

Importers Demand Audit Of 7% Surcharge As Port Development Stalls

Importers and clearing agents have called for an immediate public audit of the utilisation of revenue generated from the seven per cent port surcharge on cargo clearance at the seaports. The seven per cent surcharge on imports, also known as port development levy, is dedicated to funding port reconstruction and development, and it is paid into the coffers of the Central

CONTINUES ON P7

Oyo Govt Pays Over N300m Compensation For Circular Road, Bridge Projects

Oyo State Government has disclosed the payment of over N300m as compensation to building and landowners on Circular Road, and for the construction of overhead bridges at the Aja end of the road and along the Iseyin/Ogbomosho Road. The Commissioner for Lands and Urban Development, Mr Williams Akin-Funmilayo, made this known during the

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GLOBAL REPORTING GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION TRENDS

TRANSPORTATION

thelandmarkinfo.com.ng | Global Trasnportation E- Reports | Global_GTE Fri, August 15th 2025 E - NEWSPAPER

Lagos To Divert Traffic On Maryland Bridge For Repairs

The Lagos State Government has issued a traffic advisory ahead of emergency repairs to a damaged section of the wall and the expansion joints on the Maryland Independence Bridge. Commissioner for Transportation, Oluwaseun Osiyemi, in a press release on Thursday, said that the repair will take place from 11:00 pm to 4:00 am between Saturday, 16 August and Tuesday, 19 August 2025. Motorists are urged to

CONTINUES ON P3

Cross River Community Seeks Action On Dilapidated Road Residents Knock FG, Radda Over Deplorable Katsina Road Uba Sani Flags Off 13-year-old Abandoned Road

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Commissioner of Transportation Lagos State, Mr Oluwaseun Osiyemi

FG To Repair Third Mainland Bridge With Over N3trn - Umahi

The Minister of Works, David Umahi, said the structural rehabilitation of the Third Mainland Bridge in Lagos State will cost more than ₦3 trillion. Speaking after the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting in Abuja, Umahi said illegal sand mining, underwater and structural assessments of the bridge revealed severe damage caused by erosion, and corrosion to its piles and piers. "The rehabilitation is estimated at ₦3.8 trillion, while a complete rebuild would cost about ₦3.6 trillion," the

CONTINUES ON P5

FG Donates CNG Buses To FCT Administration P3

FRSC Coopt Youths To Tackle Traffic Accidents

Culled

Citing global data, the Assistant Corps Marshal Ogungbemide said road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death for children and young adults aged 5–29, with two-thirds of fatalities occurring among people of working age (18–59 years).

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has called on Nigerian youths to take a frontline role in promoting road safety, stressing that their influence, innovation, and digital expertise could make a significant difference in reducing road traffic crashes nationwide.

The Corps Public Education Officer, Assistant Corps Marshal Olusegun Ogungbemide, made the appeal in Abuja during the Road Safety Youth Hangout 2025, organised by the FRSC FCT Command. The event was themed “Safer Roads, Brighter Future: Youth Leading the Change.”

Ogungbemide explained that the initiative aligns with the policy direction of the Corps Marshal, Mallam Shehu

Mohammed, who emphasises that road safety is a shared responsibility. He noted that adults have long dominated road safety engagement spaces, yet statistics reveal that youths are more vulnerable and must be actively involved.

He urged youths to leverage social media to drive road safety conversations and exert positive peer influence, highlighting their tech-savvy nature as an asset for change.

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Shehu

Residents Knock FG, Radda Over Deplorable Katsina Road

Culled

Residents of communities along the MararrabarKankara–Dutsinma–Katsin a highway have berated the federal government, Katsina State Governor Dikko Umaru Radda, and the Minister of Works, David Umahi, over the shameful neglect of one of the busiest federal roads in the state.

It was gathered that the Mararrabar Kankara–Dutsinma–Katsina road, which serves as a major link between several local government areas and the state capital, has deteriorated to an almost impassable condition.

Once regarded as a strategic route for farmers, traders, and inter-city commuters, the road is now riddled with deep potholes, eroded shoulders and collapsed drainage channels.

Residents said the situation worsened after the federal government abruptly halted the ongoing rehabilitation works awarded to Vipan Global Investment Resources, an indigenous contracting firm. According to locals, the project

had shown early promise before work was suddenly stopped.

The Special Assistant to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Political Matters, Ibrahim Kabir Masari, recently alleged at a public gathering in Katsina that Governor Radda instigated the cancellation of the road contract.

Masari hinted that the decision may have been politically motivated, claiming that the contractor in charge of the project is aligned with the opposition.

With the rainy season now here, the road has become even more deplorable for motorists. Deep gullies formed by constant erosion and stagnant pools of water have made certain sections nearly impassable, forcing drivers to take long, winding detours. Commuters said a journey that should take less than an hour now stretches almost to double the time, resulting in increased fuel costs, vehicle breakdowns, and significant delays.

Find Full Story In The Link

Oyo Govt Pays Over N300m Compensation For Circular Road, Bridge Projects

Culled

Oyo State Government has disclosed the payment of over N300m as compensation to building and landowners on Circular Road, and for the construction of overhead bridges at the Ajia end of the road and along the Iseyin/Ogbomoso Road.

The Commissioner for Lands and Urban Development, Mr Williams Akin-Funmilayo, made this known during the payment of compensation to other land and building owners at the conference room of the Ministry of Lands on Thursday.

He said the payment is in fulfilment of Governor Seyi Makinde's promise to the affected building and landowners on the Circular Road.

“The governor shares your feelings and pains, hence the directive for prompt payment of compensation to the affected land and building owners.

