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Edo Begins Palliative Work On FG Roads, Vows To Fight Erosion

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has flagged off palliative work on failed portions of federal

roads in Edo North Senatorial District. The Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Fred Itua, in a statement on Thursday, said the failed portions of roads flagged off by the governor are about 9.61 km, which includes Auchi-

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Fri, August 1st 2025

E - NEWSPAPER

FEC Approves Full Rehabilitation Of Lagos Airport Terminal

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modernisation of International Terminal One at the Murtala Muhammed Interna-

tional Airport in Lagos, marking the centerpiece of a sweeping ₦900 billion aviation

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Aviation, Finance Ministries Seek Investment For Economy

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Five Dead, Five Rescued In Multiple Crashes In Lagos

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Muritala Mohammed International Airport

Aviation Ministry Warns Against Relocating NSIB To SGF Office

The Federal Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development has strongly opposed the proposed amendment to transfer the Nigeria

Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) from its current supervisory ministry to the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the

Federation (OSGF). The Ministry insists that such a move could undermine the Bureau's effectiveness and

contravene international standards. Speaking at a one-day public hearing on the Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Safety

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FG Approves Promotion For 100 FRSC Commanders

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Local Transport News

Aviation, Finance Ministries Seek Investment For Economy

Culled

The Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo yesterday received a high-level delegation from the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI), led by its Managing Director, Dr. Armstrong Ume Takang, to explore investment opportunities within the aviation sector as part of broader efforts to reposition the industry as a cornerstone of Nigeria's economic transformation.

Accompanied by representatives of their Qatari strategic partner, Power International Holdings, the MOFI team highlighted several potential areas of collaboration across key segments of the aviation value chain.

Dr. Takang praised the Minister's recent introduction of the Cape Town Convention (CTC) and Irrevocable Deregistration and Export Request Authorisation (IDERA) framework, describing it as a "masterstroke in reform-minded policy innovation critical to unlocking capital inflow and building

a robust aviation sector."

He further noted that these initiatives are aligned with President Bola Tinubu's vision for \$1 trillion economy driven by strategic sectors, including aviation.

In his response, the Minister expressed deep appreciation for the visit and acknowledged the critical role MOFI can play in bridging the gap between government policy and long-term private capital investment.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Keyamo

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Speaking at a one-day public hearing on the Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) Act No. 35 of 2022, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dr. Ibrahim Abubakar Kana, expressed the Ministry's official position.

The event was organized by the House of Representatives Joint Committees on Aviation and Special Duties.

Dr. Kana, who represented the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo (SAN),

emphasized that while NSIB's mandate covers multiple transport sectors — including aviation, maritime, rail, and road — its technical and institutional roots are deeply grounded in aviation.

He noted that the Bureau was originally established based on international standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), particularly under Article 26 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

"The NSIB should remain within the purview of the Aviation Ministry to retain access to the Ministry's deep pool of aviation and aerospace expertise," Dr. Kana said.

"This arrangement ensures compliance with both national and international regulatory frameworks, promotes operational support without interfering with the Bureau's investigative independence, and allows for faster response to safety challenges due to streamlined communication." [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

NNPCL Targets 50% Discount On Vehicle CNG Conversion For Nigerians

Culled

The Federal Government may rake in N796bn annually from the introduction of a five per cent surcharge on locally produced and imported petrol, based on its new tax policy slated to take effect from January 1, 2026, an analysis by The PUNCH has revealed.

The five per cent surcharge on refined petroleum products is contained in the Nigeria Tax Administration Act, one of four tax reform bills signed into law by President Bola Tinubu on June 26, 2025. Our correspondent obtained a copy of the Act on Wednesday.

However, consumers have opposed the move, stressing that the government had earlier removed fuel subsidies and now plots to impose a five per cent surcharge on fuel, without considering the harsh economic realities nationwide.

This came as oil marketers stated that the five per cent surcharge may further hike the pump prices of refined petroleum products.

The surcharge forms part of



NNPC

government efforts to shore up non-oil revenues and promote fiscal sustainability amid mounting public debt and subsidy-related costs. The policy targets fossil fuel products provided or produced in Nigeria.

Fossil fuel products include petrol, diesel, kerosene, aviation fuel, and Compressed Natural Gas, among others. They are derived from the

processing of fossil fuels such as coal, petroleum, and natural gas.

