on next page

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Serving as the head during a turbulent period, Abubakar Lawal Yar'Adua's leadership was crucial in navigating the challenges posed by fluctuating oil prices and global market uncertainties.

12. Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo (January 2009 – April 2010)

Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo's leadership was notable for its focus on global oil industry dynamics and the pursuit of a balanced energy strategy for Nigeria.

13. Shehu Ladan (April 2010 – May 2010)

Shehu Ladan served briefly as the head of NNPC, overseeing the corporation during a period of transition before the appointment of a new long-term leader.

14. Augustine O. Oniwon (May 2010 – June 2012)

Augustine Oniwon's tenure saw substantial advancements in NNPC's internal restructuring efforts and strategic alignment with Nigeria's national development goals.

15. Andrew Yakubu (June 2012 – August 2014)

Andrew Yakubu was tasked with ensuring the efficiency and competitiveness of NNPC, focusing on both upstream and downstream operations in Nigeria's oil industry.

16. Dr. Joseph Thlama Dawha (August 2014 – August 2015)

Dr. Dawha's leadership aimed to push for significant reforms in the oil sector, with a focus on boosting Nigeria's oil reserves and enhancing refining capacity.

17. Dr. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu (August 2015 – July 2016)

Dr. Kachikwu was appointed in the midst of Nigeria's challenging oil crisis, focusing on key reforms, including efforts to deregulate the downstream sector.

18. Dr. Maikanti Kachalla Baru (July 2016 – July 2019)

Dr. Baru served as NNPC's head during a period of extensive restructuring and growth, improving operational efficiency and implementing new strategies for the corporation's global outreach.

19. Mele Kolo Kyari (July 2019 – April 2025)

Mele Kyari took over leadership in

2019, guiding NNPC through significant shifts in the energy landscape, including Nigeria's transition towards cleaner energy and ongoing market reforms.

20. Bashir Bayo Ojulari (April 2025 – Present)

Bashir Ojulari was appointed as the current Group CEO in April 2025 by President Bola Tinubu, with a mandate to lead the transformation of NNPC into a more efficient, market-driven entity with an emphasis on gas commercialisation and local content development.

NNPC has been at the centre of Nigeria's oil and gas industry for decades, and each leadership transition reflects the evolving challenges and ambitions of the country's energy sector.

With the recent appointment of Ojulari, all eyes are now on how the new leadership will steer the company towards greater efficiency and innovation in the coming years.



Lagos gridlock worsens as Independence Bridge stays shut despite FG's reopening order

By Oluwatosin Ologun

Traffic congestion on Lagos Island showed no signs of easing on Thursday despite the Federal Government's directive for the immediate reopening of Independence Bridge, Mekwen.

Senator David Umahi, Minister of Works, had ordered the reopening on Wednesday following widespread complaints about the gridlock caused by the ongoing rehabilitation of the bridge. However, as of Thursday morning, the bridge remained closed, with frustrated motorists trapped in hours-long standstills.

Mrs. Olukorede Kesha, who is the Federal Controller of Works in Lagos, confirmed that the bridge could not yet be reopened due to critical repairs on a damaged section. She emphasised that the closure, which began on April 1, was still scheduled to last until the end of May.

"The closure affects traffic traveling from Ahmadu Bello Way and Adeola Odeku towards Marina, Eko Bridge, and Onikan. Motorists are advised to use alternative routes to reduce congestion," Kesha said, apologising for the inconvenience.



Government urges patience, suggests alternative routes

The Lagos State Government urged motorists without urgent business on the Island to avoid the affected areas and use alternative routes, including:

For motorists heading to Victoria Island from Ahmadu Bello Way: Use Ozumba Mbadiwe Avenue, Akin Adesola Street, Falomo Roundabout, and Obafemi Awolowo Road.

For those heading to Third Mainland Bridge: Take Ozumba Mbadiwe Avenue, Akin Adesola Street, Alfred Rewane Road, Osborne Road, and Ring Road.

For access to Inner Marina and CMS: Use Ozumba Mbadiwe Avenue, Akin Adesola Street, Falomo Roundabout, Obafemi Awolowo Road, and J.K. Randle Road.

Despite these measures, many road users expressed frustration over the lack of visible traffic enforcement to manage the congestion.

"This is beyond frustrating. We need LASTMA officials actively directing traffic. Right now, it's just every man for himself," said a commercial driver.

With no immediate solution in sight, Lagosians are bracing for prolonged traffic disruptions as the bridge rehabilitation continues.

EDO: Ighodalo heads for Appeal Court, Okpebholo woos opponents

By Dave Oludare Oso

After the Edo State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal sitting in Abuja upheld the election of Governor Monday Okpebholo of the All Progressives Congress (APC) yesterday, there have been several fall-outs therefrom.

NEW DAILY PRIME will offer precis of the reactions from the major players and stakeholders.

THE TRIBUNAL'S JUDGMENT

The tribunal, headed by its chairman, Justice Wilfred Kpochi, in a unanimous decision by a three-member panel, said it found no reason to nullify the outcome of the governorship contest held in the state on September 21, 2024.

Justice Kpochi, who delivered the lead judgement, dismissed as lacking in merit, a petition the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and its candidate, Asuerinme Ighodalo, filed to challenge the declaration of governor Okpebholo as the valid winner of the gubernatorial poll.

The Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, had declared that Okpebholo of the APC secured a total of 291,667 votes to defeat his closest rival, Ighodalo of the PDP, who got a total of 247,655 votes.

Dissatisfied with the result, the PDP and its candidate approached the tribunal, alleging that the election was not conducted in substantial compliance with provisions of the Electoral Act, 2022.

In the petition, marked EPT/ED/GOV/02/2024, it was alleged that Governor Okpebholo did not secure the highest number of lawful votes cast at the election.

It was equally the contention of the petitioners that INEC failed to serialise and pre-record some of the sensitive materials deployed for the poll, a situation they said aided rigging of the election in favour of the APC and its candidate.



Specifically, PDP and its candidate alleged that there was wrong computation of results in 765 polling units in the state, even as they produced 19 witnesses that testified and tendered exhibits before the tribunal.

Among exhibits petitioners tendered before the tribunal were a total of 153 Bimodal Voter Accreditation System, BVA, machines used in 133 polling units.

