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CONTINUES ON P2

Dangote Installs Cameras On CNG Trucks, Recertifying Truck Drivers

The Dangote Articulated Trucks Drivers Training School (DATDTS), in collaboration with the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), is implementing stricter entry requirements for aspiring drivers. This development comes as Dangote Cement Plc undertakes the recertification and screening of all its truck drivers at the company's Obajana plant in Kogi State.

CONTINUES ON P7



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Fri, August 29th 2025

E - NEWSPAPER

Paper To AI: Sysserve Charts Future Of Sustainable Facilities Management In Africa

Mr. Owoeye Johnson, the Co-founder and Executive Director of Sysserve, the company behind Instanta, a physical asset and

operations management platform has called on Companies to fully embrace Intelligent Platforms enabling sustainable facility management.

He made the call while delivering a paper at a recent conference organised by

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FRSC Orders Tougher Traffic Law Enforcement In Zamfara

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Otti Clarifies Seaport Delay, Vows To Complete Road Projects

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LASG Engages Ministries Over Green Line Rail Project

P5



Mr Owoeye Johnson, Executive Director of Sysserve

Lagos, FCT, Ogun Top List As Fuel Consumption Hits N1.3trn In June

Residents of Federal Capital Territory, Lagos and Ogun has remained the top consumers of Premium Motor Spirit (fuel) in Nigeria, as the

total amount spent on fuel consumption hit N1.3 trillion in June 2025.

According to the Nigerian Midstream

Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA), the total consumption across the country in the

period was 1.44 billion litres.

Of the 1.44 billion litres trucked to states, Lagos consumed 205.7 million litres, valued at N185.1billion, a total of 88.7

CONTINUES ON P7

Over 50 Expired Oil Licences Remain Revoked - FG

P5

Local Transport News**Assault On VIO Officials at Mile 2 Will Not Go Unpunished - Osiyemi****Culled**

The Ministry of Transportation has received with profound indignation the reports of the grievous incident at Mile 2, where Vehicle Inspection Officers (VIOs) were viciously assaulted while executing their lawful mandate.

A press release credited Mr. Oluwaseun Osiyemi, the Lagos State Commissioner for Transportation to have said, it is appalling and utterly reprehensible act, saying, "is a direct affront not only to the officers involved but also to the authority and dignity of the Lagos State Government". It will never go unpunished.

Adding that VIO officials are legally empowered agents of the State, entrusted with the critical responsibility of safeguarding lives through road safety enforcement. To raise a hand against them is to undermine the rule of law, subvert public order, and desecrate the very institutions established to protect society.

The Ministry declares in the strongest

possible terms that this descent into lawlessness will not be tolerated, "the perpetrators of this disgraceful attack will be relentlessly pursued, apprehended, and subjected to the full sanctions of the law."

"Thankfully, the injured officers are responding to treatment. However, this does not in any way diminish the gravity of the assault or the firm resolve of the government to bring the culprits to justice.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Osiyemi

Otti Clarifies Seaport Delay, Vows To Complete Road Projects**Culled**

Abia State Governor, Alex Otti, has calmed the frayed nerves of the Ukwu East community over concerns raised about stalled road construction and the proposed seaport project.

The governor assured that these two projects will be completed in a short time, dousing fears that the state government may have abandoned the projects.

Otti assured a delegation from the Ezumazu Ndoki Patriotic Association during their visit to his office, stressing that construction was still ongoing on the Akirikaobu route, which begins from Obingwa and extends into Akwa Ibom State.

"I know that the Akirikaobu route starts from Obingwa. And the construction is still on. "So, by the time it's completed, it will terminate in Akwa Ibom State," he said.

On the Obohia road, Otti acknowledged initial setbacks but insisted work was in progress.

"Obohia road had a challenge. But we

have almost solved it. And if you go to Obohia road, you will see that construction is going on as we speak.

"The previous administration had awarded it to a company called Heartland. And before we came, the job was abandoned.

Otti stated that work on the seaport project had not begun due to funding concerns, even though feasibility studies had already been submitted by Chinese partners.

"I was the one who came up with the idea that we needed a seaport. The Chinese who are working with us have turned in their feasibility reports," he said.

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NNPCL Not Under Pressure, May Consider Joint Refinery Operations - Ojulari**Culled**

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) said it is not under political pressure in the course of its operations, despite mounting criticisms over ongoing reforms in the oil and gas sector.