However, items exempted from the new tax are clean or renewable energy products, as well as household kerosene, cooking gas, and Compressed Natural Gas.

Findings by The PUNCH showed that the government would garner about N796bn annually from only petrol once

the five per cent surcharge takes effect.

An analysis by our correspondent, using the volume of imported and refined petrol, showed that the government could earn N796bn based on the 2024 estimates of national consumption and refining capacity production data provided by the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Local Transport News

Motorists Lament Yenagoa's Poor Road Network

Culled

Motorists and commuters plying Harbour road leading up to Swali Ultra-Modern Market in Yenagoa have expressed concern over the deplorable condition of the road.

The condition of the road worsened due to the heavy rainfall in recent weeks.

The bad spots located at Oil Mill Road Junction, Shell Ramp, the junction leading to the slaughter and Trinity Road Junction now cause traffic jams on regular basis.

The situation is even more worrisome on market days which are usually Monday and Thursday every week.

Speaking on the condition of the road on Tuesday, a tricycle driver, Abdullahi Musa told South-South PUNCH that the government is aware of the state of the road but has refused to do anything about it.

A commuter, Lucky Teido expressed

worry that if nothing is done to address the situation the road can become impassable as the rainy season continues.

"I wonder what will happen to the road until the rainy season ends. It will be difficult to pass the road. Even now, it is so difficult," Teido stated.

South-South PUNCH could not reach the Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure, Surveyor Moses Teibowei for comment, as his mobile number was not reachable.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



A bad road in Yenagoa

FG Eyes N796bn Annually From 5% To Petrol Surcharge

Culled

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) is working to ensure that Nigerians enjoy a 50 percent discount on the cost of converting their vehicles to run on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

Executive Vice President, Gas, at NNPCL, Mr. Lekan Ogunleye, made the disclosure during an investigative hearing by the House of Representatives Ad-Hoc Committee on the Implementation of the CNG Policy, held Thursday in Abuja.

Ogunleye revealed that NNPCL has appointed a focal person to coordinate with investors interested in gas conversion and emphasised the company's support for private sector involvement, noting that critical infrastructure for the CNG rollout is already in place.

He praised the administration of President Bola Tinubu for reviving the CNG initiative, which he said had previously failed under past efforts.

Also speaking at the hearing, the Project Director of the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas Initiative (PCNGi), Mr. Michael Oluwagbemi, noted a remarkable expansion in the programme, stating that conversion centres have grown from seven to 300 across 24 states.

He revealed that some sectors are already benefitting from free vehicle conversions through partnerships and highlighted the initiative's zero-tolerance policy on corruption, disclosing that two erring staff had recently been dismissed. Oluwagbemi called for increased funding to accelerate the programme and assured the lawmakers that the remaining states would soon be covered. He added that more Nigerian youths are being trained to support the rollout of phase two of the initiative.

In his presentation the Minister of State for Petroleum (GAS) Mr. James Ekperikpe says the Nigerian government has put measures in place to build more CNG conversion centres across the country. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Edo Begins Palliative Work On FG Roads, Vows To Fight Erosion

Culled

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has flagged off palliative work on failed portions of federal roads in Edo North Senatorial District.

The Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Fred Itua, in a statement on Thursday, said the failed portions of roads flagged off by the governor are about 9.61 km, which includes Auchilgarra-Aiyetoro-Unemu-Nekhwa-Aiyegunle-Ikpeshi-Ibillo-Ekor-Ikiran-Oke, all in Edo North Senatorial District.

At the flag off, Okpebholo said the President Bola Tinubu-led administration is concerned about Edo's development and has continued to ensure the people enjoy the dividends of democracy in the state.

He noted that his administration is assuring Edo people that kidnapping, which has become a business, will be a thing of the past in the state.

"Today, we are flagging off these roads to ensure we have good highways in Edo North, Edo Central and Edo South



Governor Okpebholo

Senatorial Districts.

"I was with the President in Abuja last week and he asked me to ensure that failed portions on roads across the state, either federal or state, are rehabilitated."

The governor said that the President is concerned about the people of Edo State ensuring they have good roads, educational system, healthcare,

elements must leave our forests. I assure you that in the next few days, they will be out of our forests.