According to the petitioners, results from the polling units were manipulated at the collation centres, a situation they said resulted in over-voting, in Okpebholo's favour.

However, in its judgement yesterday, the tribunal held that the petitioners failed to, by way of credible evidence, establish why the outcome of the election should be set-aside.

It held that the onus of proving that Governor Okpebholo was unduly returned by INEC, rested squarely on the petitioners.

The panel said it is trite law that a petitioner must succeed on the strength of his own case and not on the weakness of the defence.

It noted that contrary to Section 16(1) of the First Schedule to the Electoral Act, the petitioners, in their reply, introduced new facts not contained in their substantive case. The said new facts were

rejected and struck out by the panel.

However, against the position of the Respondents, the panel admitted as valid, documents the petitioners tendered in evidence from the Bar. It also noted that the petitioners were very detailed in chronicling the wards and polling units where the alleged infractions took place.

Nevertheless, the tribunal held that the PDP and its candidate merely dumped exhibits before it without demonstrating them through competent witnesses as required by the law.

It held that most of the witnesses that testified for the petitioners gave hearsay evidence, stressing that failure to produce polling unit agents, presiding officers or voters that participated in the election, to testify, proved fatal to the case of the petitioners.

The tribunal held that section 137 of the Electoral Act did not preclude the petitioners from producing necessary and competent witnesses to testify in support of their case.

It further dismissed contention of the petitioners that contrary to the provision of section 73(2) of the Electoral Act, INEC failed to pre-record most of the materials deployed for the election.

Natasha lauds INEC for rejecting recall petition

By Oluwatosin Ologun



Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan on Thursday applauded the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for rejecting a petition to recall her as the lawmaker representing Kogi Central Senatorial District.

The embattled lawmaker, while featuring as a guest on Channels Television's Politics Today, said the electoral umpire should have thrown out the petition long before it did on April 3, 2025.

"I'm a lawyer. I'm a senator and I understand how Nigeria works. For me, the most important thing is this recall process has been stalled.

"I give kudos and credit to INEC

even though I believe they should have thrown it away from the get-go.

"I think it was void ab initio because there is no law in the Electoral Act that says a petition should be discarded just because there is no address but again, what if the address is false?"

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chieftain argued that most of the addresses provided in the petition for her recall were false because most houses in her district weren't labelled.

"Even though INEC did count 208,000 signatures, I bet you if they had gone into the verification stage, they would have struggled to even

have 500 people come out to attest to signing that," she added.

Natasha alleges death threat
She accused Senate President Godswill Akpabio, Governor Usman Ododo and ex-governor Yahaya Bello of sponsoring her failed recall.

In a much-awaited statement on Thursday, INEC said the petition for the recall of the lawmaker did not meet the requirement of Section 69(a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended).

"Therefore, no further action shall be taken on the recall of the Senator," INEC declared.

Rivers APC calls for probe into Fubara's alleged role in assembly complex bombing

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Rivers State, Chief Tony Okocha, has called for a thorough investigation into suspended Governor Siminalayi Fubara and his allies over the demolition of the state House of Assembly complex and allegations of financial mismanagement.

Okocha's call follows a statement made by the former Head of Service (HoS) in the state, George Nwaeke, who over the weekend accused Fubara of orchestrating the bombing of the Assembly complex in an attempt to prevent his impeachment by state lawmakers.

Nwaeke further alleged that the governor had financially sponsored the destruction of the Assembly building.

In response to the accusations, Fubara's Special Adviser on Electronic Media, Jerry Omotsegunwa, dismissed Nwaeke's claims as "laughable" and described the former HoS's statements as "childish," incoherent, and lacking credibility.

Omotsegunwa argued that the confessions were inconsistent and unsubstantiated, urging the public to disregard the allegations.

The drama unfolded when Nwaeke, speaking in a series of videos, claimed to have witnessed Fubara handing over a bag of money to his Chief of Staff, Edison Ehie, for the purpose of destroying the Assembly complex.

However, both Fubara and Ehie vehemently denied the claims, with Ehie suggesting that Nwaeke's allegations were the result of being under the influence at the time.

On Wednesday, April 2, Okocha, a prominent ally of former Governor Nyesom Wike, expressed his belief that Nwaeke's statements could not be easily



dismissed, given his position as the state's third-highest official at the time.

Okocha argued that the revelation added credibility to the APC's position on the matter, which had long accused Fubara and Ehie of being responsible for the Assembly attack.

"Nwaeke's account further corroborates the position of Rivers APC that Fubara is the architect of the entire political crisis in the state, His actions led to the swift declaration of a state of emergency by President Bola Tinubu to restore order and prevent further chaos," Okocha stated.

Okocha also took the opportunity to reiterate the APC's stance that significant resources had been wasted under Fubara's administration, particularly amid the global economic downturn.

Referring to a Supreme Court judgment delivered in February 2025, which described Fubara as a "dictator," Okocha emphasised that taxpayers' money had been mismanaged and squandered during the governor's tenure.

While the APC leader called for security agencies to investigate the allegations and

bring those responsible to justice, he also condemned what he termed as attempts to silence Nwaeke for speaking out.

"The verbal attacks against the former HoS will not deter us. We remain committed to exposing the rot within Fubara's administration," Okocha added, reinforcing the party's role as a watchdog of governance in the state.

However, Fubara's aide, Omotsegunwa, continued to denounce Nwaeke's allegations, describing the videos as unreliable and inconsistent.

He pointed out contradictions in Nwaeke's story, with the former HoS first claiming to have been present at a meeting with the governor and Chief of Staff, and later changing his account, suggesting he was not there at all. Omotsegunwa further mocked the idea of an investigation based on what he called "phantom" claims, including a supposed missing N16 billion.

"The allegations are a fabrication, and they do not stand up to scrutiny, How can anyone take these contradictory confessions seriously?" Omotsegunwa concluded.

Police arrest two suspects for killing employer in Delta

By Helen Okechukwu

Two suspects out of four have been arrested in connection to the death of a 38-year-old employee, Chigozie Udolor, a site manager at Bod Camp in Akwukwu-Igbo community located in Oshimili North Local Government Area of Delta State.

Bright Edafe, the spokesperson of Delta State Command, on Thursday, disclosed that the apprehended suspects allegedly conspired to murder the deceased after a huge amount of money was discovered in his account.