“We have paid over N300m as compensation to the affected land and building owners since the commencement of the exercise.



Circular road

“The first tranche of the payment was N200m, while another N100m was paid to the owners of buildings affected during the construction of overhead bridges at the Ajia end of the east wing of the Circular Road and along the Iseyin/Ogbomoso Road.

“Today, we are making another payment to over 40 building owners on the Circular Road. As I said earlier, it is in line

with the gesture of Governor Seyi Makinde towards those affected by the construction of the Circular Road.

“The government is sensitive to the plight of the people on the Circular Road; that is why we are minimising the number of houses affected.

“To put the record straight, former governors Rasidi Ladoja and the late Abiola Ajimobi approved 150 metres and

350 metres as corridors, not the present administration.

“The corridor is going to accommodate infrastructure such as hospitals, recreation centres and others, as obtainable in developing countries of the world.

“By the time the project is completed, it will be a source of pride to the people as well as attract local and foreign investors to the state.

Find Full Story In The Link

Local Transport News

C’River Community Seeks Action On Dilapidated Road

Culled
Residents of Ogberia-Ogang in Mbube East community of Ogoja Local Government Area in Cross River State have called on the State Governor, Prince Bassey Otu, to come to their aide by reconstructing the community only bridge on River "Ribikeem" which has been in a state of dilapidation over a long period of time.

A resident of the community and senior lecturer in the department of History and and International Studies, University of Calabar Dr James Aboh, who spoke with South South Punch on Monday said the bridge constructed in the 70s through community efforts has developed structural defects and has become a death trap waiting to snap at any given time.

He said the situation is worse during raining season as the river frequently overflows it bank, occasionally preventing movement of people, students and agricultural products across the villages.

According to him, the community which is one of the leading agricultural community in Ogoja, has suffered deprivation and neglect by previous administrations over a long period of time adding that the roads network are in deplorable conditions while access to health care is poor due to lack of healthcare facilities. There is no electricity supply over a long time as the electrification project undertaken by the immediate past administration of Governor, Ben Ayade, stalled

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Governor Otu

Lagos To Divert Traffic For Maryland Bridge For Repairs

Culled
The Lagos State Government has issued a traffic advisory ahead of emergency repairs to a damaged section of the wall and the expansion joints on the Maryland Independence Bridge.

Commissioner for Transportation, Oluwaseun Osiyemi, in a press release on Thursday, said that the repair will take place from 11:00 pm to 4:00 am between Saturday, 16 August and Tuesday, 19 August 2025.

Motorists are urged to avoid the area during the repair window and to use alternative routes where possible.

The advisory read, "Motorists inbound Oshodi/Ojuelegba/Stadium/Lagos will be diverted at Maria Lodge in Maryland into the Maryland Bridge to connect Idiroko inwards Anthony to continue their journeys.

"This is because the main carriageway will not be opened to vehicular movement. During the course of the repairs, motorists inbound Ketu/Ikorodu

from Lagos/Stadium/Anthony will have unhindered vehicular movement."

Osiyemi assured the public that traffic management personnel will be deployed to the affected area to minimise inconvenience and manage vehicular movement during the repairs.

He urged motorists to comply with the directives of the officers on the ground to ensure smooth traffic flow.

"Motorists are implored to be patient, as the partial road closure is part of the traffic management plan for the rehabilitation and replacement works on the expansion joints of Maryland Independence Bridge," the advisory also said.

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Motorists are urged to avoid the area during the repair window and to use alternative routes where possible.

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FG Donates CNG Buses To FCT Administration

Culled
The Federal Government, through the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas Initiative, has donated four 50-seater hybrid buses to the Federal Capital Territory Administration, through the FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike.

The Chief Executive Officer and Programme Director of the PCNGi, Mr Michael Oluwagbemi, who made the donation at the minister's office on Thursday, said the President was committed to seeing Nigerians moving around cheaper, safer and reliable.

Oluwagbemi hailed the FCT minister as one of the biggest supporters of the CNG initiative, adding that the donated buses will serve as "foundation asset" for the operation of the new terminals in the city.

"Naturally we looked around and our Federal Capital Territory, having demonstrated great support for this programme, having shown great innovation itself by investing not just in the roads, but bus terminals under the leadership of the minister, popularly known as Mr Project and the Transport Mandate Secretary who provided the



Engr Oluwagbemi

support and the team at FCT, we felt that the FCT should be a major beneficiary of this.

"I look forward to the next two to three years, to an FCT where I will decide, despite the fact that I own numerous vehicles, to leave my vehicle at home and to take one of these buses to town and go to places and work, as is done in other developed countries.

"So, we want to thank you. This is a

Presidential initiative, Mr President wants to see Nigerians move around cheaper, safer and reliable.

"On behalf of the board of the PCNGi and the Management and Staff of the Presidential CNG Initiative, I hand over the keys of these four CNG hybrid buses to you the glory of God, to the service of humanity and for the employment of the people of the FCT," he said.

Receiving the keys on behalf of the FCT

minister, the Mandate Secretary, Transport Secretariat, Chinedu Elechi, thanked the President for the donations, noting that the buses will complement the transportation infrastructure efforts of the FCT Minister.

"So, public transportation is meant to move people from one point to the other, especially those who cannot afford private transportation, or those who can afford private transportation but opt to go on the public system.

"This is why the minister has built roads, bridges, and is now building bus terminals. We have just commissioned two of the modern bus terminals at Mabushi and Kugbo.

"These buses, as good as they look, will be very helpful. We are going to get more buses; the minister is already working on that, and we thank you so very much for this.