"I will relocate to Edo North if that is what it will cost me to flush out criminal elements from the area, as I will not leave this to security agencies alone. Together, we will smoke them out of this area."

On the erosion problem facing the Auchilgarra community and its environs, Governor Okpebholo said his administration would do its best to address the issue, but would follow due process.

Speaker, Edo State House of Assembly, Blessing Agbebaku, assured the Governor of the continuous support of the legislative arm of government to ensure he achieves more infrastructural developments across the State.

Okpebholo and his entourage visited the gully erosion site at Water Tanker Road in Auchilgarra, Ughiogwa, Ayogwiri-Uzairue, both in Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

security and other basic necessities of life, in ensuring that Edo people enjoy good governance.

He assured the people of Edo North that his administration would put an end to the kidnapping business in the state. The Governor noted, "I assure you that the business of kidnapping will never thrive here. We must take decisive action as these criminal

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Local Transport News

Otti Orders Rehabilitation Of Road To Ultimium Factory

Culled

Abia State Governor, Dr Alex Otti says he has directed the state Commissioner for Works, Don Otumchere to immediately rehabilitate the road leading to the Ultimium Limited along Adaelu Road, a multimillion-dollar beverage manufacturing factory located at Osioma.

Governor Otti in a post on his X handle on Thursday explained that the directive is aimed at improving access and support production and creating wider benefits for the Osioma industrial cluster.

He further informed that he met with Mr. Austin Ufomba, the CEO of Ultimium Limited, who led a team to brief him on the completion of the first phase of their beverage manufacturing factory in Aba.

He stated that the multimillion-dollar investment marks a major milestone in his administration's efforts to grow Abia's economy through industrial development. "Ultimium Limited's decision to start operations before seeking government intervention reflects the seriousness and

confidence of their team.

"I thanked them for believing in Abia and choosing to invest here. Their plan to serve the African market from Osioma speaks volumes about the scale and ambition of the project.

We also discussed security. Abia remains one of the safest destinations for business in Nigeria.

"Our team continues to strengthen security coverage across the state, and we remain committed to creating the right environment for businesses to thrive.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Governor Otti

Culled

The Federal Government has approved the promotion of 51 Corps Commanders and 49 Deputy Corps Commanders in the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC).

FRSC spokesman, Assistant Corps Marshal Olusegun Ogungbemide, announced this in a statement on Thursday.

He said the approval was granted by Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Sen. George Akume, who serves as the supervising authority of the FRSC.

According to him, the approval entails the elevation of 51 Deputy Corps Commanders to the rank of Corps Commander, 49 Assistant Corps Commanders to the rank of Deputy Corps Commander.

The FRSC spokesman said that the SGF expressed satisfaction with the "transparency and merit-based" approach of the exercise, and commended the Corps' leadership for maintaining objectivity and professionalism.

Ogungbemide said: "The SGF emphasised that the promotion exercise reflects the current administration's commitment to

FG Approve Promotion For 100 FRSC Commanders

rewarding excellence, diligence, and hard work.

"He urged the newly promoted officers to rededicate themselves to the Corps' corporate mission of eradicating road traffic crashes and promoting a safer motoring environment across the nation."

He said the Corps Marshal, Shehu Mohammed, had congratulated the newly promoted officers, and stressed that the recognition was as a result of their dedication and performance.

"The Corps Marshal reiterated his commitment to enhancing staff welfare across the board, calling on all FRSC personnel to remain focused and contribute actively towards achieving the Corps' strategic goals and safety mandate," he said.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Five Dead, Five Rescued In Multiple Crashes In Lagos



The accidental car

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) has confirmed the occurrence of two profoundly tragic road crashes along the Lekki-Epe Expressway, which claimed five lives and left five others severely injured, once again amplifying the dire repercussions of excessive speeding and gross negligence of traffic regulations.

The first catastrophic incident unfolded during the early hours of yesterday at Abijo Bus Stop, precisely under the pedestrian bridge on the inward Epe corridor, where a Mitsubishi pick-up van bearing registration number AKD 733 JM, travelling at an exceedingly perilous speed, lost control and crashed into a

stationary Craneburg Construction Company equipment, lawfully parked. In a statement by Director, Public Affairs and Enlightenment Department of LASTMA, Adebayo Taofiq, the colossal impact resulted in the instantaneous death of four occupants (three males and one female) whose bodies were recovered lifeless at the scene of the accident.