According to his cousin brother of the deceased, Hyacinth Nnalue, in a short video viewed by New Daily Prime, he recounted that after his deceased brother, whom he employed as a site manager, went missing on 10 December 2024, he laid a complaint to Akwukwu-Igbo Police Division on 12 December 2024.

Upon receiving the complaint, investigations were launched and the case was transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department.

The State Commissioner of Police, CP Olufemi Abaniwonda, charged



the DPO Ekpan, CSP Aliyu Shaba, to deploy operatives.

Read Also: Police stop Natasha's homecoming rally

Following the complaint, on 31 March 2025, their investigation led them to David Tacho, a suspect who attempted to withdraw money from the victim's account using his phone.

Daniel Orshio, a suspect, was also apprehended in connection to the heinous crime.

However, preliminary investigations asserted that the deceased was killed by four employees with a hammer.

The suspects identified include Victor Tacho, Pius Daniel (both on the run), David Tacho, and Daniel Orshio.

The suspects revealed that late Udolor was struck on the head with a hammer, tied him up, and buried him in a shallow grave at the site.

Although the body of the late site manager has been exhumed for autopsy procedures.

Furthermore, as the investigation continues, the security operative has intensified the search to apprehend the fleeing suspects, Victor Tacho and Pius Daniel, assuring the public that justice will be served.

Rivers police mark 2025 national day with community, medical outreach

By Helen Okechukwu

The Rivers State Police Command, under the leadership of Commissioner of Police (CP) Olugbenga Adepoju, has commenced the 2025 National Police Day celebrations with a series of community-driven initiatives aimed at fostering stronger ties between law enforcement and the public.

The celebration, held in line with the directives of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kayode Egbetokun, features activities such as free medical outreach, stakeholder engagement, environmental sanitation, and religious services.

As part of the event, the command will provide free medical services on Thursday, 3 April, to support underprivileged residents in various communities.

Citizens are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to check their health status and receive medical advice.

On Friday, 4 April, a stakeholders' engagement session will take place at the Police Officers' Mess, Old GRA, Port Harcourt, by 10:00 a.m.

The interactive session will allow community leaders and residents to engage with the police on security-related concerns. Later in the day, prayers will be held at the Mopol 19 Mosque, Aba Road, as part of the commemorative activities.

Saturday, 5 April, will feature a sanitation exercise across different parts of the state, emphasizing the importance of a clean environment and encouraging proper waste disposal.

The celebrations will conclude on Sunday, 6 April, with church services across the state.

These services will highlight the values of sacrifice, service, and dedication in policing while strengthening cooperation between law enforcement and the public.

According to the Police Public Relations Officer, Grace Iringe-Koko, the theme of this year's celebration underscores the crucial role of the police in maintaining peace and security.

She reiterated the command's commitment to working with all stakeholders to build safer communities.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the scheduled activities as the police continue their efforts to improve public trust and ensure security in Rivers State. national police day with community, medical outreach

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Brain science uncovers key differences between men, women

By Helen Okechukwu

A recent study using advanced brain imaging has confirmed significant differences in how men's and women's brains function.

Researchers found that these variations influence memory, emotional responses, decision-making, and susceptibility to diseases like dementia and depression.

A long-term study by Stanford Medicine analyzed brain scans from over 1,000 young adults between age 20-35 and found striking differences in brain activity between men and women.

Experts say these differences go beyond hormones or cultural influences, pointing instead to structural variations in brain wiring.

Professor Larry Cahill, a neurobiology expert at the University of California, says that while men's brains are about 10% larger, women's hippocampus—the region responsible for memory—is proportionally larger and more active.

This may explain why women



tend to recall details more quickly and accurately.

The study also found that women are generally more altruistic and empathetic than men, with brain imaging revealing a stronger response to acts of generosity.

Meanwhile, men tend to excel in spatial awareness tasks such as map reading, potentially due to differences in neural connectivity.

Hormonal influences also impact emotional processing. Women recall emotional experiences more intensely, particularly in the second half of their menstrual cycle.

This may contribute to higher

rates of depression and Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among women.

Another key finding relates to dementia. Women are twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's disease, with research showing that their brains accumulate toxic plaques at a faster rate than men's.

However, to this end, experts say these structural differences could impact future treatments.

While scientists have made progress in understanding these distinctions, they emphasize that more research is needed to explore how male and female brain differences affect health and behavior.

WHO warns of disease outbreak in Myanmar after devastating earthquake

By Helen Okechukwu

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has raised concern over the possible multiple disease outbreak in Myanmar following the devastating earthquake which occurred in the Mandalay and Sagaing regions.

The health organisation on Thursday, in a document shared with journalists, warned against the risk surge, highlighting that the incident has significantly increased trauma cases, poses mental health challenges, and has effects related to cholera and waterborne diseases.

Also, it was noted that vaccine-preventable diseases (VPD) such as measles, polio, and diphtheria and vector-borne diseases may occur due to limited access to health facilities in both rural and urban areas.

About 19.9 million people in Myanmar prior to the earthquake were said to be needing humanitarian assistance, including 12.9 million who were in need of health services.

On 28 March, Myanmar's Sagaing Region and Mandalay experienced earthquakes in two different intervals, with a magnitude of 7.7 occurring at 12:50, followed by a second of magnitude 6.4 at 13:02 (local time).

According to reports, the number of casualties and damage are yet to be



verified, but a report from the State Administration Council (SAC) on 2 April noted that about 3003 people lost their lives, leaving 4515 injured.

“Preliminary assessments indicate high numbers of casualties and trauma-related injuries, with urgent need for emergency care,” WHO revealed.

While highlighting mental health challenges and heat strokes as major concerns, it noted, “Earthquake-related displacement, limited access to safe water and food, overcrowded displaced populations, low vaccination coverage, poor sanitation, inadequate disease prevention measures and potential movement of rodents into urban areas increase the likelihood of disease outbreaks.”

Meanwhile, the most affected areas are Mandalay, Sagaing and Nay Pyi Taw, followed by Bago, Magway, and Shan South and East.

Affecting major infrastructure, including health facilities, road networks, and bridges, it said that electricity and water supplies remain disrupted.

“The epicentre of the earthquake is close to Sagaing Township in Sagaing Region. This region is home to approximately one third of the country's internally displaced population, many of whom were already enduring critical shortages in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs and lacked adequate shelter from before the earthquake struck,” the health organisation noted.