"So, on behalf of the minister and the FCTA, we want to thank you, and we say that you should extend our gratitude to Mr President, whose initiative this is, and you too for your hard work," Elechi said.

Find Full Story In The Link

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“

Expressways are not designed for pedestrians. Use a pedestrian bridge, underpass, or designated crossing whenever possible.

”



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Local Transport News

Uba Sani Flags Off 13-Year-Old Abandoned Road

Culled
Governor Uba Sani has performed the ground breaking of the main Karatudu-Romi road in Chikun local government, 13 years after it was abandoned by successive administrations. Speaking at the ceremony, the governor recalled that Sir Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa had awarded the contract of constructing the road but after his death, the project was stalled. Reiterating the importance of the road to the people of Karatudu and Unguwan Romi , he emphasized that his government has been giving priority to rural areas and places where the less privileged live. The Governor promised that the road will be completed in eight months because the project will be executed by a reputable contractor, adding that the company will mobilise to site immediately. "Our government keeps to its promises and we don't play politics of deceit. Our priority is to execute projects that can be verified. That is why in our a little over two years in office, we have awarded over 83 road

contracts and we have completed 31 of them. "Politics is not about propaganda. It is about executing meaningful projects that will impact on peoples lives. Some politicians who had abandoned this area in the past, have now come to deceive you again," he added. Governor Uba Sani clarified that the ground breaking of Karatudu road will cover all the township roads of the area, including Cemetery road, Lusawa road, School road to Karatudu and Jemaá road.



Governor Sani

Culled

The Nigerian Institution of Highways and Transportation Engineers (NIHTE), in partnership with the International Road Federation (IRF), has trained hundreds of engineers to boost Nigeria's road and bridge infrastructure. Speaking at the opening session of the event in Abuja, the National Chairman of NIHTE, Engr. Francis Oriakhi revealed that their synergy with IRF started about a decade after the inception of the institution, with the training of professionals on road construction, designs, and asset management. Oriakhi, represented by the immediate past chairman, Engr. Hassan Saidu said: "The cardinal objective of this workshop is to ensure professional development through capacity building and provision of advocacy for our members. "As part of this capacity-building drive, the institution is partnering with IRF, and the fruitful relationship has led to training for about a thousand engineers, as we are still counting." According to him, the workshop, themed "Managing Road Infrastructure Assets for

NIHTE, IRF Train Engineers To Improve Road Quality

Sustainability", aims to build capacity, advocate for best practices, and equip engineers, particularly those in MDAs and the private sector, with modern design, construction, and asset management techniques. He added, "This is another block coastal design for easy accessibility, affordability to the Highway engineers in the MDAs and private sectors in the construction industry, and we are delighted that the synergy with IRF is working out simultaneously. "The workshop is designed to optimize the performance of the road network over the last circle of its structural infrastructure assets. In essence, it is a process seeking to maintain and improve the performance of the infrastructure assets system.

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FG To Repair Third Mainland Bridge With Over N3trn - Umahi



Third Mainland Bridge

The Minister of Works, David Umahi, said the structural rehabilitation of the Third Mainland Bridge in Lagos State will cost more than ₦3 trillion. Speaking after the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting in Abuja, Umahi said underwater and structural assessments of the bridge revealed severe damage caused by illegal sand mining, erosion, and corrosion to its piles and piers. "The rehabilitation is estimated at ₦3.8 trillion, while a complete rebuild would cost about ₦3.6 trillion," the minister said. "We have approval for at least seven specialist contractors to carry out detailed investigations, designs and bids for

both rehabilitation and new construction under an EPC+F [Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Financing] arrangement." The minister said the findings were similar to those from earlier studies on the Carter Bridge, also in Lagos, which was found to be beyond repair. Umahi said contractor Julius Berger had recommended its full replacement, estimated to cost ₦359 billion. Under the approvals granted by the FEC, the government will advertise for public-private partnership bids to undertake the projects, while exploring funding discussions with international lenders, including Deutsche Bank. The Third Mainland Bridge, inaugurated in 1990, is Nigeria's longest bridge and a critical transport link for Lagos' estimated 20 million residents. Its structural issues have been the subject of periodic maintenance works over the years, but Umahi said recent inspections showed more extensive damage than

previously recorded. Newspaper subscription bundles "The underwater problems are compounded by decades of neglect and human activities that have undermined the bridge's substructure," he said. "We cannot delay. If we decide on rehabilitation, it will require huge resources and specialised engineering. If we opt for a new build, it is slightly less costly but still a massive undertaking." In addition to the Lagos bridges, Umahi said FEC approved interventions for several other damaged bridges across the country, including the Jalingo Bridge in Taraba State, the Ido Bridge (damaged by fire), Keffi Flyover in Nasarawa State, Mokwa Bridge in Niger State, a bridge on the Abuja-Kogi route, bridges on the Lagos-Ibadan corridor hit by vehicles, the Jebba Bridge in Kwara State, and the Itokin-Ikorodu Bridge in Lagos. "These emergency works will be documented and forwarded to the President for approval through the Ministry of Finance," he said.

Umahi also announced that the FEC had allocated ₦493 billion for two major infrastructure projects: the upgrade of the Kano-Katsina Road and the construction of a new Carter Bridge. The 152-kilometre Kano-Katsina Road, previously split into two contracts, has seen significant cost revisions due to economic conditions. Section One, initially awarded in 2013 for ₦14 billion and later revised to ₦24 billion, has now been updated to ₦68 billion. Section Two, awarded in 2019 for ₦29 billion and revised to ₦46 billion, will now cost ₦66.115 billion. Umahi said ₦6 billion and ₦34 billion had been allocated in the 2024 and 2025 budgets, respectively, for Section One, while Section Two will receive ₦80 billion over the same period. The minister emphasised that bridge and road infrastructure are key to economic growth and national connectivity. He said the government would use the EPC+F model and PPP arrangements to reduce reliance on budgetary allocations for large-scale works.