Demonstrating their operational dexterity and swift emergency response capabilities, LASTMA operatives successfully rescued three additional female occupants from the wreckage. These survivors were promptly stabilised and handed over to officers of the Eleko Division of the Nigeria Police Force for onward transfer to nearby medical institutions for urgent care and further evaluation.

Nigerian Airways plane models

In an equally heart-rending but separate overnight incident, a Toyota Escort Jeep, also travelling at an ungovernable speed, crashed

violently into a parked Dangote truck on the Frajend Group axis inward Bogije, along the same Lekki-Epe Expressway.

The devastating collision resulted in the immediate death of the SUV driver. At the same time, two other passengers, grievously injured and entrapped within the crushed vehicle, were meticulously extricated by LASTMA personnel after a laborious and delicate rescue operation.

Upon successful recovery, both survivors were immediately placed in the custody of officers from the Elemoro Police Division, who ensured their swift transfer to medical facilities for life-saving treatment.

General Manager of LASTMA, Olalekan Bakare-Oki, expressed profound grief and extended his deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the deceased, describing the accidents as a catastrophic and preventable tragedy. "We stand in solidarity with the bereaved families during this moment of unspeakable loss and anguish. It is

our earnest prayer that the Almighty grants them the strength to bear these irreparable losses," Mr. Bakare-Oki remarked solemnly.

The General Manager issued a stern and unequivocal warning to all motorists, including private vehicle owners and commercial operators, to refrain from dangerous driving practices, particularly excessive speeding, which remains one of the most egregious infractions contributing to road fatalities.

"These deeply saddening occurrences serve as grim reminders of the catastrophic consequences that stem from the willful violation of established speed regulations. The Lagos State Government has made substantial investments in traffic control infrastructure, ranging from road signage and speed limiters to high-visibility furniture, to mitigate such disasters.

Motorists are hereby implored to abide by these measures, which are designed solely for the preservation of human life," he added emphatically.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



20 LITERS

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- Rub down old gloss painted surfaces with abrasive paper.
- Stir content very well
- Add little quantity of thinner if necessary
- Apply with brush or roller
- Close firmly when not in use.

DIRECTION FOR USE:

- Mix paints in well-ventilated areas
- Spray paint outdoors or in special booths
- Never smoke or have any source of fire in the vicinity
- Wear a respirator or paint mask
- Avoid electrocution!



20 LITERS

STANDARD QUALITY EMULSION

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QUALITY EMULSION

...quality speaks

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20 LITERS

QUALITY EMULSION

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FEC Approves Rehabilitation Of Lagos Airport Terminal

Culled

The Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved the full rehabilitation, upgrade and modernisation of International Terminal One at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos, marking the centerpiece of a sweeping ₦900 billion aviation infrastructure plan across Nigeria.

The decision was announced on Thursday following the council's meeting presided over by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the State House, Abuja.

Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, said the project, awarded to China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), will strip the aging terminal down to its structural core before rebuilding it with new mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems.

The project, funded entirely through the Renewed Hope Infrastructure Development Fund, will be executed over a period of 22 months.



Murtala Mohammed International Airport

“We have decided to strip it down to only the carcass and then do the complete M&E again,” Keyamo said, emphasizing the administration's departure from patchwork repairs toward a comprehensive overhaul of key aviation facilities. Also, in Lagos, the Terminal One project, Council approved the total cost of all Lagos-related airport works amounts to ₦712.26 billion, making it one of the most significant

single investments in Nigeria's aviation sector in recent years.

In a move to improve security at the Lagos airport, the council approved a ₦49.9 billion perimeter fencing project.

The 14.6-kilometre metal fence will feature an intrusion detection system, CCTV cameras, solar-powered floodlights, and a patrol road.

Keyamo noted that the security enhancements will include a modern command center capable of detecting any movement near the fence in real-time.

“Anyone or anything close to the fence will be detected immediately, and the location pinpointed,” he said.