'I'll handle you' – Osupa tells Portable

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Fuji music legend Saheed Osupa has promised to take action against controversial singer Portable, despite the younger artist's public apology.

Osupa also directed his warning at fellow Fuji musician Taye Currency.

The conflict begins

The dispute started last week when Portable accused Osupa of having his song removed from streaming platforms over copyright infringement. In a viral video, Portable lashed out at the Fuji star, calling him "big for nothing" for reporting the track on Spotify and Apple Music.

Following widespread criticism, Portable backtracked and issued a public apology to Osupa. The singer admitted he had spoken out of turn and expressed regret for his remarks.

Taye Currency sparks more tension

The controversy did not end there. Taye Currency, an Ibadan-based Fuji musician, reignited tensions during a recent reunion with his former boss, Pasuma. During the event, Currency referred to Osupa as his "colleague." This seemingly harmless remark angered Osupa's fans, who saw it as a sign of disrespect.

Osupa responds with a warning

Osupa finally addressed both incidents during a live performance. The Fuji icon made it clear that he would not let the insults go unpunished. Speaking to the audience, he declared, "You will still be



dealt with because you think you can come for an elder. I am coming for you."

The crowd responded by chanting Portable's name, fueling the moment. Osupa then added, "Ati colleague mi, má wò rí. Mo n bò," which translates to, "And my colleague, don't worry, I'm coming for you."

His words sent a clear message—he would not tolerate any form of disrespect, regardless of apologies or explanations.

The feud that shook fuji music

The ongoing rift has sparked debate within the Fuji and Afrobeats communities. Many fans believe Portable crossed the line with his initial outburst. Others argue that Osupa's reaction is too harsh, especially since Portable publicly apologized.

Meanwhile, Taye Currency's remark continues to divide opinions. Some see it as an innocent statement, while others insist it was a calculated insult. The rivalry between Osupa and Pasuma has

long been a defining feature of Fuji music, and many speculate that Currency's comment was a subtle way of reigniting old tensions.

What happens next?

The Fuji music industry has witnessed several high-profile feuds over the years, but Osupa's latest declaration suggests this one is far from over.

Industry insiders predict more drama in the coming weeks. Some believe Osupa might release a diss track aimed at Portable and Currency. Others think the situation will escalate further, possibly leading to a confrontation at upcoming music events.

As fans eagerly wait for the next development, one thing is certain—this feud has once again put Fuji music in the spotlight. Whether it ends in reconciliation or further conflict, the industry is watching closely.

Aproko Doctor warns against UV light in eyelash extensions application

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

In the ever-evolving world of beauty and cosmetics, new technologies emerge, promising better results, longer-lasting effects, and quicker application times.

However, not all innovations come without risks.

A recent warning from Dr. Chinonso Egemba, popularly known as Aproko Doctor, has shed light on a potentially harmful trend: the use of UV light in eyelash extensions.

UV light in eyelash extensions

Eyelash extensions have become a staple for many beauty enthusiasts, providing fuller, longer lashes without the need for mascara.

Traditionally, lash adhesives cure over time or with the help of fans.

However, some salons and beauty professionals have begun using UV light to cure eyelash extension glue faster.

This method might seem efficient, but as Aproko Doctor warns, it comes with significant health risks.

Why is UV light a concern?

Aproko Doctor explains that UV light falls between X-rays and visible light on the electromagnetic spectrum.

This means it has more energy than visible light but less than X-rays.

While UV light is known for its germicidal properties, killing bacteria and viruses, it can also be harmful to human cells.

1. UV light can damage eye cells: The human eye is highly sensitive, and the eyelids are not thick enough to provide adequate protection against UV radiation.

Direct exposure can damage eye tissues, potentially leading to conditions like:

Photokeratitis (essentially a sunburn of the cornea)

Cataracts (clouding of the eye's natural



lens)

Macular Degeneration (a leading cause of vision loss)

2. Risk of DNA mutation and cancer: He also highlighted that UV light has the potential to alter cellular DNA, leading to mutations.

These mutations may increase the risk of developing skin cancers around the delicate eye area.

If UV light is strong enough to kill bacteria, imagine what prolonged exposure could do to human cells.

3. Unknown long-term effects: Since this technology is relatively new in the beauty industry, there is limited research on the long-term effects of using UV light in eyelash extensions.

However, we do know from other industries, such as dermatology and radiology, that repeated UV exposure contributes to cell damage over time.

Aproko Doctor raises a valid concern that Nigeria, like many other countries, often adopts new beauty trends without proper regulation.

Many beauty practitioners may not fully understand the risks associated with UV curing eyelash adhesives, and unsuspecting clients could suffer the consequences.

He warns that Nigerians should be cautious before jumping on this trend, as there is a risk of being used as “lab rats” for unverified beauty procedures.

How to protect yourself

If you love eyelash extensions but want to avoid the risks associated with UV light, here's what you can do, according to Aproko Doctor:

Ask your technician: Before your lash appointment, inquire about the method they use to cure the adhesive. Opt for traditional curing methods that don't involve UV exposure.

Do your research: Not all new beauty trends are safe. Take time to understand the potential risks before trying any new procedure.

The use of UV light in eyelash extensions may seem convenient, but the potential health risks far outweigh the benefits.

As Aproko Doctor rightly advises, if you value your sight and overall well-being, it's best to avoid this trend.

Your health should always come first; beauty should never come at the cost of your vision.

'Stop calling me a prostitute, I'm tired of it' – Kate Henshaw

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Actress Kate Henshaw has voiced her frustration over online trolls who resort to name-calling whenever they disagree with her opinions on social media.

She criticised the trend, describing it as exhausting and unnecessary.

Taking to her X account on Thursday, Henshaw condemned the use of offensive labels such as “olosho” and “prostitute.” She challenged her critics to engage in more intelligent conversations instead of relying on insults.

“Name-calling like olosho, prostitute, and the like is just so tiring to hear,” she wrote. “Can’t you come up with more intelligent responses?”

Henshaw calls out ‘dullards’

The actress did not stop there. She went on to mock those who resort to insults, suggesting that they deliberately reject logic and reason.

“Oh well, sense was in abundance, but that’s when you decided to walk away so that you would be bereft of brains. Dullards,” she added.