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Importers Demand Audit Of 7% Surcharge As Port Development Stalls

Culled
Importers and clearing agents have called for an immediate public audit of the utilisation of revenue generated from the seven per cent port surcharge on cargo clearance at the seaports.

The seven per cent surcharge on imports, also known as port development levy, is dedicated to funding port reconstruction and development, and it is paid into the coffers of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). Newspaper subscription bundles

But stakeholders noted that the surcharge has become an unsustainable burden on businesses as the cost of clearing cargo is at an all-time high, with importers, exporters, clearing agents, freight forwarders and manufacturers facing unprecedented operational pressure.

In a letter addressed to the President, Bola Tinubu, the Africa Association of Professional Freight Forwarders and Logistics of Nigeria (APFFLON) said that



Ogunojemite

with port terminals private hands. drives up import costs, already concessioned According to the letter disrupts supply chains to private operators, the signed by the President and pushes many of APFFLON, Frank legitimate businesses Ogunojemite, port users into financial distress. The Guardian gathered the surcharge no longer holds, as the bulk of port have received no direct The Guardian gathered infrastructure and value or improved that when clearing goods operational responsi- service from this charge. at the ports, an importer pricing system to remove overlapping levies bilities are now in It added that the levy only is required to pay four per

cent foreign common surcharge (FCS) tax code, representing the newly revived four per cent charge on the free-on-board (FOB), followed by the 20 per cent on duty payment, a 15 per cent Nigerian Automotive Kevy, 0.5 per cent ETL, 7.5 per cent value added tax (VAT) and the seven per cent port surcharge.

“At a time when the nation is confronted with severe economic distress, characterised by escalating inflation, volatile exchange rates, and a weakening Naira, this surcharge has become an unsustainable burden on businesses and the Nigerian people.

“While we acknowledge and commend the Federal Government’s efforts at revenue generation and infrastructure development, we believe that burdening trade stakeholders at such a fragile economic moment, risks stifling productivity, discouraging formal trade, and fueling inflation,” the group stated.

It called for an immediate downward review of the surcharge, a public audit of the revenue it generates and a transparent, harmonised port pricing system to remove overlapping levies and reduce bottlenecks in cargo clearance.

Find Full Story In The Link



Abandoned Calabar-Oban-Ekang road

Motorists plying the Calabar–Oban–Ekang Road in Akamkpa Local Government Area, Cross River State, can now heave a sigh of relief as the Federal Government commenced the long-awaited rehabilitation of the road leading up to the Cameroon border on Wednesday.

The road linking the state to the Republic of Cameroon has been in a state of disrepair, causing commuters to spend endless hours on a journey that should ordinarily take one to two hours.

The flag-off followed an earlier petition to the Governor of Cross River State, Sen. Bassey Otu, the Senator representing Cross River

FG Flags Off Construction Of Calabar-Oban-Ekang Road

South Senatorial District, Sen. Asuquo Ekpenyong, FERMA, and the Senate House Committee on NDDC, as well as the Senate House Committee on FERMA and the Niger Delta Development Commission.

The Guardian learnt that the petition, championed by the Chairman of the local council, Hon. Felix Akposi, and bolstered by the legislative support of the member representing Akamkpa II in the Cross River State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Linus Etim, triggered swift action on the project.

Speaking at the ceremony held at the Sen. Gershom Bassey Town Hall in Oban, Hon. Akposi described the Calabar–Oban–Ekang Road as “critical infrastructure” capable of transforming the fortunes of Akamkpa, the state, and Nigeria as a whole. Newspaper subscription bundles

“As a local government, we have tried palliative works on this road—not because it’s our direct responsibility, but because our people depend on it

as their main link to the outside world and source of livelihood. Those efforts gave little relief, so we reached out to the right stakeholders, and today we are here for the flag-off,” Akposi said.

He thanked Governor Otu for his prompt response upon receiving the petition, as well as Senator Ekpenyong for championing the cause in the National Assembly, which led to the road being included in the 2024 budget.

“We have waited so long, since the implementation of the 2024 budget could not come immediately, we decided to take another step, and here we are today. Succour has finally come to our people. Businesses would thrive, the general economy in the area would be revamped, whereas the local government and the state would also feel the ripple effects,” he concluded.

Representing Senator Ekpenyong, Hon. Oqua Oqua commended the local government chairman and Rt.

Hon. Etim for their advocacy, noting that the senator had moved a motion on the road at the Senate floor and worked to secure federal intervention. He announced that the project had been awarded to FaithPlant Construction Company, an indigenous firm from the area, and urged the community to protect the contractor’s equipment and materials.

FaithPlant’s representative, Engr. Henry, assured stakeholders of a standard, efficient, and timely delivery despite the ongoing rainy season. He called for the elimination of undue community taxes, which he said could hamper progress.

Community leaders, and critical stakeholders, including Ntufam Emmanuel Anom, Rt. Hon. Linus Etim, Hon. (Mrs.) Emilia Katame (Vice Chairman of Akamkpa LGA), and Ntufam Richard Effa, praised the synergy between the Governor and the Senator, and expressed optimism about the project’s impact.

