

Kwara Plans For Cargo Services At Ilorin Idiagbon International Airport

Kwara State International Airport in this in Ilorin at an government has Ilorin, the state capital. event organized by announced plans to State Commissioner the Federal Airport commence cargo for Agriculture and Authority of Nigeria. services at the General Rural Development, Dr (FAAN) Tunde Idiagbon Afees Alabi, disclosed According to him, the

CONTINUES ON P3

Lagos Taskforce Impounds Over 600 Commercial Motorcycles In One Week

In a determined effort on the ban of Okada Environmental and to rid the metropolis of operations on Special Offences recalcitrant commer highways and other (Enforcement) Unit cial motorcyclists who restricted routes in the -carried out a routine are hell-bent on State to enhance public week-long clean-up disobeying State laws safety, the Lagos State enforcement for

CONTINUES ON P2

GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION

REPORTING GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION TRENDS

thelandmarkinfo.com.ng | Global Trasnportation E- Reports | Global_GTE Mon, August 18th 2025 E - NEWSPAPER

LASTMA Calls For Compliance To Traffic Regulations As 2nd Phase Of Ogudu-Ifako Bridge Repairs Commences

The Lagos State Government has announced the commencement of the second phase of extensive rehabilitation works on the Ogudu-Ifako Bridge in Kosofo Local Government Area, following the successful completion and reopening of the first phase. This second phase, which entails the holistic restoration of the bridge's expansion joints inbound Lagos Island, is scheduled to extend from Tuesday, 19th August 2025,

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2nd Phase Ogudu-ifako bridge

Ekiti Gov Pledges Resumption Of Ado-Ijan Road Construction P2
C'River Govt Seeks Completion Of Access Road To Calabar Port P5
Tinubu Approves N16bn For Niger Bridge Reconstr'tion P3

Ogun Airport Gets NCAA Permit For Commercial Flight Operations

The Gateway International Airport in Ogun State has officially been granted an Aerodrome Operational Permit by the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, signaling the commencement of commercial air transport services. The state Governor, Dapo Abiodun, announced the development, describing it as a historic milestone not only for Ogun State but for Nigeria at large. The governor said this in a video obtained by our correspondent on Friday, showing the governor

CONTINUES ON P7

Nigerians Set To Get Direct Flight To Brazil P5

FRSC Phasing Out Booking Sheet As E-ticketing Gains Efficiency

Culled
 The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) is adopting the use of technology in ticketing and phasing out the use of booking sheets.
 The Commander of the Costain Unit, FRSC, Lagos State, Chief Route Commander Victor Okelola, disclosed this in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos.
 Okelola said that FRSC was already issuing e-tickets in Lagos State, and it was being efficient.
 He emphasised that the corps was gradually phasing out its booking sheet.
 “This is part of the strategic goal for 2025. This adoption will equally help us in terms of having accurate data,” he said.
 He said that fines in FRSC were statutory and could only be amended by an Act of the National Assembly.
 According to the commander, the fines were not as heavy as claimed by some traffic offenders.
 He said that the minimum fine was N2,000 while the maximum was N50,000.

“We have a minimum of N2,000 and this is paid into the treasury account; the highest fine on the ticket is N50,000,” he said.
 Okelola stated that an arrested motorist, who had been issued a ticket and had their vehicle documents seized, would have up to seven days to pay.
 “The person can go with his vehicle, and anywhere he shows the ticket, it will indicate that the FRSC has the person’s document in its custody.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