Henshaw, a veteran in the Nigerian film industry, has never been one to shy away from expressing her views. Over the years, she has gained a reputation for speaking her mind on political and social issues. However, her outspoken nature has made her a frequent target for cyberbullies.

The growing problem of cyberbullying

Like many public figures, Henshaw has faced harsh criticism online. Some of her



followers disagree with her views, but instead of engaging in constructive debate, they resort to personal attacks. This pattern is common in the digital space, where social media users often hide behind anonymity to hurl insults at celebrities and influencers.

Cyberbullying is not new in Nigeria’s online space. Many celebrities, politicians, and activists have been victims of social media trolls who prefer to attack personalities rather than discuss ideas. Experts warn that such toxic behavior discourages meaningful conversations and creates a hostile digital environment.

Social media: A tool for dialogue or hate?

Henshaw’s recent outburst highlights a broader issue. The rise of social media has made it easier for people to express their opinions, but it has also given room for unfiltered hate speech. Many internet users, rather than engaging in thoughtful discussions, resort to verbal abuse.

Despite this, some public figures have continued to push back. Celebrities like Henshaw are using their platforms to call out online toxicity and demand a higher standard of discourse. They argue that

social media should be a space for dialogue, not a battlefield for personal attacks.

Mixed reactions from fans

Henshaw’s stance has sparked reactions from her fans. Some supported her, agreeing that name-calling is a sign of weak arguments. Others, however, criticized her, suggesting that public figures should develop a thicker skin to deal with social media criticism.

The global challenge of online hate

The debate over online conduct is not unique to Nigeria. Across the world, famous personalities struggle with cyberbullying and the pressures of constant scrutiny. While some choose to ignore trolls, others, like Henshaw, confront them head-on.

As social media continues to shape public conversations, the question remains: Will users embrace more respectful engagement, or will online insults remain the norm? For now, Kate Henshaw has made her stance clear—she expects better, and she is not afraid to say so.

'I criticized Tinubu for Obi' – Odumodublvcck

By **Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi**

Nigerian rapper Tochukwu Ojogwu, better known as Odumodublvcck, has explained why he criticised President Bola Tinubu in his song Vex.

The artist revealed that his decision was driven by loyalty to Peter Obi, the 2023 Labour Party presidential candidate.

On Thursday, Odumodublvcck took to social media to address the backlash he received for his lyrics. He claimed that his support for Obi had led to public criticism and called on the politician to promote his upcoming album, *The Machine Is Coming*, as a gesture of solidarity.

Rapper's plea for support

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Odumodublvcck wrote:

"Peter Obi, I even dissed Tinubu for you. Now, because of you, people are spitting on me and my legacy.

"Tweet 'The Machine Is Coming' to rekindle and redeem our friendship, sir.

"Do not listen to them. Listen to your heart. *The Machine Is Coming*."

His message suggested frustration over the lack of recognition from Obi despite taking a stand that invited backlash. The rapper implied that his public support for the Labour Party's candidate had come at a personal cost.

Mixed reactions from fans

Odumodublvcck's statement quickly sparked reactions online. Some fans supported his demand, arguing that public figures who receive vocal support from celebrities should reciprocate when



needed. Others criticized his approach, saying that endorsement should be voluntary, not forced.

The debate extended beyond the rapper's followers, drawing attention from political observers. Some questioned whether artists should expect political figures to endorse their work simply because of past support. Others pointed out that politicians often distance themselves from controversy, making it unlikely that Obi would respond.

No response from Peter Obi

As of now, Peter Obi has not reacted to the rapper's post. The former Anambra State governor has remained silent, focusing on political and economic discussions rather than entertainment-related matters.

Despite the lack of response, Odumodublvcck continues to promote *The Machine Is Coming*. He has remained

vocal on social media, urging fans to anticipate the album's release.

The intersection of music and politics

Odumodublvcck is not the first Nigerian artist to mix music with political expression. Over the years, musicians have used their platforms to criticize leaders, advocate for change, or support political candidates. However, these actions often come with risks, including backlash from the public or authorities.

His situation highlights the complexities of celebrity endorsements in Nigerian politics. While artists may use their influence to sway public opinion, they do not always receive direct support from the politicians they back.

As the controversy unfolds, observers are keen to see whether Peter Obi will acknowledge Odumodublvcck's plea or continue to stay silent.

Kanye West sparks split rumours with Bianca Censori after two years

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Kanye West has given a strong hint about his rumoured split from wife Bianca Censori, revealing details through lyrics in his latest song from the album “Ww3.”

The 47-year-old rapper made the revelation through lyrics in his latest song, “BIANCA,” a track from his new album “WW3.”

In the song, West suggests that his 30-year-old wife may have been the one to end their relationship. One of the most striking lines hints at a deeper conflict. He raps, “Bianca, I just want you to come back / Come back to me / I know what I did to make you mad.” The lyrics strongly imply that Censori walked away from the marriage.

Claims of mental health allegations

In another verse, he makes an even bolder claim. “My baby, she ran away / But first, she tried to get me committed / Not going to the hospital ’cause I am not sick / I just do not get it.” These words suggest that Censori may have attempted to have him institutionalized, though he denies any mental health issues.

A whirlwind marriage

West and Censori tied the knot in December 2022, shortly after his high-profile divorce from Kim Kardashian was finalized. Since then, their relationship has often made headlines, particularly for their bold fashion choices.

Their recent appearance at the Grammys was no exception. The couple arrived in attention-grabbing outfits, sparking online discussions. However, reports later surfaced claiming they had argued about the stunt in the days leading up to the event.

While neither West nor Censori has publicly confirmed their split, the rapper’s lyrics suggest growing tensions between them. Fans and media outlets are now speculating about the future of their



relationship.

A controversial relationship

West and Censori’s relationship has been anything but conventional. The Australian architect joined Yeezy as a designer before becoming romantically involved with the rapper. Their whirlwind marriage came as a surprise, happening just months after West finalized his divorce from Kardashian.

Over the past two years, the couple has drawn attention for their public appearances. Whether it was their unconventional outfits, their travels, or their interactions, they have remained in the spotlight. However, rumors about trouble in their marriage have been circulating for months.

Public reaction and speculation

West’s latest song has only fueled more speculation. Some fans believe his lyrics confirm the breakup, while others think he is simply expressing emotions through his music. Given West’s history of using his songs to address personal matters,

many see this as a direct message about his marriage.