Group Chief Executive Officer of NNPCL, Bayo Ojulari, stated this yesterday while receiving a delegation of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN), led by its President, Festus Osifo, in Abuja.

Ojulari dismissed insinuations that President Bola Tinubu had pressured the management to deliver unsustainable results, stressing that his mandate was to ensure reforms that guarantee long-term sustainability.

"We know that the attacks will not stop anytime soon. All management members are undergoing one prosecution or the other. We are under serious attacks. But we will stay focused and continue to deliver



Ojulari

on the President's mandate. Our detractors will not win," he said.

On the state of Nigeria's refineries, Ojulari attributed their prolonged non-performance to years of neglect, despite the injection of about \$3 billion into rehabilitation efforts.

He revealed that the Port Harcourt refinery was producing only about

40 per cent of crude pumped into it, incurring monthly losses of N300 million to N500 million.

According to him, a technical and commercial review of the facilities has been completed, with findings showing that the most viable option is to bring in professional international refiners for joint operation.

"We have concluded that the best way

forward is to get a true professional refining company to join us to cooperate the refinery. We are negotiating with some international refiners on this model," he confirmed.

Ojulari further clarified that the Port Harcourt refinery is a single facility with two components, countering the widespread belief that it comprises two separate refineries.

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Local Transport News

FRSC Orders Tougher Traffic Law Enforcement In Zamfara

Culled

The Zamfara Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Aliyu Ma'aji, has tasked personnel with enforcing traffic laws fully across the state's routes.

Ma'aji gave the directive during a one-day sensitisation programme organised for Unit Heads of Operations, held in Gusau on Wednesday.

The various unit commands were urged to enforce traffic guidelines, particularly against critical offences such as overloading, route violations, reckless driving, and speeding.

The workshop, with the theme 'Improving the Operational Efficiency of Patrolmen', focused on strategies to strengthen enforcement and ensure compliance.

Ma'aji reminded Unit Heads of the increasing cases of overloading, route violations, reckless driving, and speeding in Zamfara.

He further urged intensified public

enlightenment alongside strict enforcement, stressing the need to engage all stakeholders to meet the corps' mandate of reducing road crashes statewide.

The commander advised the public to drive cautiously, observe road discipline, and avoid all traffic offences. The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that prevalent traffic offences in Zamfara include route violations, overloading, speeding and dangerous driving.

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FRSC

Ekiti Debunks Claim Of N80m Fire Station Donation To Airport

Culled

The Ekiti State Government has dismissed claims by All Progressives Congress (APC) governorship aspirant, Mr. Kayode Ojo, that he donated a fire service station worth N80 million to the Ekiti Agro-Allied International Cargo Airport project.

Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Mr. Yinka Oyebode, made the clarification during the 2025 Press Week and Annual Public Lecture of the Correspondents' Chapel of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) in Ado-Ekiti on Wednesday.

Oyebode described Ojo's claim, made earlier in the week by his campaign organisation, as "false, misleading and designed for self-glorification."

He stressed that government records do not indicate any such donation by Ojo, adding that the only known personal contribution to the airport project was made by the founder of Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD), Aare Afe Babalola (SAN).

"I can say categorically that the claim by Engr. Ojo on that fire station, is incorrect and baseless. Available records in the Governor's Office and the Office of the Technical Adviser on the Airport Project show no evidence of such a contribution. "The fire station at the airport was completed in July 2024, fully paid for by the government," Oyebode said.

He challenged Ojo to produce receipts, evidence of payment, or details of any official who received the alleged donation on behalf of the state, if his claim was genuine.

According to him, the airport project remains a government-driven initiative to grow the state's agro-economy and open Ekiti to global opportunities.

He urged political aspirants to focus on issue-based campaigns and present verifiable records of their contributions to the state's development rather than making "unsubstantiated claims."

"Many of those aspiring to govern Ekiti have not contributed meaningfully to the development of their local communities,

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Paper To AI: Sysserve Charts Future Of Sustainable Facilities Management In Africa

Culled

Mr. Owoeye Johnson, the Co-founder and Executive Director of Sysserve, the company behind Instanta, a physical asset and operations management platform has called on Companies to fully embrace Intelligent Platforms enabling sustainable facility management.