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Culled
Russia wants to wet lease aircraft from Ethiopian Airlines (ET, Addis Ababa International) and has proposed collaboration on aircraft maintenance, noting Ethiopia's existing Boeing a c c r e d i t e d M R O capabilities, according to a statement from the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA).
This follows a visit to Addis Ababa by a Russian delegation led by trade commissioner Yaroslav V. Tarasyuk, which met with Ethiopia's Civil Aviation Authority Director General Yohannes Abera on July 29 to explore expanded bilateral cooperation in aviation, including aircraft leasing, maintenance, and equipment supply.
Facing challenges acquiring additional aircraft during the Russian peak summer season, the Russian delegation sought clarity

Russia Seeks ACMI Deal With Ethiopian Airlines



from the E C A A r e g a r d i n g the regulations for wet-leasing from Ethiopian Airlines. They also expressed interest in supplying

Ethiopia with Russian-made navigational aid equipment, stating that Russia provides such equipment to many Indian airports. Thirdly, the Russian

delegation expressed interest in building and expanding MRO facilities in Ethiopia. "As is known, Ethiopia has a Boeing-accredited MRO, and if Russia is

interested in joining this, there will be an opportunity," the regulator stated. Tarasyuk reaffirmed Russia's readiness to finalise a bilateral air

transport agreement between the countries. While a bilateral agreement had been signed previously, a new air transport agreement, compliant with Russian law, is in progress and Russia is eager for its speedy conclusion.
He also requested Ethiopia's backing in Russia's bid for re-election to the council of member states during the upcoming 42nd session of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), set to take place from September 23 to October 3 in Montréal.
Abera welcomed Russia's p r o p o s a l s , a f f i r m e d opportunities for Russian suppliers to participate in competitive tenders for aviation equipment, and expressed willingness to review Russian collaboration offers regarding MRO facilities after further consultation with stakeholders.
Find Full Story In The Link

Culled
Despite ongoing reforms and efforts to construct new ports and rehabilitate existing ones, world powers, including the United States and Russia, are actively seeking to secure access to the Port of Lomé in Togo which has emerged as a key maritime hub in West Africa.

The increase in volume of trade between Asia and West Africa has seen Lomé port transform into a key regional container port.
Major ocean carriers, specifically MSC, have responded by redeploying ultra-large container vessels

US, Russia Ditch Nigerian Ports, Seeks Access To Togo Ports

(ULCVs) to the route.

This has come as a major boost for liner connectivity of West African ports including Lomé.

In view of these trade advantages, the U.S has pledged to expand its African market access through Lomé port.

Last week, the U.S Embassy in Lomé, led by the Chargé d'Affaires, Richard C. Michaels, conducted a tour of the port facility.

The delegation also held a meeting with the management of Lomé Container Terminal, LCT, to explore commercial opportunities for U.S businesses.

"With advanced deep-water capabilities, cutting-edge equipment, and an annual throughput exceeding 30 million tons, Lomé offers U.S businesses unmatched access to African markets.

"Ongoing infrastructure expansion, including a dry-port and industrial zone, further enhances the port's role as a growing gateway," commented U.S Embassy in Togo.

The port tour followed shortly after U.S President, Donald Trump, met five African

leaders in Washington.

The African leaders were largely from countries in West Africa, including Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania and Senegal.

The meeting with Trump concentrated on trade opportunities for both sides, at a time the U.S government is cutting aid in Africa and other regions. Meanwhile, Russia has ratified its military cooperation agreement with Togo, which was initially signed early this year.

As per the agreement, Russia and Togo will jointly hold military exercises, training exchanges and weapons and military equipment support.

Notably, the agreement also covers support in hydrography, navigation and combating piracy.

According to some observers, the agreement will give Russia unfettered access to Togo's strategic seaport of Lomé. Visit by Russian military ships to ports in Togo is covered by the cooperation.

"Togo is considered the most organised and equipped in Tropical Africa. For example, the busiest seaport in West Africa is located on its territory," said Vladimir Gruzdev, a member of the Russian Government Commission on Legislative Activity, which drafted the ratification law of the defence.
Find Full Story In The Link

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NLC Threatens Strike, Issues Seven Day Ultimatum To FG

Culled:
The Nigeria Labour Congress on Thursday issued a seven-day ultimatum to the Federal Government over its failure to constitute the governing board of the National Pension Commission. The Labour Centre also accused the government of diverting workers' funds through the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund. According to a communiqué signed by its President, Joe Ajaero, the Central Working Committee of the NLC met on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, to deliberate on urgent issues affecting Nigerian workers, the trade union movement, and the nation at large.

The meeting addressed the leadership crisis in the Edo State Council of the NLC, what it described as alarming developments in the NSITF, the governance vacuum in PENCOM, and the broader state of the nation. The communiqué noted that the CWC expressed outrage at the ongoing assault on workers' social protection rights through the Federal Government's diversion of 40% of workers' contributions to the national coffers as “revenue,” describing it as a flagrant violation



Ajaero

of the statutes establishing the NSITF. “Equally condemnable is the new administration's false claim of ownership of the NLC National Headquarters, a property owned by Nigerian workers; the resort to cyber and media bullying of the trade unions and leadership, coupled with covert moves to amend the NSITF Act in a manner that would disenfranchise workers and give the government full

control over the funds. “The CWC warns that these actions represent a direct attack on workers' rights, hard-earned resources, and the principle of tripartite governance enshrined in international labour standards. “The Congress affirms that the NSITF belongs to the Nigerian working class and will mobilise all legitimate means to ensure workers' interests are protected,” Ajaero said.