FRSC

Ekiti Gov Pledges Resumption Of Ado-Ijan Road Construction

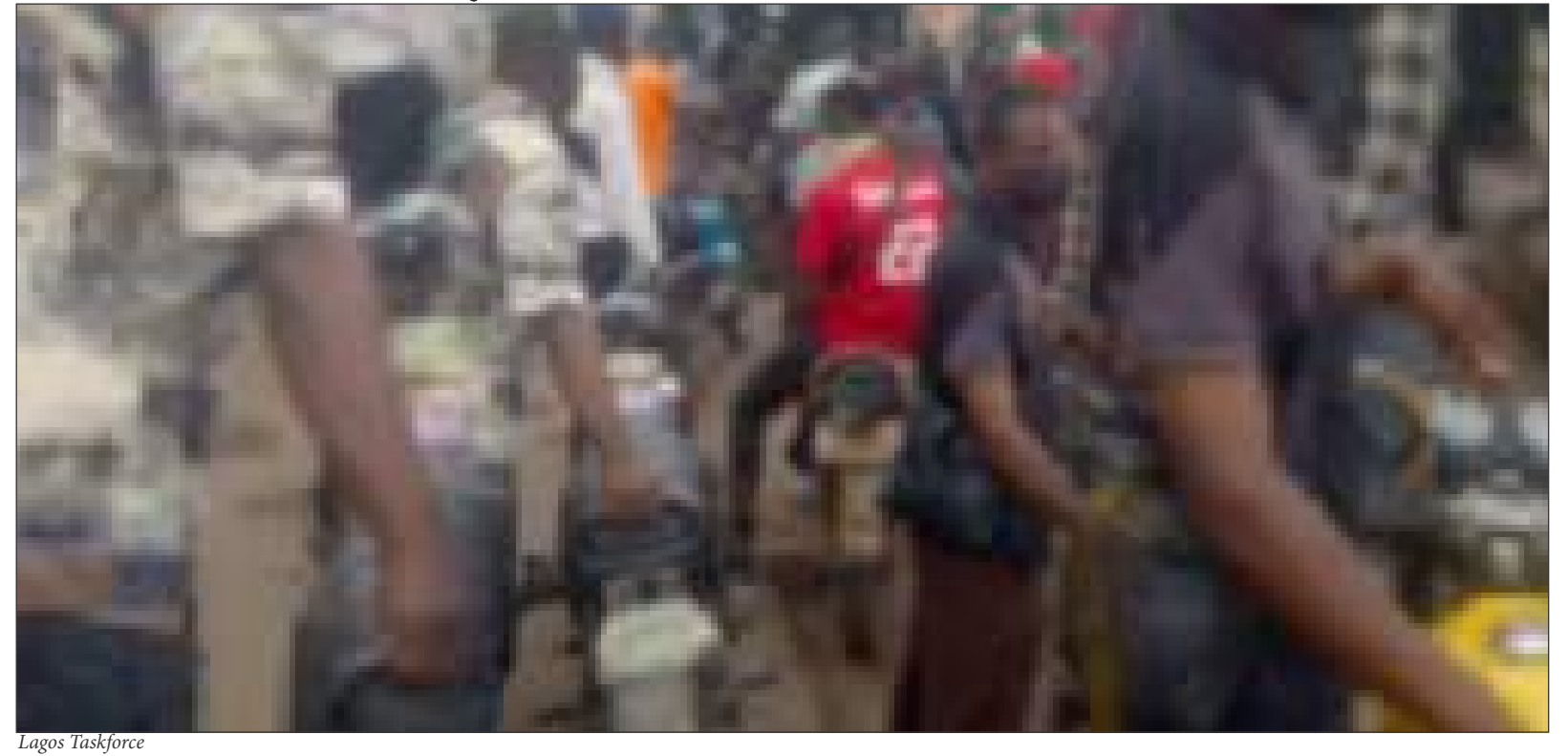
Culled
 Ekiti State Governor, Biodun Oyebanji, has said that the state, in collaboration with the Federal Government, has resolved all issues that led to the temporary abandonment of the Ado-Ijan-Aisegba road project by the contractor in charge.
 Oyebanji assured residents and road users that work would soon resume on the road following the resolution of the issue that caused abandonment.
 The governor, who spoke at Aisegba Ekiti on Saturday during the burial service of the late Chief Mathew Fatoba, the father of his Aide-de-Camp, said, “I assure you that I see the road leading here from Ado Ekiti. It is part of our efforts.
 “The Federal Government has awarded the road, and the contractor has moved to the site, but they left for one reason or another.
 “But by His grace, the Lord has helped us to settle it; very soon, the contractor will go back to the site,” the governor said.

Oyebanji commended President Bola Tinubu for his support for the state, saying, “The president’s policies have helped in addressing infrastructure gaps as well as promoting economic development and welfare of citizens.”
 This was as the state government over the weekend, listed alternative routes to the state capital, “while the federal and Ekiti State governments work out lasting solutions to some bad portions of roads leading to the state”.
 The alternative routes, as contained in a travel advisory to ease your journey into Ado Ekiti, are:
 “From Lagos/Ibadan: Iwaraja – Efon – Ipole – Ikogosi – Erijinyan – Ilawe – Ado Ekiti. From Akure: Akure – Igbara Oke – Igbara Odo – Ilawe – Ado Ekiti, and from Abuja: Kabba – Irun Akoko – Iro Ekiti – Isinbode – Ikole – Igbemo – Ekiti Ring Road – Ado Ekiti.”
 The advisory stated, “The state government will continue to invest in road infrastructure, while also working collaboratively with the Federal

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Lagos Taskforce Impounds Over 600 Commercial Motorcycles In One Week

Culled
 In a determined effort to rid the metropolis of recalcitrant commercial motorcyclists who are hell-bent on disobeying State laws on the ban of Okada operations on highways and other restricted routes in the State to enhance public safety, the Lagos State Environmental and Special Offences (Enforcement) Unit carried out a routine week-long clean-up enforcement for compliance operations.
 The operation, which commenced on Monday, was led by the Chairman of the Agency, CSP Adetayo Akerele, and targeted key areas including Ishaga, Balogun Bus Stop in Iju-Ishaga Road, Ijegun Roundabout, Iyana-Iba, Iyana-Ishasi, Igbo-Elerin, Iyana-School, Volkswagen Bus Stop on the stretch of Lagos-Badagry Expressway, Kola Bus Stop on Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway, and other adjoining restricted routes in the areas.
 These areas had been flagged following numerous complaints and distress calls indicating the persistent use of



Lagos Taskforce

commercial motorcycles (Okada) by hooligans, pickpockets, and other suspected criminals to attack innocent people, tricycle operators and their passengers; robbing them of their hard-earned property and valuables, particularly during late-night hours. This is considered a new crime wave that calls for urgent enforcement action, which has to be tackled holistically.