He made the call while delivering a paper at a recent conference organised by (International Facility Management Association Global Africa (IFMA Global Africa), organised to bring professionals in that field to connect, learn, and innovate strategies for the industry.

According to Owoeye, the Facility Management application floated by his organisation has in the past 13 years helped many organisations across different industries to achieve their digital transformation objectives, helping them at different stages of digitization, from those just starting to those already running highly matured systems.



Mr Owoeye Johnson

Noting that there are five stages of digitization, with companies operating at different levels, from Non-existent to those at the Nascent level, some are Emerging, others running a Connected Systems, while others operate Intelligent Systems, Owoeye said.

Owoeye went on to share the Digital Maturity Model developed by Deloitte and McKinsey that he adapted for the facility management industry, revealing

that the framework provides tools for organisations to evaluate their level of digital maturity and help build a roadmap to achieving full maturity.

In his words, "Companies in the Non-existent category have no centralised system for record keeping, but have data silos that are largely in manual formats, in some extreme cases, facility officers in such organisations literally have to travel to the head offices just to

obtain a physical signature for vendor payments, work orders or procurements while decision making are generally slow, reactive, and based on guesswork rather than data."

Pointing out that such organisations will need to first adopt a central record keeping system to kickstart their digitization maturity journey.

Owoeye said those in the Nascent category have a system in place but underutilized, stressing that the system does not drive their operation but used mainly as a record-keeping tool, while other operations still run on manual processes, saying, "They keep insisting we have a system when in reality, the system is grossly underutilized and not adding real operational value.

"The organizations in the 'Emerging' category are fully utilizing their facility management system to power their operation, but their processes are still heavily human-dependent, prone to errors and delays, which sometimes affect the quality of reporting.

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Local Transport News

Engineering Professionalism Key To Maritime Development - NIMASA

Culled

The Director-General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, Dr. Dayo Mobereola, has emphasised the critical role of professionalism in engineering practice as a foundation for Nigeria's Marine and Blue Economy development.

Dr. Mobereola made this remark when he received the Nigerian Society of Engineers, led by its president, Engineer Margaret Aina Oguntala, who were on a courtesy visit to NIMASA's management in Lagos.

He underscored the importance of engineering expertise in advancing Nigeria's maritime infrastructure and assured the NSE of the agency's commitment to closer collaboration in line with the Federal Government's Renewed Hope Agenda and the Blue Economy mandate.

In her remarks, Engr. Oguntala highlighted the NSE's alignment with the Blue Economy initiative.

Oguntala noted that NSE's vision

complements government efforts to harness the vast opportunities in Nigeria's marine and maritime sectors.

She expressed confidence that strengthened cooperation between NSE and NIMASA would foster innovation, enhance infrastructure development, and contribute to sustainable economic growth.

The meeting concluded with both parties pledging to deepen collaboration for the benefit of the maritime sector and Nigeria's economy at large.

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Mobereola

Culled

The Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority on Wednesday hosted an advocacy meeting with key ministries and stakeholders to foster synergy for the implementation of the Green Line rail project.

The purpose of the meeting, according to a statement issued by LAMATA, was to establish strong inter-ministerial relations and a common front for the public communication and implementation processes.

High-level government officials and key representatives were in attendance, including the Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Abiodun Olumide, and the Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, Biodun Ogunleye, alongside delegates from the ministries of works and infrastructure; transportation; environment and water resources, and the ministry of information.

Also present were partners from the Lands Bureau, Lekki Concession Company, project contractor, China Harbour Engineering Company, and

LASG Engages Ministries Over Green Line Rail Project

Global Impact.

LAMATA's Managing Director, Abimbola Akinajo, highlighted the importance of a unified approach, noting that collaborative efforts would allow stakeholders to share detailed designs, evaluate potential impacts, and mitigate issues both within and outside the project's right-of-way.

She urged the stakeholders on the need to be unified in delivering the project for the economic prosperity of the state.

"The Green Line rail project is a federally-backed initiative, with funding from the Federal Ministry of Finance Incorporated.

The project will see the implementation of a 68-kilometre rail line, with 17 stations, from Marina to the Lekki Free Trade Zone, to be executed in phases," LAMATA stated.

Find Full Story In The Link

Otti Assures Timely Delivery Of Abia Modular Refinery Project



Barge on waterways

Abia State Governor Alex Otti, has stated that he is committed to the timely realisation of the proposed 10,000 barrel per day modular refinery project in the State.