On the steps to be taken, the NLC president stated, “The NSITF must account for and return all diverted funds within seven working days from today. “The PENCOM board must be properly constituted in full compliance with the law within seven working days from today. “The Pension Commission must submit to the NLC a full status report of the funds within the same period.

Find Full Story In The Link

US Approves Sale Of Bombs, Others Worth \$346m To Nigeria



Nigeria and the US Flag

Culled:
The United States Government has approved a possible Foreign Military Sale to Nigeria of munitions, precision bombs, precision rockets, and related equipment valued at \$346 million. The approval was made a determination

contained in a statement from the Defence Security Cooperation Agency, dated August 13, but received via email on Thursday. The agency said it has notified the US Congress of the potential sale. “The State Department has

made a determination

approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Nigeria of Munitions, Precision Bombs, and Precision Rockets and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$346 million. The Defence Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale today, ” the statement partly read. Under the request, Nigeria seeks to purchase 1,002 MK-82 general purpose 500-pound bombs; 1,002 MXU-650 Air Foil Groups for Paveway II GBU-12; 515 MXU-1006 Air Foil Groups for Paveway II GBU-58; 1,517 MAU-169 or MAU-209 computer control groups for Paveway II GBU-12/GBU-58; 1,002 FMU-152 joint programmable fuzes; and 5,000 Advanced Precision Kill Weapon

System II all-up-rounds. “The Government of Nigeria has requested to buy one thousand two (1,002) MK-82 general purpose 500 lb bombs; one thousand two (1,002) MXU-650 Air Foil Groups (AFGs) for 500 lb Paveway II GBU-12; five hundred fifteen (515) MXU-1006 AFGs for 250 lb Paveway II GBU-58; one thousand five hundred seventeen (1,517) MAU-169 or MAU-209 computer control group (CCG) for Paveway II GBU-12/GBU-58; one thousand two (1,002) FMU-152 joint programmable fuzes; and five thousand (5,000) Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System II (APKWS II) all-up-rounds (AURs) (consisting of one each WGU-59/B guidance section (GS); high-explosive warhead; and MK66-4 rocket motor),” it stated.

Find Full Story In The Link

Nigeria To Partner Indonesia For Inspire Scholarship

Culled:
The Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology in Nigeria has said that the Ministry is ready to partner with the University of Indonesia for staff participation in the scholarship programme in Indonesia, specifically the Internship in Research (INSPIRE) Initiative.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, Mrs. Esuabana Nko-Asanye disclosed this when the new Indonesian Ambassador to Nigeria, His Excellency Bambang Suharto, paid her a courtesy visit in Abuja, Nigeria's capital.

The Permanent Secretary said that Indonesia and Nigeria have enjoyed a mutual and long-standing relationship that contributes to the socio-economic development of both countries. She also noted the need for Indonesia and Nigeria to collaborate to digitalize systems and train staff of the Ministry to improve productivity, thereby contributing to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country. The Permanent Secretary emphasized the need to invest more in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to build skilled manpower that can compete favourably with foreign counterparts.

Esuabana commended the new Indonesian Ambassador for building on the long-standing relationship, which will lead to further technological advancement for both countries. Earlier, the new Indonesian Ambassador to Nigeria, His Excellency Bambang Suharto, said that the purpose of his visit was to consolidate the already existing relationship and to collaborate in the area of science and technology, noting that Nigeria and Indonesia share common characteristics such as population and agriculture, among others.

He also said that with these similarities, the two nations can work together in science by applying technology to boost the blue economy, move from waste to wealth, and create opportunities for individuals to become entrepreneurs who will contribute to the country's growth and development.

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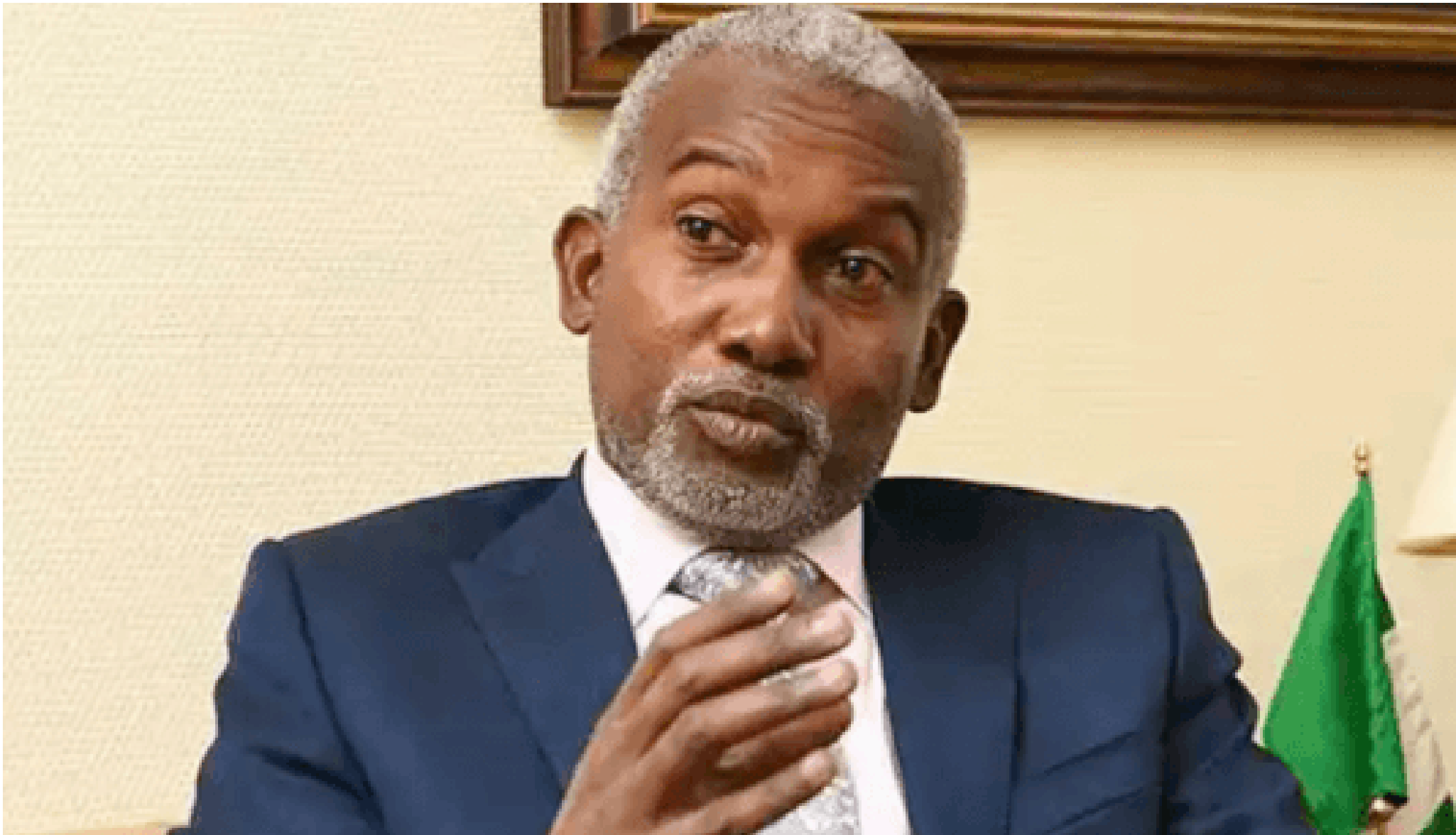
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■ Nigeria