During the operations, there was a pocket of resistance and a mob attack at Kola Bus Stop by hoodlums aided by Okada operators who attempted to prevent the State officials from carrying out their lawful duties. They were, however, dispersed with minimal force, and no injury was sustained from any quarter.
 A total number of 668 Okadas were

impounded and seven (7) suspects were apprehended. The Agency successfully restored law and order to all locations visited.
 Speaking on the outcome of the operation, the Chairman issued a stern warning to recalcitrant Okada operators to leave the highways and other restricted routes, comply with rules, regulations, and the traffic laws of the State.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Tinubu Approves N16bn For Niger Bride Reconstruction

Culled

Months after the Mokwa Bridge in Niger State was washed away by flooding, President Bola Tinubu has approved N16.7bn for its reconstruction.

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, made the disclosure on Saturday in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, after a meeting with the Minister of Works, Senator Dave Umahi.

Idris, who is currently leading a federal delegation on a three-day inspection of infrastructure projects and citizen engagement programmes across the South-East, said the approval reflected the administration's responsiveness to urgent national infrastructure needs.

According to him, the Mokwa Bridge, which is a 10-span bridge, serves as a major artery for transportation and economic activities in Niger State and beyond.

"We want to thank Mr. President and we want to thank the Honourable Minister of Works. David Umahi. We jointly

discussed this and approached Mr. President, who graciously approved it.

"It means a lot to the people. It's N16.7bn to reconstruct the bridge — a 10-span bridge," the minister was quoted as saying in a statement issued by his media aide, Rabiul Ibrahim."

The statement noted that Idris underscored the strategic importance of the Mokwa Bridge in regional connectivity, especially for communities and businesses that rely on it for the movement of goods and people.

Find Full Story In The Link



President Tinubu

FG Orders Repairs On Loko-Oweto-Agatu Road amid Flood Concerns

Culled

The Federal Government has ordered the immediate rehabilitation of the Loko-Oweto-Agatu Road in Nasarawa State as a contingency against potential flooding along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

The directive, issued by the Minister of State for Works, Mohammed Bello Goronyo, instructs the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to commence work without delay, ensuring the route remains motorable should rising waters disrupt the main highway.

A statement signed by Queenet Iheoma-Hart, Director of Press and Public Relations, on Saturday, noted that the directive was issued during a stakeholders' engagement with the Nigerian Association of Road Transport Owners and the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria.

Goronyo described the move as proactive, aimed at minimising disruption to economic activities and facilitating the movement of people and goods between the North and South.

"The Minister of State for Works has directed FERMA to immediately commence the rehabilitation of Loko-Oweto-Agatu Road as an alternative route in case of envisaged flooding on Abuja-Lokoja," the statement said.

He further revealed that the Federal Executive Council approved several critical infrastructure initiatives, including urgent repairs on strategic bridges such as Carter Bridge, Third Mainland Bridge, and Donga Bridge in Taraba State, to strengthen Nigeria's economic corridors and improve nationwide access for motorists.

Goronyo highlighted the Ministry's workload across major routes, including Abuja-Lokoja, Abuja-Kaduna-Kano, and Sokoto-Zaria, praising President Bola Tinubu as "the people's president" for prioritising infrastructure under the Renewed Hope Agenda. He also commended Minister of Works, David Umahi, for his engineering expertise and dedication.

Find Full Story In The Link

Kwara Plans For Cargo Services At Ilorin Idiagbon International Airport

Culled

Kwara State government has announced plans to commence cargo services at the General Tunde Idiagbon International Airport in Ilorin, the state capital.

State Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr Afees Alabi, disclosed this in Ilorin at an event organized by the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria. (FAAN)

According to him, the initiative is aimed at positioning the state as a hub for agricultural and commercial exports, strengthening its role in national and international trade.

Alabi emphasized that the project aligns with the administration of Governor Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq's opening of new export channels, improving market access, and boosting incomes for producers and businesses.

He noted that the cargo services will facilitate the efficient movement of goods from farms, factories, and workshops to domestic and global markets, supporting value addition,



Tunde Idiagbon International Airport

processing, and packaging across sectors.

The Commissioner highlighted that the initiative will reduce post-production losses, preserve product quality, and expand opportunities for trade in agricultural, industrial, and processed goods.

He added that with existing congestion at Lagos ports and airports, Ilorin offers a strategic alternative for timely and

reliable exports, further enhancing Kwara's competitiveness.