The modular refinery, which is located inside the Abia Industrial and Innovation Park, Owaza, is being undertaken by the HSI Energies Group and is expected to provide 1000 direct jobs and countless indirect jobs to Abians.

Otti assured of his commitment to the realisation of the project when he received in audience, the Management of the HSI Energies Group led by its Group Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Ugwumba Okezie

Nwosu who were in his office on Wednesday to give him the status update on the activities of the company preparatory to the commencement of work at the site.

He noted that the Abia Industrial and Innovation Park sitting on about 2000 hectares of land is capable of accommodating many industrial companies. He said that his administration has been busy providing a conducive business environment for businesses to thrive.

The State Chief Executive said that the vast area in the AIIP Owaza is designated for a gas-powered industrial ecosystem, including energy, logistics, housing, modular refinery, petrochemical plants, fertiliser companies and clean infrastructure.

He appreciated the Group Chief Executive Officer of the Company for his wise decision to locate the modular refinery in the State having concluded preliminary works on the site, and noted that it would contribute

to the growth of the economy of Abia State.

"Thank you for the work that you have done so far, bringing the HSI Energies into Abia state to build a modular refinery.

"Of course, we are not oblivious to the kind of time this takes.

"So, I think you've moved very well. Thank you very much. And it is because of the experience that you have," Otti stated.

Briefing the Governor earlier on the activities of the company preparatory to the commencement of the Modular Refinery, the Group CEO, HSI Energies, Mr. Ugwumba Nwosu, said that the project had reached an advanced stage while equity sourcing, debt financing among others are in progress.

He said that the refinery would be developed in phases, and is expected to generate direct and indirect employment opportunities, boost the State's Internally Generated Revenue and attract foreign direct investment. The Group CEO, Mr. Ugwumba

Nwosu stressed that the socio-economic impact of the refinery would be immense, ranging from training opportunities for Abians in the refining, oil and gas business to local access to petroleum products.

He further informed the Government team that the refinery is 10,000 barrels of oil per day, "that's what the licence is. And for each 10,000 barrels per day, there will be about 1,000 direct jobs created in Abia State. We intend to get to 30,000 barrels per day.

"The only thing stopping us from going to 30,000 immediately is that we have to source the crude oil that we will refine. So, by the time we get to 30,000, that means 3,000 direct jobs and many indirect jobs.

"For each 10,000 barrels of oil per day refinery, the tax that will come to the Government's internally generated revenue from tax will be about \$68 million per annum.

"It will also bring in foreign direct investment of \$300 million by the time we get to 30,000 barrels per day," Ugwumba Nwosu stated.

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- Rub down old gloss painted surfaces with abrasive paper.
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- 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!



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QUALITY EMULSION

...quality speaks

Lagos, FCT, Ogun Top List as Fuel Consumption Hits N1.3trn In June

Culled

Residents of Federal Capital Territory, Lagos and Ogun has remained the top consumers of Premium Motor Spirit (fuel) in Nigeria, as the total amount spent on fuel consumption hit N1.3 trillion in June 2025.

According to the Nigerian Midstream Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA), the total consumption across the country in the period was 1.44 billion litres.

Of the 1.44 billion litres trucked to states, Lagos consumed 205.7 million litres, valued at N185.1billion, a total of 88.7 million litres was consumed in Ogun state at N79.8 billion and 77.5 million litres in FCT at N69.8 billion.

According to the report, Jigawa, Ebonyi and Yobe states consumed the least in the period with 9.4 million litres valued at N8.5billion, 10.5 million litres at N9.5 billion and 11.7 million litres at N10.5 billion respectively.

Fuel consumption on regional basis was



Fuel Pump

highest in South-West North-West, south- a t N 1 3 7 . 5 b n during the period, with south, North-East and respectively. 452.9 million litres South-East consumed NMDPRA, in its July valued at N407.7 billion. 230 million litres valued report presented to This was followed by at N207.0 billion, 224.9 Federation Account North-Central zone with million at N202.9 billion, Allocation Committee a total consumption of 152.8 million litres valued (FAAC), also disclosed 247.4 million litres at at N137.5billion and that over sixty-nine percent of total petrol 58,049,753 was from local refineries.

consumed in the period was imported.

It stated that of the total 1.4 billion litres consumed in the period, only 455,188,512 litres was sourced from local refineries, leaving 1.023,128,233 to importation.