Social media is buzzing with opinions. Some fans have expressed concern for Censori, especially after reports surfaced about the alleged argument before the Grammys. Others are questioning the accuracy of West’s claims in the song.

Meanwhile, neither West nor Censori has made an official statement. If the couple has indeed parted ways, the details remain unclear.

What’s next for Kanye?

West’s career remains as eventful as his personal life. His new album “WW3” has been making waves, and his fashion ventures continue to attract attention. However, this latest development adds yet another chapter to his unpredictable journey.

Whether this song serves as confirmation of his split or simply another cryptic message remains to be seen. But one thing is certain—when it comes to Kanye West, the world is always watching.

I can't date man who doesn't make \$5 million yearly - Rubi Rose

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Rapper and model Rubi Rose has made it clear—any man hoping to date or marry her must meet a strict financial standard, with stability being a top priority.

The music star recently revealed that she refuses to be with anyone earning less than \$5 million per year.

The \$5 million minimum

Rose shared her dating standards during a livestream with popular streamer Adin Ross. She explained that just as men often prioritize looks in a partner, she values financial security. “Men wouldn’t date an ugly girl, so I don’t want to date a broke guy,” she said.

She emphasized that a potential partner must be financially successful. “A man should at least match my income. He should be making at least \$5 million a year,” she stated. While money is important, she also made it clear that she wants a man who earns his wealth legally. “I don’t want someone involved in illegal dealings,” she added.



Mixed reactions from the public

Her comments sparked a wave of reactions online. Some people agreed with her, arguing that financial compatibility is essential in relationships. Others criticized her for setting such a high financial bar, calling her expectations unrealistic.

This is not the first time celebrities have expressed strong opinions about dating standards. Many high-profile figures, including musicians and influencers, have openly shared their financial and lifestyle expectations in relationships.

A star with a lavish lifestyle

Rose, known for hits like *Big Mouth* and *He in His Feelings*, has built a successful career in

music and modeling. She has amassed a significant following on social media, where she frequently shares glimpses of her luxurious lifestyle.

The ongoing debate on love and money

Her statements add to the ongoing debate about financial expectations in modern dating. While some believe love should come first, others argue that financial stability plays a crucial role in maintaining a healthy relationship.

Regardless of the mixed reactions, one thing is clear—Rubi Rose knows what she wants, and she won’t settle for less.

Macron calls for halt on EU investment in US over Trump tariffs

By Dave Oludare Oso

French President Emmanuel Macron has called on European companies to freeze planned investments in the United States following the announcement of sweeping global tariffs by U.S. President Donald Trump, signaling growing transatlantic economic tensions.

Speaking during a high-level meeting with French industry leaders in Paris on Thursday, Macron described the U.S. tariffs as “brutal and unfounded,” warning that they pose a serious threat to international trade and economic stability. In response, he urged a coordinated European approach and a temporary halt to new investments in the U.S. until further clarity emerges.

“I think what’s important, and that’s all the work that must be done by sector, is that the investments to come—or investments announced in recent weeks—should be suspended until things are clarified with the United States,” Macron stated.

The French leader said that “no response has been ruled out” and



hinted at several potential countermeasures. These include activating the European Union’s anti-coercion mechanism, targeting U.S. digital services, and scrutinizing financial instruments that support the American economy.

This marks a significant escalation in the economic standoff between Europe and Washington. Macron promised that Europe’s response to the tariffs would be “more massive” than the EU’s earlier retaliation against U.S. steel and aluminum levies.

Trump’s tariffs, part of his revived “America First” trade policy, include a 10% baseline tariff on all imports and even steeper duties on certain goods from traditional

allies and rivals alike. The move has drawn criticism from leaders across the globe, who argue it undermines fair trade and could trigger a damaging economic spiral.

Macron emphasized that Europe must stand firm and respond “industry by industry” to defend its interests. “This is a shock for international trade,” he said. “Europe must act with unity and strength.”

As diplomatic and economic discussions continue, business leaders and policymakers across the continent are bracing for further fallout, with fears of a full-scale trade war looming.

Trump renews his 40 years trade battle campaign

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Long before his political ascent, Donald Trump was already voicing deep concerns about America's trade policies. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, he appeared on television and authored op-eds criticizing what he described as unfair trade imbalances—particularly with Japan. He argued that growing trade deficits were eroding U.S. manufacturing strength and undermining the nation's economic standing. These early positions laid the foundation for the “America First” trade agenda that would come to define his presidency.

The United States has historically maintained relatively open markets, positioning itself as a global champion of free trade. With the world's largest economy, the U.S. accounts for approximately one-quarter of global GDP. In terms of purchasing power parity (PPP), it continues to exert unmatched influence over international markets through innovation, consumption, and trade. The U.S. dollar remains the dominant currency for global transactions, reinforcing its role at the center of the world economy.

Despite being home to only about 4% of the world's population—the third most populous nation—the U.S. wields outsized economic power. Many countries depend heavily on American imports to drive their own industrial and production needs.

This openness, however, has also led to a significant dependence on foreign goods, particularly in critical sectors such as semiconductors, medical supplies, and consumer electronics. Nations like China have taken advantage of this dynamic by flooding international markets with low-cost manufactured products while continuing to enforce protectionist trade practices at home.

However, trade analysts caution that



Trump's characterization of the situation is often oversimplified—and at times, hypocritical. While the U.S. does face barriers to its exports, it also enforces significant tariffs of its own. For example, Trump has criticized European duties on American cars, yet the U.S. imposes a 25% tariff on imported light trucks. Similarly, he has condemned India's motorcycle tariffs, despite U.S. sectors benefiting from non-tariff barriers and federal subsidies.

Trump's latest proposed tariffs—which include a baseline 10% levy on all imports and targeted 25% duties on specific products—could sharply escalate global trade tensions. According to The New York Times, the trade measures implemented during his presidency have already tripled the financial burden on importers compared to previous years—even before these new policies take effect.

Research by Trade Partnership Worldwide, a respected policy firm, found that Trump's first-term tariffs on steel, aluminum, and Chinese goods effectively doubled U.S. tariff levels over two years. With more aggressive policies now on the table, there is growing concern that the United States may soon be imposing steeper trade barriers than

many of the countries it criticizes.