He commended the Governor's infrastructure drive, including road construction connecting rural and industrial communities to major markets, stressing that the cargo services will transform locally produced goods into export-ready consignments and attract investment to the State.

Alabi called on farmers, cooperatives,

manufacturers, investors, transport unions, traders, processors, and regulatory agencies to collaborate in improving quality, standardized packaging, and technological adoption to meet international market requirements.

He reaffirmed the state's commitment to making Kwara a leading launch point for Nigerian exports.

The Manager of the Airport, Mr. Suraju Aderibigbe, explained that the old terminal building will be upgraded into a modern cargo facility with advanced technology to safely handle a wide range of products.

According to him, the upgrade is expected to boost trade, create jobs, and stimulate economic growth across multiple sectors in Kwara State.

The event brought together stakeholders from the Nigerian Army, Police Force, Immigration Service, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, University of Ilorin, and other organisations, all demonstrating support for the transformative initiative.

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“

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”



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#Staysafe

Local Transport News

C’River Govt Seeks Completion Of Access Road To Calabar Port

Culled
The Cross River State Government has expressed concern over the poor condition of the road connecting Calabar Port, stating that the delay in completing construction work along the Calabar-Otu highway is hindering optimal port operations.

The state Commissioner for Commerce, Dr Abigail Duke Orok, who stated this during an interview in Calabar, highlighted the crucial role of Calabar Port as a key evacuation route for Nigeria's Eastern and Northern regions.

She called on the relevant authorities to take swift action to improve the port's efficiency.

The commissioner, who lauded the All Progressives Congress-led government for prioritising people-oriented programmes and policies aimed at uplifting the standard of living of citizens, called for more support for the government to enable it to provide more dividends of democracy to the citizenry.

Orok also praised President Bola Tinubu

for keeping to his electioneering campaign promise to make Calabar Port viable. She stated that the completion of the Bakassi Deep Seaport necessitated the speedy completion of the ongoing road construction work on the Calabar-Itu highway to ensure optimal port operations. She lauded Governor Bassey Otu for facilitating a peaceful resolution to the dredging of the Calabar Port Channel. She expressed hope that upon completion of the work, the port would experience a boom in business. *Find Full Story In The Link*



Calabar port

Culled

Nigeria and Brazil are set to sign a Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA) to establish direct flights between the two countries.

The agreement is scheduled to be a key highlight of President Bola Tinubu's state visit to Brazil, which begins on August 24.

The development was announced on Sunday by Obafemi Bajomo, the Special Adviser on Foreign Direct Investments to the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development. Bajomo confirmed that the final documents for the agreement are ready for exchange and execution.

According to Bajomo, the BASA is expected to pave the way for four to five weekly direct flights, with Nigerian carriers such as Air Peace and Caverton as potential operators. The agreement aims to significantly reduce travel time and logistics costs, creating new trade corridors for agricultural products, manufactured goods, and services between Africa's and South America's largest economies.

Bajomo stated that the journey to this

Nigerians Set To Get Direct Flight To Brazil

milestone began in May, when a Nigerian delegation led by aviation minister Festus Keyamo held formal bilateral talks with Brazil's Minister of Ports and Airports, Silvio Costa Filho. The discussions led to the formation of a technical working group, which worked to fast-track the agreement.

Beyond air routes, the ministers have also mapped out plans for technical cooperation, including pilot training and airport infrastructure upgrades. President Tinubu's two-nation working visit also includes a stop in Yokohama, Japan, from August 20 to August 22, for the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9), before he proceeds to Brasilia.

Find Full Story In The Link

Dilapidated Roads Biggest Obstacle To Baro Port Operations - Reps



House of Reps

The House of Representatives Ad-hoc Committee on the Rehabilitation and Operationalisation of the Baro Inland Port has raised the alarm over the deplorable state of access roads to the multi-billion-naira facility. The lawmakers said the poor road infrastructure leading to the facility is the single biggest obstacle to the port's functionality. The lawmakers, who are on an oversight visit to Niger State, said that despite the enormous potential of the Baro Inland Port to boost trade, create jobs, and open up the economy, the absence of motorable roads has left the project largely idle years after its commissioning. Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Saidu

Abdullahi, lamented that a trip that should ordinarily take half an hour now stretches into four gruelling hours because of the failed portions of the road.

He stressed that unless urgent attention is given to road infrastructure, other efforts to revive the port would amount to a waste.

He said: “The state of the roads is a major hindrance to the full operationalisation of the Baro Inland Port. What should be a 30-minute journey now takes over four hours. This is unacceptable for a facility of this magnitude, which is supposed to serve as a hub for trade and industrial growth. “Without good roads, cargo cannot be evacuated from the port, nor can surrounding communities benefit from its presence.”

Members of the committee also recalled that the Baro Inland Port, conceived as an alternative to the overburdened seaports in Lagos, was designed to enable seamless transportation of goods through

Nigeria's inland waterways and highways.