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Tuggar

Nigeria, Philippines Move To Deepen Labour, Migration Ties, Eye New Pacts

Culled:
Nigeria and the Republic of the Philippines have sought to strengthen bilateral cooperation, particularly in labour migration, worker protection, and anti-human trafficking. This came to the fore when Yusuf Tuggar, Nigeria's Minister of Foreign Affairs met with Hans Leo Cacdac, the Philippines' Secretary of Migrant Workers, in Abuja on Wednesday. Tuggar hailed the Philippines as a "longstanding friend" of Nigeria, recalling the contributions of Filipino professionals, especially in education, aviation, and maritime sectors since Nigeria's

independence. "Many Nigerians of my generation were taught by Filipino teachers, particularly in STEM fields. These ties extend beyond knowledge-sharing; they help build cultural bridges," he said. The minister underscored the alignment of the visit with President Bola Tinubu's 4D foreign policy agenda, Democracy, Development, Demography, and Diaspora, adding that Nigeria seeks to adopt aspects of the Philippines' globally acclaimed system for managing overseas workers. He also pointed to Nigeria's Technical

Aid Corps (TAC) programme, which deploys skilled Nigerians to African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries, noting plans to evolve it into a revenue-generating enterprise while expanding international partnerships. Cacdac conveyed President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to deepen labour relations with Nigeria, describing the country as a "safe haven" for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). He confirmed that the Philippines is exploring the establishment of a Migrant Workers Office within its Abuja embassy to better serve Filipino nationals and strengthen liaison with

Nigerian authorities. "Our goal is to strengthen people-to-people ties through institutional cooperation, sharing best practices on labour governance, migration management, and anti-trafficking efforts," he said. The Philippine delegation included senior officials such as John Al Rasul, Deputy Minister for International Cooperation Concerns Juleen Abito, Assistant Secretary for Pre-Employment and Giant Mendez, Director for Anti-Illegal Recruitment and Human Trafficking alongside staff of the Philippine Embassy in Abuja. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

FG, WTO Partner To Empower 146 Nigeria Women

The federal government and the World Trade Organisation WTO, have concluded plans to empower a total of 146 Nigerian women. Okonjo-Iweala, Director General of the World Trade Organisation WTO, said the federal government and the WTO launched a women exporters fund for the digital economy, to empower Nigerian women. Speaking with the State House journalists after meeting with

President Bola Tinubu at the Presidential Villa, Abuja on Thursday, Okonjo-Iweala, as said the Nigerian women will benefit from the funds managed by the WTO and the International Trade Center ITC. The WTO DG, who applauded President Tinubu's economic reforms, Well. It was a very good visit, and thanks to Mr. President for making the time. we came to brief him about something very joyful that we

did today, with the help of the First Lady. She disclosed that the fund is jointly managed by the WTO, the World Trade organiser, and the ITC, the International Trade Center in Geneva. "The idea is to help support the economy and support women, to be able to weather the storms of the economy and be able to create jobs for themselves for others," she said. "This is part of a social safety net, to

help support Nigerian women to contribute more to the economy and to themselves. "So, we came to brief Mr. President about this fund, which we launched and which the Minister of Trade and Investment has been shepherding in Nigeria, along with the Nigeria export promotion Council." About 67,000 Nigeria women had competed out of which 146 won globally to be part of this new initiative. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

DRIVING SCHOOLS AND SAFETY ALLIANCE AFRICA - DSSAA

DSSAA INITIATIVES AND CAUSES

- 1.African Institute of Driving Instructors and Road Safety professionals (ADRIP) - This will be an online Academy for the training of Driving School Instructors and Road Safety professionals.
- 2.Africa Road Transport Safety Summit and Exhibition (ARTSS EXPO) - The largest gathering of Researchers and Industry Leaders in Road Transport Safety featuring exhibitions of technology devices and Innovations.
- 3.Africa Safe School Volunteer Project (ASSVP) - A social responsibility project that members of DSSAA will get directly involved in their various countries which includes volunteering to control traffic and help Children cross the Road during school hours in schools, funding installation of STOP Road signs and marking of zebra crossings at school Intersections,as well as carrying out the training of children on Road Safety practices in schools.
- 4.Africa Road Safety Partnerships and Research board (ARSPARB)- A hub for the advancement of partnerships with development agencies, National Governments and corporations as well as a Research Faculty for Road Safety Research Projects.