The 1.478 billion litres of petrol consumed in June is a 16.42 percent decrease from 1.768 billion litres supplied in May.

Also, the total truck-out in June was 1,440,768,129 litres, lower than 1,678,433,559 litres recorded in May.

The report also indicated that the average daily petrol supply for the month was 49.277 million litres, of which 34.104 million litres was imported and 15.172 million sourced from local refineries.

The total daily average is 13.65 percent lower than 57,058,478 record in May.

The total Automotive Gas Oil (diesel) consumed for the month was 432,180,605 litres. This is 1.73 percent higher than 424,829,199 consumed in the month of May.

Of the total 432,180,605 litres consumed in June, 378,130,852 was imported while 58,049,753 was from local refineries.

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Dangote Installs Cameras On CNG Trucks, Recertifying Truck Drivers



Alhaji Dangote

The Dangote Articulated Trucks Drivers Training School (DATDTS), in collaboration with the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), is implementing stricter entry requirements for aspiring drivers. This development comes as Dangote Cement Plc undertakes the recertification and screening of all its truck drivers at the company's Obajana plant in Kogi State.

Speaking to newsmen at the Obajana Plant, Head of Transport, Dangote Cement Plc, Murilo Silva, said as part of efforts to promote safe driving and achieve zero road crashes, the company has since begun installing cameras across its fleet of thousands of CNG trucks. He revealed that applicants must be at least 23 years

of age and possess a minimum of five years' relevant driving experience, in addition to holding a valid Class G driver's license.

He explained that anyone seeking employment as a truck driver must undergo a thorough examination and screening process, which includes medical evaluations and drug testing. Silva said an applicant must have a clean criminal record, with no pending legal cases.

He added: "The Dangote Cement Plc has a Policy on Drivers Employment processes that gives the criteria on DADTS processes of engaging new drivers especially mandatory five years of experience and compulsory a class G license."

"FRSC conducts on regular basis certification and recertification trainings for drivers at the DATDTS Complex. The company currently has a full fledge department for health, safety and environment assessment. It also conducts drugs and alcohol test, blood pressure test, confirms drivers fit for

trips and others before making trips," Silva explained.

He disclosed that the cement company has instituted certain measures to curb auto crashes, which include drivers' participation in the company's monthly training programme has grown by 60% this year, with drug and alcohol testing up by 40%, while pre-trip inspections have recorded an impressive 74% increase.

Earlier, the Divisional Head of Transport at DCP Obajana, Hemant Rana, disclosed that the company has established a multi-million-naira Pre-Trip Inspection Bay, staffed with engineers and mechanics, to ensure thorough inspection of trucks before they embark on journeys.

He said: "We have built a Drivers Rest House for Drivers to rest after making trips and before embarking on new trips."

Rana explained further that: "We have developed a monitoring system of our drivers that helps them do their jobs safely. We have Drivers Help Desk

Units that follow up with drivers' situations while on trips. We also have a Control Department that follows up with drivers' behaviour while on trips."

The Manager of the Dangote Articulated Truck Drivers Training School, Daniel Akuso, said that the institution is the first of its kind in Nigeria, adding that programmes are being implemented in collaboration with the FRSC.

He said some of the courses offered in the school include: Civic Education, English, Mathematics, Defensive Driving, Truck Handling, Maintenance Technology, DCT Administration Procedures, Root Cause Analysis, Health and Science, Road Signs and Codes, among others.

The Group Managing Director of Dangote Cement Plc, Arvind Pathak had told newsmen in Lagos that no less than 1,500 Dangote Cement truck drivers have undergone intensive screening exercises to ascertain their mental, psychological and physical fitness for safe driving.

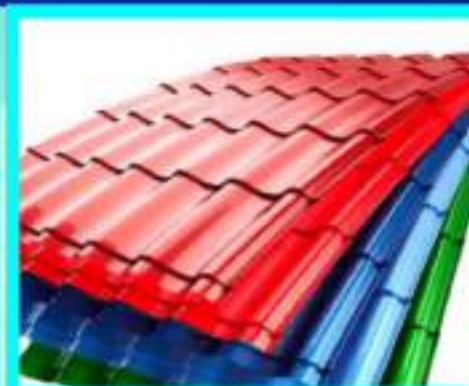
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India To Invest \$1trn To Advance Its Maritime Sector

Culled

On 27 August, at the Ambassadors' Roundtable Meet in Delhi, hosted by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) ahead of India Maritime Week (IMW) 2025, India showcased its ambitious plans to advance the maritime sector.

Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal highlighted a \$1 trillion maritime investment roadmap, emphasizing opportunities in port and cargo terminal development, multi-modal terminals, shipbuilding, ship recycling, green hydrogen hubs, and sustainable shipping solutions. He noted that initiatives under Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 are transforming India's ports, shipping, and logistics ecosystem into a resilient, sustainable, and



globally competitive hub.

Minister of State Shri Shantanu Thakur stressed reforms in port modernization, inland waterways expansion,

and green and digital shipping, while encouraging greater private sector involvement. He highlighted the role of AI-driven logistics,

digital port operations, and automation in making India's ports internationally competitive.

The event also

showcased mega infrastructure projects, including Vadhavan Port, Galathea Bay Transshipment Port, Tuna Tekra Terminal, and maritime industrial

parks, along with investments in shipbuilding, ship recycling, LNG bunkering, and green hydrogen hubs. Discussions emphasized the blue economy, sustainable ocean resource utilization, and maritime financing through IFSC-GIFT City, aimed at attracting global investment and fostering innovation.

Legal and regulatory reforms were also underlined, with five new legislations, the Bills of Lading Act, Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, Merchant Shipping Act, Coastal Shipping Act, and Indian Ports Act, replacing colonial-era laws and aligning India with global best practices.

Together, these initiatives aim to position India as a global maritime leader, fostering collaboration, sustainable growth, and technological advancement in the sector. [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

AI Has Potentials To Drive Nigerian Economy By 20%

Culled:

The Director-General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa, said that the digital economy using Artificial Intelligence (AI) can drive the country's economy up to 20 per cent Gross domestic product (GDP) growth.

Inuwa said this during the 3rd Economic Confidential Lecture in Abuja on Wednesday.

He said that AI was no longer optional but essential.

"Digital economy has the potential to drive 20 per cent GDP growth, if strategically harnessed.

"Those who fail to upskill will be replaced. AI can free up 20 per cent of time for higher productivity, and nations leading in AI will lead the world," he said.

According to him, the country cannot afford to miss the fourth industrial revolution after losing out in the first three revolutions.

Inuwa said that there were ongoing collaborations with the Ministry of Education to build digital literacy into the country's national curriculum, and with the office of Head of Service of the Federation to enhance civil service training.

"Market women can now connect



Inuwa

with customers through mobile technology. But as we connect, we must also protect, and cybersecurity is a critical pillar."

The President and Chairman of Council, Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), Dr Ike Neliaku, said that the country must ensure that participation in the digital global economy is inclusive, innovative, and sustainable.

Neliaku, was represented by NIPR fellow, Dr Afolabi Olajuwon.

He urged the country to be committed to building capacity, investing in infrastructure, and creating policies that enable innovation to thrive.

"We are living in a period where technology is reshaping governance, trade, education, healthcare and every aspect of human endeavour.

"Nations that fail to embrace the digital revolution risk being left behind, while those that seize the opportunity

can leapfrog barriers to growth and development," Neliaku said.

He said that the country was blessed with a dynamic youth population, abundant talent and a spirit of innovation, adding that must advance its embrace of this new reality.

Neliaku said that the Renewed Hope Agenda challenged Nigerians to harness technology, not merely as consumers, but as creators, innovators and

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Association Seeks Reforms In Legal Education

Culled:

The newly formed Law Graduates' Association of Nigeria (LAWGAN) has officially announced its formation with a strong mandate to unite law graduates across Nigeria and abroad, championing their welfare and pushing for critical reforms within Nigeria's legal education system.

Situated in Ibadan, Oyo State, LAWGAN aims to be the collective voice for law graduates, both those who have been called to the Nigerian Bar and those awaiting their Call to Bar ceremony. The association's key objectives include fostering collaboration with law firms to facilitate internships and employment, addressing academic backlogs, and advocating for improved infrastructure and support within Nigerian law faculties and the Nigerian Law School.

In a press statement released, LAWGAN highlighted the pressing challenges confronting Nigerian law students and graduates, including inadequate facilities, delayed release of examination results, exorbitant tuition fees, and concerns about security on law school campuses. The group specifically condemned the water scarcity situation at the Port Harcourt Law School campus, demanding immediate action to provide basic amenities for students who have already paid substantial fees.