Speaking during the tour, the Managing Director of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), represented by the General Manager of Business Development, Bolawale Adetola, said the port, commissioned in 2019, has remained underutilised since then. He explained that the key challenges are the dilapidated access roads and a silted channel that requires dredging.

“Everything that a port needs to work is on ground. The key challenges are the access road and the silted channel. Once these are fixed, Baro Port will be of immense benefit to Nigerians,” Adetola said.

Meanwhile, traditional rulers in Niger State have also called on the Federal Government to revive the port to restore the region's lost commercial vibrancy and boost the national economy.

Etsu Nupe, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar, and the Emir of Agaie, Alhaji Yusuf Nuhu, made the appeal when the ad-

hoc committee paid them courtesy visits during the oversight tour.

The Etsu Nupe, who chairs the Niger State Council of Traditional Rulers, said Baro once thrived as a hub for rail and water transport, linking the North to other parts of the country.

He lamented the collapse of those systems, which have left Nigerians overly dependent on roads. Newspaper subscription bundles

“Most of us here witnessed when the port was alive. It boosted the economy of this area and the entire country. Goods and people travelled by train from Baro to Kano, Kaduna, and Gusau. Back then, rail and water transport made life easier,” he said, pledging the support and prayers of his people for the project's revival.

On his part, the Emir of Agaie recalled Baro's historic role in the 1950s and 1960s as a bustling centre for the export of groundnuts, cotton, and other produce. He described the port as a project of both national and international importance, capable of attracting foreign partners if revived.

Find Full Story In The Link

LASTMA Calls For Compliance To Traffic Regulations As 2nd Phase Of Ogudu-Ifako Bridge Repairs Commences

Culled

The Lagos State Government has announced the commencement of the second phase of extensive rehabilitation works on the Ogudu–Ifako Bridge in Kosofe Local Government Area, following the successful completion and reopening of the first phase.

This second phase, which entails the holistic restoration of the bridge's expansion joints inbound Lagos Island, is scheduled to extend from Tuesday, 19th August 2025, through Wednesday, 1st October 2025. Conscious of the attendant implications for vehicular circulation, the Government has meticulously designed an execution matrix underpinned by strategically defined traffic diversions, purposefully crafted to mitigate disruption and sustain commuter convenience.

The General Manager of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), Mr. Olalekan Bakare-Oki, disclosed that motorists commuting along the



2nd Phase ogudu-ifako bridge

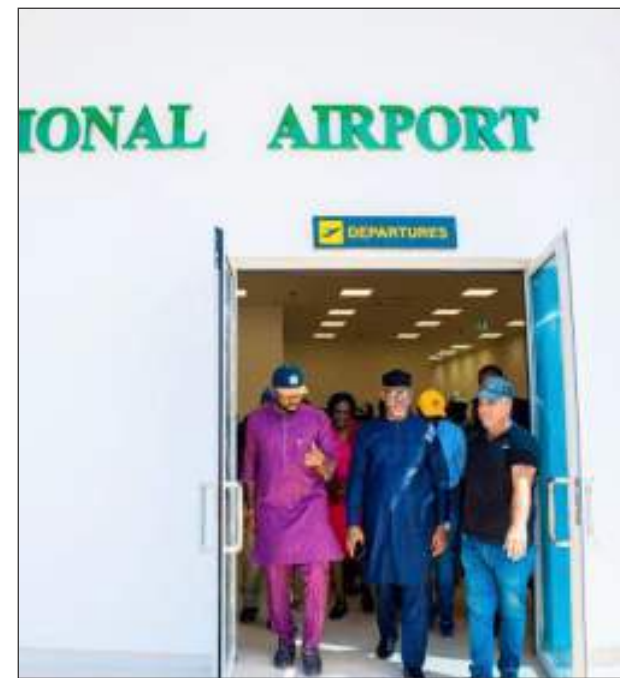
L a g o s – I b a d a n streamlined into a single for Oshodi may Expressway/Lagos Toll lane approximately 50 metres before the the Ojota Slip Road, Gate axis inbound metres before the the Ojota Slip Road, Oshodi and Victoria designated work zone, seamlessly linking to Island will be subjected with full access restored Ikorodu Road inbound to a controlled diversion 50 metres beyond the Anthony (by Taxi Park). have been strategically deployed across the at the Ogudu–Ifako construction site. "Motorists bound for affected corridors to ensure vehicular fluidity, Bridge. In this regard, He elaborated further Victoria Island may enforce lane discipline, and guarantee swift vehicular traffic will be that motorists destined conveniently divert operational response to emergencies.

through Ojota Slip Road, merging onto Ikorodu Road inbound Anthony (by Town Planning Way), then connecting to Gbagada and accessing the Third Mainland Bridge inbound Lagos Island. An additional alternative exists via Ikorodu Road inbound Funsho Williams Avenue, affording direct ingress to Eko Bridge en route to Lagos Island."