The Council also greenlit upgrades at other key airports across the country. At Malam Aminu Kano International Airport in Kano, FEC approved ₦46.39 billion for the rehabilitation of both runways and taxiways, along with an upgrade of the airfield lighting to Category Two (CAT 2) standards.

The 24-week project is expected to significantly improve operational safety and reduce weather-related flight disruptions.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Road Users Groan Over Dilapidated Benin-Warri Road



Benin-Warri road

Road users face harrowing trips on the dilapidated Benin-Warri highway, with commuters and transporters losing hours in gridlock and chaos.

A visit to the road on Wednesday revealed a pitiable condition as the federal highway has become a death trap.

In the Benin axis, places like Limit Road junction, Agip, PZ, and Adesuwa junction are filled with potholes, while the ongoing construction has stopped with no contractor on site.

The bad portions at Santana Market Junction, filled with heavy stones, have become a nightmare for small vehicle users, who risk

damaging their tyres while trying to navigate the area.

Another major trouble spot is the Ologbo axis, a border town between Edo and Delta states, where vehicles, especially heavy-duty trucks, often spend days before they can cross into either state.

The situation is the same in Warri as vehicles have to connect the town by using inner roads, as the major road has become an eyesore.

Angered by the state of the road, a group, Southern Solidarity Alliance, in a statement on Wednesday, expressed grave concern over the unbearable and deteriorating condition of the road.

The statement, signed by the National Coordinator, Ndubuisi Okafor and the Directorate of Publicity, Orakpor Ogheneganaye, lamented that the major federal highway had now turned into a symbol of abandonment and untold hardship.

The group also said that the road, which was once a key economic route

connecting the South-South to the rest of Nigeria, was in ruins.

“Commuters spend endless hours navigating through waterlogged ditches and deep craters.

“Trailers fall, buses break down, and innocent lives are lost daily. The people are angry. The people are in pain. And the nation must not look away,” the statement read.

It called on President Bola Tinubu to break the silence and take immediate action.

“The Benin-Warri Road has gone beyond seasonal repair. It needs urgent and complete reconstruction.

“This road represents the suffering and resilience of the people of Edo and Delta states who continue to pay the price for federal neglect.

“Mr President, this is your moment to show leadership. Your silence will only deepen the wounds and widen the gap between the centre and the forgotten corners of this nation,” it added.

The group demanded action, asking

the Federal Ministry of Works to mobilise equipment and resources to commence a full rehabilitation.

“The government must end the cycle of temporary patches and start a lasting solution with proper engineering, flood control, drainage and supervision.

“This is not just about fixing a road. It is about restoring hope, rebuilding trust and affirming that every region matters under your administration,” it added.

A regular road user, Tony Osauzo, who is also a senior journalist in Edo, said a journey which used to take him 45 minutes to get to Warri from Benin now takes five hours, depending on how the driver is able to navigate his way.

He said, “Those portions at the Benin end of the road have remained like that over the years. Successive governments keep saying they are working on the road, but no one can really say what is happening, as it has become a topsy-turvy affair.”

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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Emirates Expands In China, Launches Hangzhou As 5th Mainland Destination

Culled
Emirates has officially launched its new daily flights to Hangzhou city, making it the fifth gateway in mainland China and further expanding its East Asia network.

On July 31, 2025, Emirates announced that this marks the airline's second new destination in under a month, following the addition of Shenzhen.

"Adding two new gateways within just one month is a major milestone that underscores our deepening commitment to the Chinese mainland," said Adnan Kazim, Emirates' Deputy President and Chief Commercial Officer. "This expansion also demonstrates the strong momentum our East and Southeast Asia growth strategy has gained over the past year."

The inaugural flight, EK310, arrived at Hangzhou



Xiaoshan International Airport (HGH) on July 30, 2025, receiving a warm welcome from local dignitaries, airport officials, and a ceremonial water

cannon salute.

Our arrival was marked with a traditional water salute as we touched down in our fifth gateway to mainland China.

According to the airline, the flight from Dubai to Hangzhou carried passengers from across Emirates' global network, including the UAE, Nigeria, Italy,

Spain, Saudi Arabia, and Brazil, as well as a VIP delegation led by Emirates' senior management, and members of the international media.

The flight was operated by an Emirates Boeing 777-300ER, which has eight First Class suites, 42 Business Class seats, and 304 Economy Class seats.