About DSSAA

Driving Schools and Safety Alliance Africa - DSSAA is Africa's premier Professional Association of Driving School Owners, Instructors, Driver Assessors and Road Safety professionals.

It is registered in the Gambia and UK with National offices in all the Capital cities in Africa.

DSSAA aims to bring all the critical stakeholders together to build the capacity of Driving School operators and support Road Safety through advocacy, public education, lobbying, fund raising, training and certification.

We are the promoters of various Road Transport Safety initiatives and programmes among which are the African Institute of Driving Instructors and Road Safety professionals (ADRIP), Africa Road Transport Safety Exhibition (ARTSS EXPO), Africa Safe school volunteer project (ASSVP) and the Africa Road Safety Partnership and Research board (ARSPARB) domiciled in our Overseas Office in Bournemouth United Kingdom.

Membership is open to Road Safety advocates all over the world.

DSSAA

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There are available grants from National Governments, multinational corporations and NGOS.

The leadership of DSSAA is committed to pursuing these grants at the African Union Secretariat, Ecowas NGO Roundtable and other multilateral Initiatives and making them available to Members only.

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Membership gives you access to our robust learning portal where you get latest Road Safety Research, scholarship opportunities and internships. Admission to ADPRIP is at a discounted rate. Our interfaces with Government authorities gives you Industry advantages.

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You are entitled to use DSSAA Member logo on your website, office branding, Letterhead and Business Cards.

Our community development projects such as the Safe School Volunteer Project as well as our Road Safety advocacy activities creates a positive brand footprint for all our Members and Affiliates. Membership of DSSAA elevates your Corporate ethical persona.

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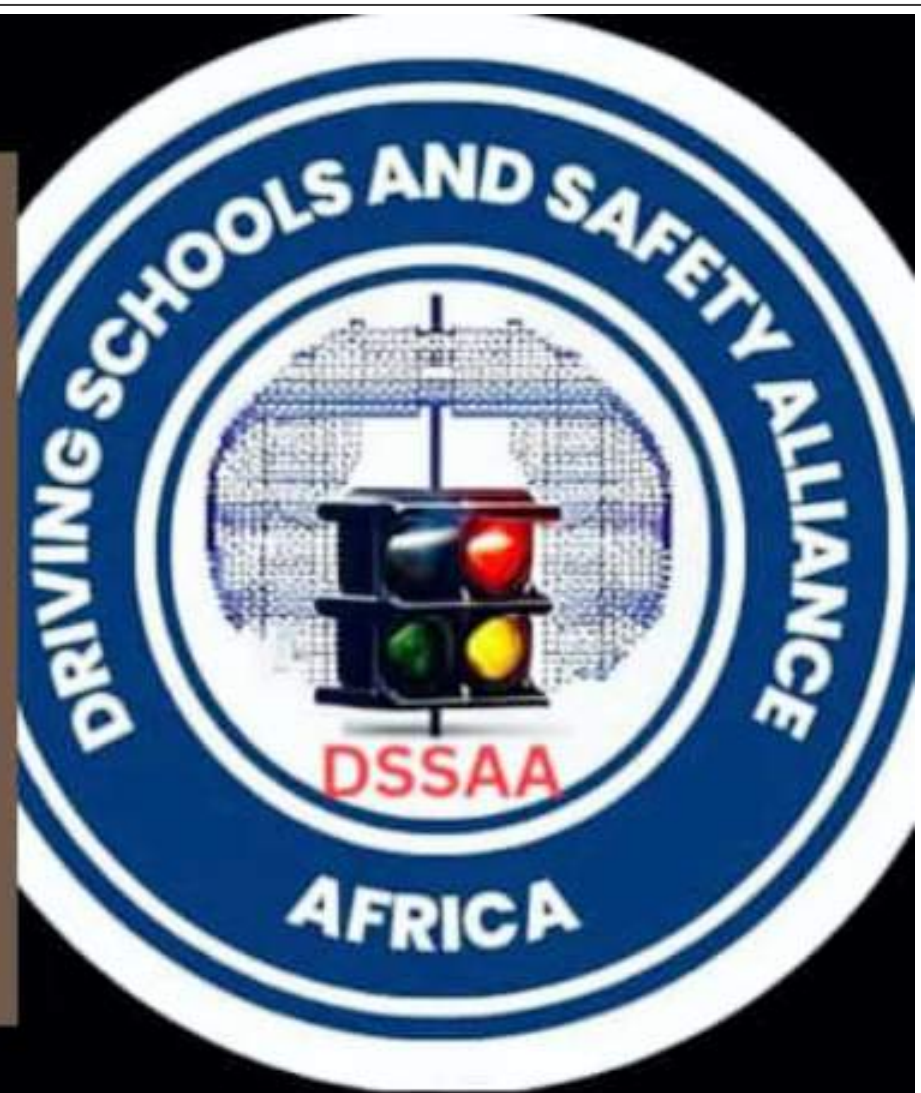


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