Moreover, he advised motorists originating from Ikeja and adjoining precincts to traverse through Maryland, connect with Ikorodu Road/Funsho Williams Avenue, and thereafter proceed via Eko Bridge to Outer Marina and adjoining corridors. Alternatively, they may link Ikorodu Road inbound Anthony (by Taxi Park) to Oshodi and pursue their onward destinations.

Reasserting the Government's commitment to ameliorating commuter discomfort, Mr. Bakare-Oki emphasised that LASTMA officers have been strategically deployed across the affected corridors to ensure vehicular fluidity, enforce lane discipline, and guarantee swift operational response to emergencies.

Find Full Story In The Link



Ogun Airport

The Gateway International Airport in Ogun State has officially been granted an Aerodrome Operational Permit by the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, signaling the commencement of commercial air transport services.

The state Governor, Dapo Abiodun, announced the development, describing it as a historic milestone not only for Ogun State but for Nigeria at large.

The governor said this in a video obtained by our correspondent on Friday, showing the governor addressing a group of persons. According to him, this is the first time a newly constructed airport in the country has received

Ogun Airport Gets NCAA Permit For Commercial Flight Operations

such certification under current regulatory standards.

The NCAA's approval follows a thorough technical inspection, on-site verification, and audit of the facility.

Abiodun added that the agency praised the airport as a model for future aviation infrastructure in Nigeria, citing its modern facilities and operational readiness.

The permit gives the airport an Aerodrome Reference Code of 3C and an Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Services (ARFFS) Category 6 rating.

PUNCH Online gathered that the aerodrome will operate daytime flights from sunrise to sunset, with a non-precision approach for Runway 05/23 and support for Area Navigation procedures.

The governor also assured all that a global logistics firm has committed to operating two weekly cargo flights between London and the airport.

He said, "I had a meeting on Sunday

with a company that wants to be flying two cargo flights from London to this airport on a weekly basis.

"We would also have flights that will be going from here to Abuja and as well as to Portharcourt start up.

"Additionally, the airport has been designated as an alternate landing site for Lagos' Murtala Muhammed International Airport, increasing its strategic importance for both domestic and international aviation."

The governor also said that passenger flight operations will soon begin, with initial direct routes to Abuja and Port Harcourt.

He emphasised that the airport is poised to become a catalyst for trade, investment, and tourism in the region.

"With world-class infrastructure, international connectivity, and a strategic location, the Gateway International Airport will raise the bar for air travel in Nigeria and serve as a proud symbol of Ogun State's progress.

"When the NCAA officials came last week, they came to congratulate me here, they said by the grace of God this airport will be approved and the approval this airport will get has never been given to any airport in Nigeria.

"Your airport has now become a benchmark for what an airport should be in Nigeria. Yes, that was what they told me. This airport will now become an alternative airport to the Murtala Muhammed Airport in Lagos," he added.

The governor said this in a video obtained by our correspondent on Friday, showing the governor addressing a group of persons.

According to him, this is the first time a newly constructed airport in the country has received such certification under current regulatory standards.

The NCAA's approval follows a thorough technical inspection, on-site verification, and audit of the facility.

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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 M R O 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.

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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.

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Nigeria Joins \$6.4m International Push For Lassa Fever Vaccine

Culled:
Nigeria has joined a new 6.4-million-dollar international research consortium aimed at accelerating the development of a vaccine against Lassa fever.

This was made known in a statement made available to the NewsAgency of Nigeria (NAN) by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) on Sunday in Abuja.

The initiative, titled Unravelling Natural and Vaccine-Elicited Immunity to Lassa Fever (UNVEIL), is led by the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) with funding support from CEPI.

NAN reports that three Nigerian institutions, Jos University Teaching Hospital, Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital, and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Teaching Hospital, Bauchi, will serve as frontline clinical sites under the project.

They will work alongside the Kenema Government Hospital in Sierra Leone. The research will focus on identifying immune markers or correlates of protection, biological signatures in blood or cells that indicate immunity to Lassa fever.

Experts said that the breakthrough could enable vaccine makers to measure protection through



Lassa Fever

laboratory tests rather than lengthy clinical trials, thereby fast-tracking vaccine delivery to affected communities.

Dr Courtney Woolsey, Principal Investigator of the UNVEIL programme, said that the project would help remove a “huge roadblock” in vaccine development.

“Once we can measure protection in a blood test instead of a prolonged clinical efficacy trial, we can deliver vaccines to impacted communities much faster,”

Woolsey said.

Lassa fever infects an estimated 100,000 to 300,000 people annually.

Case fatality rates can exceed 20 per cent among hospitalised patients, while survivors face complications such as irreversible hearing loss.

Dr Katrin Ramsauer, CEPI's Lassa Disease Programme Lead, described the research as a milestone.

“A vaccine is urgently needed against Lassa fever, a deadly

disease that continues to burden West Africa.