According to Emirates, the new Dubai–Hangzhou route will further open "new opportunities for Chinese brands to reach a global audience while offering customers from across Emirates' global network better access to this powerful tech hub."

Emirates said flight EK310 will depart Dubai at 09:40 local time and arrive in Hangzhou at 22:00. The return flight, EK311, departs Hangzhou at 00:10 and reaches Dubai at 04:55.

Emirates currently operates 49 weekly flights to five major cities in China: Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Hangzhou. [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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General News

Nigeria Records 320% Growth In App Downloads - Google

Culled:
The West Africa Director, Google, Olumide Balogun, said this in a statement made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos.

According to him, it shows a market with deeper engagement, higher loyalty, and richer opportunities for businesses that tap into the app driven economy.

He said digital pulse of Nigeria beats fastest on mobile.

"With N1bn projected in app usage and purchases for 2025 across the continent, marketers in Nigeria cannot afford to ignore this wave.

Smartphone access is set to reach 880 million across Africa by 2030, monthly mobile data use is expected to triple.

"Nigerians spend over four hours daily on mobile, with 80 per cent of that time in apps," he said.

According to him, apps have moved from being optional extras to becoming the core of customer engagement, business efficiency, and innovation.

Balogun said for marketers and business owners, apps are now a key growth driver.

He said the path forward was clear, to understand what makes apps



Google

work and how to maximise their impact.

The director, however, highlighted seven ways Nigerian marketers could make the most of this app-led shift.

He said marketers treat the customer journey as unified forget dividing audience into "web customers" and "app customers."

"Nigerian consumers move seamlessly from browser, to app and back again, often in a single purchase journey,"

he said.

Balogun said marketers should focus on profitable app engagement, stressing that app users are their most valuable customers.

He said that app users engage more, show higher loyalty, and tend to spend more than those who stick to website.

According to him, with digital privacy in sharper focus, apps give marketers a chance to collect direct and consented customer

data.

He said that growing one's app's user base takes more than organic buzz.

"Google ads offers app campaigns designed for this moment, reaching billions of users across Google Search, Play, Gmail, YouTube, and more than two million sites and apps on the display network.

"When it comes to discovering new apps and products, few platforms rival YouTube." [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Nigerian Crop Seeds Join NASA Mission To Space

Culled:

Payload of different Nigerian crop seeds were flown to space as part of the collaboration between Jaguar Space and the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) under the "Emerging Space Nations – Space for Agriculture and Agriculture for Space initiative."

NASRDA Director of Communication, Dr. Felix Ale, in a note to The Guardian, disclosed that the programme heralds Nigeria's growing footprint in international space research, stressing that NASRDA is participating in the Crew-11 Mission, scheduled for launch today from the NASA Kennedy Space Centre, Cape Canaveral, Florida.

He said: "This mission carries the World Seeds Payload, a groundbreaking international agricultural experiment spearheaded by Jaguar Space, with contributions from eleven countries, including Nigeria.

"Nigeria's contribution to this landmark mission includes six indigenous crop seeds—okra, cowpea, Guinea corn (sorghum), amaranth, maize, and melon—selected for their nutritional and agricultural significance.

"These seeds will be studied aboard the International Space Station (ISS) to explore their behaviour under microgravity, contributing to research on climate resilience, food security, and the future of agriculture in space."

Ale disclosed that Olayinka Fagbemi, Assistant Director of the International Cooperation & Linkages Department, is representing NASRDA as the Project Lead for Nigeria on the initiative. He added that Fagbemi's responsibilities have spanned seed selection, documentation, logistics coordination, and institutional representation from the early planning stages through to the current launch phase.

"The seeds," Ale added, "were delivered to the United States following the signing of a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NASRDA and Jaguar Space." [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Governors Move To Tackle Nigeria's Education Crisis



Governor Abdulrazaq

Culled:
The 36 state governors under the umbrella of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) have pledged to work closely with the Federal Government to address the country's worsening education crisis, marked

by the high number of out-of-school children and poor foundational learning outcomes.

Speaking on Thursday at a one-day State-Level Workshop on Foundational Learning and Out-of-School Children in Abuja, NGF Chairman and Kwara State

Governor, Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq, stressed the urgency of the situation.