What remains clear is that Trump's trade agenda reflects a broader ideological shift—from globalism to economic nationalism. While this approach resonates with segments of the electorate—particularly in deindustrialized regions affected by outsourcing—critics warn that it could jeopardize decades of economic integration and international cooperation.

The global response has been mixed. Many nations, including close U.S. allies, view Trump's rhetoric as inflammatory—especially when grouped with adversaries like China. There are also widespread concerns that new tariffs could provoke retaliatory measures, drive up consumer prices, and strain diplomatic relations.

Trump's hardline trade stance is poised to become a defining campaign issue once again—not just for American voters, but for international markets and the global economic order. Whether his strategy leads to fairer trade or further fragmentation remains to be seen. The world is watching.

African countries faced with Trump's tariffs

By **Damilola Olufemi**

President Donald Trump's imposed tariffs recently announced is on the edge of significant changes between Africa and the United States as the policy targets more than 180 countries—including several African nations

The approach described as "Liberation Day," is intended to counteract what Trump's administration sees as unfair trade practices.

With this, any nation that does not have a formal trade agreement with the U.S. will be subjected to a baseline 10% tariff on all exports to the American market. The primary principle of reciprocal tariffs implies that if a country imposes high tariffs on U.S. goods, the U.S. will respond with equal or higher tariffs on goods imported from that country.

Full list of Trump's tariffs for African countries

Below are the new tariff rates imposed on African countries and the existing ones each African country charges on U.S. goods:

South Africa – 30% (charges U.S. 60%)
 Madagascar – 47% (charges U.S. 93%)
 Tunisia – 28% (charges U.S. 55%)
 Egypt – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)
 Côte d'Ivoire – 21% (charges U.S. 41%)



Botswana – 37% (charges U.S. 74%)

Morocco – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Algeria – 30% (charges U.S. 59%)

Nigeria – 14% (charges U.S. 27%)

Namibia – 21% (charges U.S. 42%)

Ethiopia – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Ghana – 10% (charges U.S. 17%)

Angola – 32% (charges U.S. 63%)

Democratic Republic of the Congo – 11% (charges U.S. 22%)

Mozambique – 16% (charges U.S. 31%)

Zambia – 17% (charges U.S. 33%)

Tanzania – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Senegal – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Cameroon – 11% (charges U.S. 22%)

Uganda – 10% (charges U.S. 20%)

Gabon – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Togo – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Malawi – 17% (charges U.S. 34%)

Liberia – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Zimbabwe – 18% (charges U.S. 35%)

Benin – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Republic of the Congo – 10% (charges

U.S. 10%)

Djibouti – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Rwanda – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Sierra Leone – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Sudan – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Niger – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Equatorial Guinea – 13% (charges U.S. 25%)

Libya – 31% (charges U.S. 61%)

Guinea – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Chad – 13% (charges U.S. 26%)

Mali – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Mauritania – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Burundi – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Central African Republic – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Eritrea – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

South Sudan – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Comoros – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

São Tomé and Príncipe – 10% (charges U.S. 10%)

Guinea-Bissau – 10% (charges U.S. 10%).

EU plans countermeasures as response to Trump's imposed tariffs

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The European Union (EU) has disclosed that it plans countermeasures in response to new tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump but remains open to negotiations.

This was disclosed on Thursday by the European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen.

While reacting on the sidelines of a summit with Central Asian leaders in Uzbekistan, she described Trump's move a "major blow to businesses and consumers worldwide," adding that Europe was ready to respond and protect its interests.

According to her, the tariffs will lead to millions of citizens facing higher grocery, medication, and transportation costs, while inflation would rise and hurt the most vulnerable citizens.

Meanwhile, von der Leyen said the EU is already concluding its first package of retaliatory measures and is now preparing additional steps to protect its businesses if talks with the U.S. fail.

Von der Leyen urged EU citizens not to lose faith, reassuring them that Europe was equipped to weather the storm.

She had also announced talks with the automotive and pharmaceutical sectors, hit hardest by the tariffs.

Trump on Wednesday announced new blanket tariffs of 10 per cent on most imports to the U.S., with higher penalties based on trade deficits for many countries.

According to Trump, imports from the EU will face new tariffs of 20 per cent.

"For decades, our country has been looted, pillaged, raped and plundered by nations near and far, both friend and foe



alike," Trump said in the White House Rose Garden.

"Now we're going to charge the European Union. They're very tough. Very, very tough traders. You know, you think of the European Union, as very friendly. They rip us off. It's so sad to see. It's so pathetic," Trump said.

"We are going to charge them 20 per cent," the U.S. president said.

New Daily Prime earlier reported that global leaders had expressed their concerns about the tariffs.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said his country would not retaliate with reciprocal tariffs, calling Trump's decision "unjustified" and harmful to U.S. citizens themselves. "We will not join a race to the bottom that leads to higher prices and slower growth," he said.

In Europe, leaders expressed dismay over what they see as a damaging and unnecessary escalation. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez reaffirmed his country's commitment to global trade,

saying, "Spain will protect its companies and workers and will continue to be committed to an open world."

Sweden's Prime Minister echoed the sentiment, warning, "We don't want a trade war. We want to find our way back to a path of trade and cooperation with the U.S."

Irish Trade Minister Simon Harris urged dialogue, stating that both Ireland and the European Union remained "ready to find a negotiated solution."

Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni was more direct, warning that a prolonged trade conflict would "inevitably weaken the West in favour of other global players," a subtle reference to China and Russia, which may seek to exploit divisions among Western allies.

From Brussels, Manfred Weber, President of the European People's Party (EPP), issued a scathing rebuke, saying, "Donald Trump's tariffs don't defend fair trade; they attack it out of fear. Today isn't liberation day—it's resentment day."

Hungary to quit ICC after Netanyahu visit

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Hungary has formally announced its decision to withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC), just hours after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — currently the subject of an ICC arrest warrant — arrived in Budapest for a state visit.

Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government stated that the move was prompted by what it called the court's "cynical and unacceptable" actions, referring to the ICC's warrant against Netanyahu for alleged war crimes in Gaza. Orban, a long-time ally of Netanyahu, criticized the ICC's decision as politically motivated and claimed it undermined the court's credibility.

Gergely Gulyas, Orban's chief of staff, explained that although Hungary ratified the ICC's founding Rome Statute in 2001, it was never incorporated into Hungarian law, effectively shielding the country from the court's jurisdiction. "No measure of the court can be carried out within Hungary," he added.