“Knowing the immune markers that correspond to protection will be a milestone achievement in our work against Lassa fever,” Ramsauer said.

The consortium would also build capacity in African partner hospitals through training in diagnostics, biobanking and clinical research, strengthening regional outbreak response and health security.

Find Full Story In The Link

Stop Recycling Old Politicians - Adebayo

Culled:
The 2023 presidential candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Prince Adewale Adebayo, has urged Nigerians to stop recycling old politicians if the country is to make meaningful progress.

Speaking on Arise TV PrimeTime, monitored by The Guardian, Adebayo argued that the political elite remain the root cause of Nigeria's challenges. According to him, the first step towards national renewal is embracing fresh leaders with new ideas.

“You need to listen to new ideas and new politicians,” he said. “A country with a 70 per cent poverty rate, no infrastructure, and weak institutions cannot afford to be conservative. You have nothing to lose—what you need is new leadership to renew yourself.” He lamented that Nigeria's political class is dominated by a tiny fraction of the population.

“Politicians are less than two per cent of the country. It's not about what they are doing; it's about what the 98 per cent decide to tolerate,” he stressed.

Adebayo further argued that the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) has plunged Nigeria into deeper economic woes, just as the People's Democratic Party (PDP) did during its 16 years in power.

“The results of the APC in the last decade resemble the poor results of the PDP years. If this must change, we need to change the political tendencies in power. Merely switching parties without changing ideology is only a matter of nomenclature,” he warned.

On former Kaduna State governor, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai's recent criticism of the APC-led Federal Government as “failed, clannish and visionless,” Adebayo said El-Rufai merely echoed what he had been saying since 2022.

He welcomed El-Rufai to the “club of those who have realised the damage APC has done to Nigeria.”

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APC Wins Jigawa Rep Bye-Election



Reps

Culled:
The election was conducted in 22 wards across Garki and Babura local government areas. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has declared the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Rabi

Umu Mukhtar, as the winner of the bye-election held on Saturday in the Garki/Babura federal constituency of Jigawa State.

The election was conducted in 22 political wards spread across Garki and Babura

local government areas.

The returning officer, Sani Ismail, announced the results in the Babura local government collation centre on Sunday morning.

Mr Ismail, a professor, said Mr Mukhtar polled 38,449 votes to defeat his main rival, Isah Auwalu of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), who got 13,519 votes.

The candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Sabo Salisu, received 2,931 votes, while Muktar Babangida of ZLP received 31 votes.

The seat became vacant following the death of the occupant, Isa Dogonyaro (APC), last May.

“I, Professor Sani Ibrahim Ismail, hereby certify that I am the returning officer of Babura-Garki

Federal Constituency by-elections held on the 16th of August 2025.

“The election was contested; the candidates received the following votes: Bilkisu Bashiru of Party A received 11 votes, Ibrahim Habiba of Party AA received 5 votes, Umar Bashiru of Party ADC received 48 votes, and Sale Sani of Party AAA received 446 votes.

“Muktar Rabi'u Garki of APC received 38,449 votes, Adamu Dahiru of APGA received 77 votes, Umar Muhammad Gana of APM 37 votes, Abdullahi Usman of APP 31 Votes, Sabo Salisu of NNPP received 2,931 votes, Isa Auwalu of PDP 13,519 votes and Muktar Babangida of ZLP 31 votes”, the INEC official announced.

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Babangida

Tinubu Felicitates Babangida At 84, Hails Role In Nigeria’s Development

Culled:
President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has congratulated former Military President, General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, on his 84th birthday, praising his contributions to Nigeria's political and socio-economic development.

In a statement issued on Sunday by his Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, the President joined family, friends, and associates of the former leader in celebrating the milestone.

He described Babangida as a statesman whose years in military and political leadership left a profound

impact on the nation.

President Tinubu highlighted the retired general's distinguished military career, noting his service as an instructor at the Nigerian Defence Academy, Commander of the 4 Reconnaissance Regiment, Commander of the Nigerian Army Armoured Corps, Director of Army Staff Duties and Plans, and eventually, Chief of Army Staff.

He further noted Babangida's stewardship of the country, recalling that his administration would be remembered for major infrastructure projects such as the Third Mainland Bridge, as well as for economic

reforms that opened up the Nigerian economy.

The statement also acknowledged Babangida's establishment of key national institutions, including the State Security Service (SSS), the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), and the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC).

In addition, the President praised his role in creating states and relocating Nigeria's capital from Lagos to Abuja.

While commending him for his sacrifices and leadership, President Tinubu prayed that Almighty Allah grant Babangida longer life, good

health, and renewed strength.

General Babangida, popularly known as “IBB,” ruled Nigeria from 1985 to 1993, and remains a prominent figure in the country's history.

He described Babangida as a statesman whose years in military and political leadership left a profound impact on the nation.