Abdulrazaq, represented by the NGF's Head of Education Department, Dr. Leo Ebenezer, revealed that only 27% of Primary 3 pupils in Nigeria have acquired adequate reading skills for their grade level. He also lamented the critical shortage of teachers, noting that over 200,000 qualified teachers are required across the 36 states and FCT, while 27% of those currently teaching at the basic level are unqualified.

The workshop, organised by the NGF in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Education, Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), the Committee of States' Commissioners for Education,

and education reform group NewGlobe, focused on bridging learning gaps and reintegrating out-of-school children.

Minister of State for Education, Dr. Suwaiba Ahmad, disclosed that only 60% of Universal Basic Education (UBE) funds have been utilised, and lamented the excessive academic burden on pupils. She said primary school pupils are overloaded with up to 12 subjects, noting that the Federal Government plans to reduce subjects to seven for Primary 1–3 to enhance learning outcomes.

She warned that without strong support from the states, federal efforts to reform the education sector would yield limited results. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)



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Odumegwu-Ojukwu

FG Seeks To Mend Ties With Ghana As Anti-Nigerian Rhetoric Grows

Culled: Citizens of Ghana are agitating against Nigerians living in the nation who allegedly commit crimes and illegal activities, prompting the now popular mantra, 'Nigeria Must Go.'

Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, on Wednesday, reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to maintaining stronger relations with Ghana during a two-day visit to Ghana.

She said the relationship would not only end at the Government level but extend to the citizen-to-citizen level to ensure it gets to the grassroots.

Magnus Eze, Spokesman to the

minister, said in a statement on Wednesday that, "As part of the engagements for the minister, a few minutes after touching down at Kotoka Accra International Airport, Ghana on Tuesday evening, she had a quick interface with the Inspector General of Police Ghana, Christian Tetteh Yohuno, who was on his way to London, United Kingdom."

He noted that Odumegwu-Ojukwu continued similar engagements on Tuesday and Wednesday with Ghanaian officials and leaders of the Nigeria community.

Earlier, Bassey Aniekan, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Diaspora

and Non-Governmental Organisations, had urged for calm and restraint following a viral social media video showing some Ghanaians protesting and allegedly calling for Nigerians to be deported over claims of misconduct.

The video, which has sparked concern across both countries, shows some Ghanaians accusing Nigerians of behaviour inconsistent with Ghanaian societal norms.

Reacting to the development, Aniekan described the protest and the resulting generalisation of Nigerians as criminals as "deeply concerning and deserving of outright

condemnation."

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the senator said, "Nigerians are known for their hard work and resilience. They are good ambassadors of the country wherever they go.

"While we do not deny that a few bad elements may exist among them, it is unfair and dangerous to paint the entire community with a broad brush."

Aniekan emphasised the longstanding relationship between Nigeria and Ghana, highlighting their shared cultural, economic, and political ties as members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Nigerian Government Increases Scholarships By 50%

The Nigerian Government has announced a 50% increase in scholarship grants for students at all tertiary education levels in Nigeria.

In what it described as the most ambitious overhaul of the national scholarship programme in over a decade, the government said the measure is aimed at easing financial pressures and widening access to quality education.

Minister of State for Education,

Olatunji Alausa, made the announcement on Wednesday via his official X (formerly Twitter) account, stating that the reform is a cornerstone of President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda.

Under the new structure, PhD students will now receive ₦750,000 annually, up from ₦500,000. Master's students will receive ₦600,000 (up from ₦400,000), while undergraduates, HND, and NCE

students will get ₦450,000 (previously ₦300,000).

Alausa said the reform prioritises merit and national development, with particular focus on STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medical Sciences) and vocational training. A total of ₦2 billion has been set aside for students in these fields.

A new allocation formula will ensure 50% of scholarships go to

undergraduates, 25% to Master's students, and 25% to PhD candidates. Of each group, 70% of awards will go to STEMM fields, and 5% of all scholarships will be reserved for students with disabilities.

The Federal Scholarship Board will oversee implementation, alongside an Inter-Ministerial Committee including representatives from the National Assembly and other key agencies to ensure transparency.

[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

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



GRANTS

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.

CAPACITY DEV.

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.

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