The Hungarian government confirmed that it would begin the official year-long withdrawal process on Thursday. A bill



enabling the exit is expected to pass easily in parliament, which is dominated by Orban's Fidesz party.

The announcement coincides with Netanyahu's controversial visit to Hungary following the ICC's arrest warrant for his alleged involvement in acts of murder, persecution, and the use of starvation as a weapon of war — all part of what ICC judges described as a "systematic attack against the civilian population of Gaza." The ongoing Israeli military campaign in Gaza has reportedly killed over 50,000 Palestinians, according to Palestinian health authorities.

Netanyahu's arrival in Budapest has reignited debate over

international justice, sovereignty, and political alliances, especially within the European Union, where Hungary's decision to break ranks with ICC obligations could have wide-reaching diplomatic implications.

While Israel continues to reject the ICC's accusations — calling them antisemitic and illegitimate — critics argue that Hungary's withdrawal signals a growing erosion of international norms and accountability.

This development underscores deepening divides between Western allies and challenges the future of international justice mechanisms in addressing war crimes and crimes against humanity.

UK set to host 2035 Women's World Cup as sole bidder

By **Fatimah Idera**

England's men won the World Cup for the first and so far only time when the country hosted the finals in 1966. It has never staged the women's tournament.

"We are honoured to be the sole bidder for the FIFA women's World Cup 2035," FA CEO Mark Bullingham said in a statement.

"Hosting the first FIFA World Cup since 1966 with our home nations partners will be very special. The hard work starts now, to put together the best possible bid by the end of the year."

The United States, with the possibility of other countries in the CONCACAF region joining the U.S., is also poised to be named host of the 2031 Women's World Cup as the only bid.

Infantino said the tournament will increase from 32 teams to 48 in time for the 2031 World Cup to match the men's event.

"We received one bid for 2031 and one bid — one valid bid I should add — for 2035," he added at the UEFA Congress in Belgrade. The 2035 bid is from



Europe, from the home nations."

The U.S. hosted the 1999 and 2003 Women's World Cup.

Brazil will host the 2027 event featuring 32 teams

FORMAL BIDS

Member associations must formally submit bids to FIFA in the final quarter of this year. The world governing body currently plans to confirm the Women's World Cup hosts for 2031 and 2035 at the 76th FIFA Congress in the second quarter of next year.

"So, the path is there for the Women's World Cup to be taking place in '31 and '35 in some great countries, in some great nations,

to boost even more the women's football movement," Infantino said.

FIFA said last month that members associated with the Confederation of African Football and CONCACAF were eligible to bid for the 2031 World Cup, while CAF and UEFA member associations could bid for the 2035 tournament.

Reports had suggested Spain, Portugal and Morocco, who are jointly hosting the 2030 men's World Cup, planned to launch a rival bid for 2035 before Infantino's comment on Thursday that the UK had the only valid bid.

FIFA Rankings: Nigeria climb to 43rd globally, sixth in Africa

By Oluwatosin Ologun



The latest FIFA ranking has placed Nigeria as the 43rd-best team across the globe.

The World football governing body announced this on its X handle on Thursday.

The ranking places Nigeria one step ahead as the Super Eagles rounded off 2024 in the 44th position.

Argentina remained top thanks to impressive wins

In second place is Spain and France is in third place.

England is fourth, while Brazil ranked

fifth, completing the top five.

The Super Eagles' latest improvement by one spot might not be unconnected to their latest form, beating Rwanda at home in their quest to qualify for the World Cup taking place in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico from June 11 to July 19, 2026.

The Netherlands move a spot to sixth with Portugal dropping to seventh. Belgium, Italy and Germany are in eighth, ninth and tenth place.

In the continent, Morocco moves two places ahead of Senegal to claim the top spot in Africa and is ranked 12th in the world. Senegal which is now second in

Africa is 19th in the world.

Meanwhile, Egypt which ranked 32nd and Algeria 36th both moved one spot each to third and fourth in the region while current African champions Cote d'Ivoire moved five places to 41st and fifth in the continent.

At 43rd Nigeria is two spots below the African champions and sixth in Africa, followed by Tunisia who move three places up to 49th and seventh among Confederation of African Football (CAF) teams.

The next rankings will be released on July 10.

Trump's tariffs and their potential impact on sports

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Donald Trump's new tariffs have sent shockwaves through global markets, but their effects could extend beyond economics and into the world of sports. With the U.S. set to host major events like the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, businesses, sponsors, and athletes could feel the strain of increased trade barriers.

Sponsorship and Merchandise Challenges

Many major sponsors, including global brands like Nike, Adidas, and Hyundai, rely on international trade. Higher import costs could force these companies to rethink sponsorship deals, particularly for events in the U.S. Sports finance expert Kieran Maguire suggests that while costs may rise slightly, the impact on merchandise sales will likely be minimal.

The European Sponsorship Association is monitoring the situation, as increased trade restrictions could make it harder for non-U.S. businesses to capitalize on American sports markets.

Tensions at International Events

With the U.S. co-hosting the 2026 World Cup alongside Mexico and Canada—both targets of Trump's tariffs—there are concerns about logistical challenges, including security coordination and cross-



border fan travel. The political climate could also lead to increased hostility among fans, as seen when Canadian crowds booed the U.S. national anthem at NBA and NHL games.

At the upcoming Ryder Cup in the U.S., tensions with the EU over trade policies may fuel an even more intense rivalry between American and European golf fans.

Infrastructure and Economic Concerns

With rising steel and aluminum costs, the construction of sports venues and related infrastructure could become more expensive. Additionally, if tariffs contribute to inflation or a potential recession, consumers may have less disposable income for sports tickets, merchandise, and TV subscriptions, potentially affecting leagues like the Premier League,

which has a lucrative U.S. broadcasting deal with NBC.

Uncertain Future for Global Sports in the U.S.

While Trump remains an avid sports fan and has promised a strong platform for the LA Olympics, the wider implications of his trade policies remain unclear. Nations typically use global sporting events to showcase their openness and economic strength, but Trump's tariffs raise questions about how welcoming the U.S. will be to international business and fans in the years ahead.

With political tensions rising, the next few years will reveal whether Trump's protectionist approach will hinder the global sports industry or simply be a bump in the road.