President Tinubu highlighted the retired general's distinguished military career, noting his service as an instructor at the Nigerian Defence Academy, Commander of the 4 Reconnaissance Regiment, Commander of the Nigerian Army Armoured Corps, Director of Army

Find Full Story In The Link

Kano: NNPP Heads To Court Over Poll Result

The New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) in Kano has vowed to challenge in court the declaration of the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate as winner of the Tsanyawa/Ghari State Assembly re-run election, alleging that the process was manipulated.

Kano State NNPP Chairman, Hashimu Suleiman Dungurawa, said the party would not accept what he described as a fraudulent outcome,

stressing that voters were disenfranchised and results were tampered with to favour the APC.

“Therefore, the party rejected the election results of Tsanyawa/Ghari, which was declared at the INEC Headquarters in Kano, while cancelling entirely the 10 polling units that the Appeal Court nullified and ordered for a fresh election,” Dungurawa said.

He alleged that presiding officers had

already signed the results at the collation centers in the affected polling units, accusing unnamed politicians of colluding with electoral officials to announce the APC candidate as winner at the INEC state headquarters instead.

Dungurawa added that unlike Tsanyawa/Ghari, the Shanono/Bagwai by-election was declared at collation centers, which, he said, prevented attempts to

manipulate the outcome.

“NNPP as a party will continue to fight injustice, favoritism, election manipulation and against anybody who feels he can use the federal might to disenfranchise the good people of Kano State,” he vowed.

The NNPP, while commending voters and security agencies for ensuring peaceful polls, insisted that it would pursue legal redress to reclaim what it described as a stolen mandate.

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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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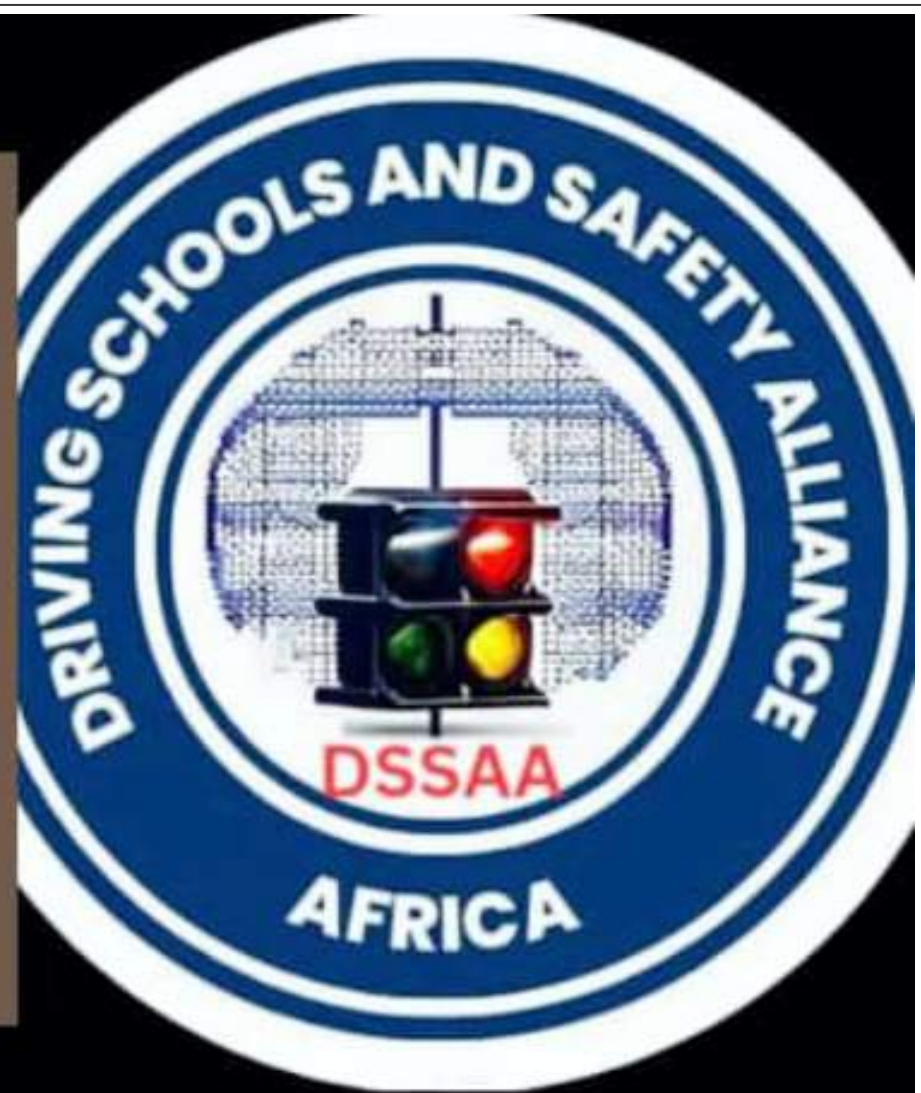


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