LAWGAN called on the National Universities Commission (NUC), the Council of Legal Education (CLE), the Nigerian Law School authorities, and other relevant bodies to take decisive steps in upgrading facilities and addressing infrastructural deficits across law faculties and schools nationwide. They also urged a review and reduction of the Nigerian Law School tuition fees in light of Nigeria's current economic challenges.

To ease the increasing pressure on the legal education system, LAWGAN recommended the establishment of more law faculties and additional law school campuses, proposing a decentralised model akin to international practices, where law faculties operate their own law schools.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

US-Fed Rate Cut To Boost Nigeria's Investment Appeal



Money

Culled:

Nigeria is expected to witness increased portfolio inflows, particularly into the fixed-income market, if the U.S. Federal Reserve proceeds with its plan to cut interest rates, as signalled by Fed Chair

Jerome Powell.

Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPIs) have remained the largest source of foreign exchange supply, accounting for about 45 per cent of total inflows. In absolute terms, inflows from offshore investors climbed to USD 1.7 billion in July,

compared with USD 1.5 billion recorded in June. The uptick reflects a cautious return of foreign investor confidence, buoyed by robust carry trade opportunities and relatively stable global macroeconomic conditions during the period.

According to analysts at FBNQuest, a lower U.S. interest rate would reduce the relative attractiveness of American assets and encourage global investors to seek higher yields in emerging markets such as Nigeria.

They noted that renewed interest from offshore investors could potentially strengthen foreign exchange reserves and support the stability of the naira. However, all indications point to a prolonged monetary tightening

stance by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), given persistent inflationary pressures and ongoing efforts to stabilise conditions in the exchange rate market.

Data from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) showed that the naira appreciated further against the dollar in the official foreign exchange (FX) market, gaining N1.60 to close at N1,535.47 per dollar on Thursday, compared to N1,537.07 on the previous day at the Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market (NFEM). At the same time, Nigeria's external reserves rose to \$41.22 billion as of August 26, 2025, crossing the \$41 billion mark for the first time in more than four years.

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International Passport

FG Assures Nigerians Of Speedy Passport Process After Fee Increment

Culled:
 The Federal Government states that plans are underway to ensure that the processing time for Nigerian passports does not exceed one week after the application is submitted.

The Minister of Interior, Dr Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, gave the assurance during the ministry's mid-tenure performance retreat on Thursday in Abuja.

Tunji-Ojo said the planned shortened timeframe was part of the federal government's reforms to the passport issuance process.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the Nigeria Immigration

Service (NIS) has announced a 100 percent increase in the passport fee, effective September 1, 2025.

The NIS stated that while the 32-page passport, valid for five years, will cost N100,000, the 64-page booklet, valid for 10 years, will be obtained at a cost of N200,000.

"Our target is very clear; within one week of enrolment, every Nigerian should have their passport in hand.

"Not just delivering quickly, but delivering quality passports that reflect our integrity as a nation," the minister said.

He said that the new system was designed to eliminate long delays

and extortion that once forced citizens to wait six months to seven months and pay excessively for fast-track processing.

Tunji-Ojo explained that the centralised personalisation centre will ensure faster processing and stricter security.

"With this facility, we can print five times more passports than we currently need; once you enrol, it doesn't take us more than 24 hours to vet as printing capacity is no longer our problem," he said.

The minister further said that the inefficient system inherited by his administration with six months

backlog of passport applications were cleared in two and a half weeks.

"Nigerians will apply for passports and wait endlessly, or be asked to pay hundreds of thousands of Naira," he said.

The minister said that Passport Control Officers (PCOs) would no longer have powers to approve or delay passport applications.

"This reform is aimed at curbing racketeering, eliminating delays and restoring integrity to Nigeria's travel documents.

"We realised that the best way to cut corruption is to remove human contact to the barest minimum.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Nigeria Battle Triple Burden Of Malnutrition, Says FG

The Federal Government has raised concerns over Nigeria's "triple burden" of malnutrition, comprising undernutrition, overnutrition, and micronutrient deficiencies, also known as "hidden hunger."

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ms. Daju Kachollom, made this known on Thursday in Abuja at the Nigeria Health Watch Roundtable, themed "Fortifying

Nigeria's Future: Strengthening Nutrition through Local Solutions."

Represented by Mrs. Ladidi Bako-Aiyegbusi, Director of Nutrition, Kachollom noted that micronutrient deficiencies impair cognitive development, reduce productivity, and increase maternal and child mortality rates.

She highlighted that most Nigerian diets, dominated by calorie-rich but nutrient-poor staples such as maize,

cassava, and rice, are lacking in essential vitamins and minerals.

Citing the 2024 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), she said stunting affects 40 per cent of children aged 6–59 months, with wasting at 8 per cent and underweight at 27 per cent.

"The 2021 National Food Consumption and Micronutrient Survey also found that 79 per cent of Nigerians are food insecure.

"Among children in the same age group, one in three is vitamin A deficient, over one-third are zinc deficient, and more than 20 per cent suffer from iron deficiency.

"Adolescent girls and pregnant women also face dangerously high levels of vitamin A and iron deficiency, threatening maternal and newborn health.

"The worsening food insecurity is linked to high inflation, recurring

[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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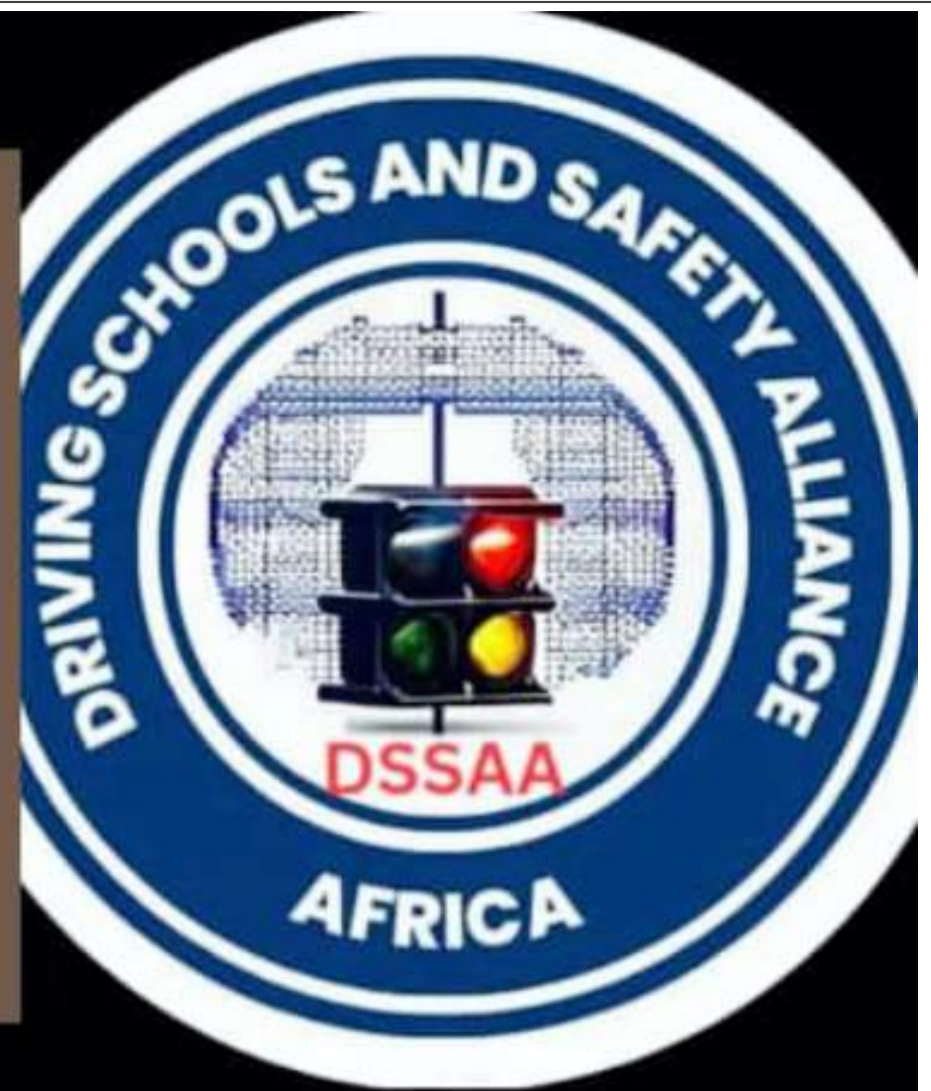


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