

Petrol Marketers Plans To Enforce Fuel Pump Integrity At Filling Stations

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CONTINUES ON P3

African's Most Extensive Rail Network Opens To Private Train Firms

South Africa's government said on Friday it will allow private firms to run trains on its freight rail network, aiming to

boost efficiency as the country's freight state-owned logistics firm Transnet struggles to keep up with demand. Transnet, which runs

the country's freight rail and port services, has faced equipment shortages and maintenance backlogs worsened

CONTINUES ON P2



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E - NEWSPAPER

FERMA, GCPRC Sign Strategic Framework To Boost Nigeria-China Road Cooperation

The Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) has entered into a Long-Term Strategic Framework Agreement (LSFA) with the Global

Cooperation Promotion Research Centre (GCPRC), setting the stage for a new era of

collaboration in Nigeria's road maintenance and infrastructure

management. The agreement, signed on Wednesday at FERMA headquarters in

Abuja, formalises a partnership between Nigeria's statutory road

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FERMA signs an agreement with GCPRC to boost Road Cooperation

Dantosh's Push To Boost Maritime Activities At Eastern Ports

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NIWA Begins Enforcement Of Life Jacket Use On Waterways

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FRSC Applauds FERMA's Interventions On Fed Roads

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LAMATA, NURTW Alliance Reshaping Lagos Public Transport

The official said LAMATA's Bus Industry Transition Programme was created to integrate informal operators into the formal system.

The Lagos Road Transport Metropolitan Area Workers (NURTW) Transport Authority and other affiliated unions is helping to reshape public transportation in

Nigeria's commercial hub. Speaking on Channels Television's Sunrise programme on Saturday, LAMATA Managing Director,

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MDAs Spent N3bn On Generator Fuel, Maintenance

P7

Local Transport News

FRSC Applauds FERMA's Interventions On Federal Roads

Culled

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Sector Commander of the Federal Roads Safety Corps (FRSC), CC Felix N. Theman, has commended Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)'s efforts in bringing succour to road users on Federal roads in the FCT and beyond.

Theman who paid a courtesy call to the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of FERMA at the Corporate Headquarters of the Agency in Abuja, solicited urgent need for FERMA to give helping hand to providing good drainages, and desilting same to prevent flooding which often worsens the road condition, especially from Sharp Corner to building materials market to Mararraba bridge as a result of heavy flooding affecting and washing away the road shoulders and creeping into the carriageway.

He pointed out that the Nyanya-Mararraba axis of the road is worst in the evening, ostensibly because of

heavy traffic, due to population growth, menace of okada riders and motorists driving against traffic, which causes gridlock.

In his welcome address, the Managing Director, Engr. Emeka Agbasi, thanked the FCT Sector Commander for the visit while congratulating him on his new posting to the FCT.

He appreciated the Commandant for intimating the Agency of the status of the failed portions.

Find Full Story In The Link



Shehu

LAMATA, NURTW Alliance Reshaping Lagos Public Transport

Culled

The official said LAMATA's Bus Industry Transition Programme was created to integrate informal operators into the formal system.

The Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) says its partnership with the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and other affiliated unions is helping to reshape public transportation in Nigeria's commercial hub.

Speaking on Channels Television's Sunrise programme on Saturday, LAMATA Managing Director, Abimbola Akinajo, explained that yellow buses, popularly known as danfos, still move the majority of commuters in Lagos and cannot be completely scrapped.

"It is not about throwing away what exists," Ms Akinajo said. "We work with the yellow buses because if you do not interact with them, you cannot speak of regulation; they are the ones who carry the majority of people in Lagos."

According to her, the agency's Bus

Industry Transition Programme was created to integrate informal operators into the formal system.

"It is a vision to bring the formal and the informal together. We understand what they want, and they know what we want," she said.

She added that the unions were already operating one of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes successfully, demonstrating their ability to adapt to regulated service delivery.

"What Lagos is constantly doing is working with them, ensuring that we begin to expose them to what it means to be a regulated service. They are beginning to understand this, and we are starting to see some dividends," she noted.

Biodun Otunola, Managing Director of Planet Projects Limited, said transport reforms are critical for Lagos, a city of over 20 million people long burdened by congestion, unsafe travel, and poor infrastructure.

In his research titled 'The BRT and the

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African's Most Extensive Rail Network Opens To Private Train Firms

Culled

South Africa's government said on Friday it will allow private firms to run trains on its freight rail network, aiming to boost efficiency as state-owned logistics firm Transnet struggles to keep up with demand.

Transnet, which runs the country's freight rail and port services, has faced equipment shortages and maintenance backlogs worsened by widespread cable theft and vandalism, prompting the government to seek private sector involvement.

Barbara Creecy, the transport minister, said 11 out of 25 train operating companies that applied for access to the freight network had met the requirements and will proceed to the next stage of negotiations and contracting, without naming the companies.

South African logistics firm Grindrod, said on Friday it had been granted access to the Transnet network.

"(The companies) are not cannibalising Transnet freight, they are adding capacity to what Transnet freight is



Railway Train

already carrying," Creecy told reporters. The firms secured slots across 41 routes, with the initiative targeting routes used to transport bulk commodities like coal, iron ore, chrome, manganese, sugar and fuel.

Contract conditions include railway safety permits, rolling stock readiness and securing port offloading capacity. Slot durations will range from one to 10

years, Creecy said.

This year, the government has extended 149 billion rand (\$8.42 billion) in guarantees to support Transnet's recovery but says it has limited resources to fund infrastructure development and address logistics backlogs.

Creecy said Transnet was also seeking 35 billion rand in infrastructure funding from the government this year.

Transnet's freight rail volumes dropped to 152 million metric tons in the 2023/24 financial year, down from a peak of 226 million metric tons in 2017/18.

The new operators are expected to carry an additional 20 million tons of freight annually starting from the next financial year, advancing the government's goal of transporting 250 million tons by rail annually by 2029, Creecy said.

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Local Transport News

LASTMA Unveils Media Traffic Mayors To Improve Lagos Mobility

Culled

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) has inaugurated a new initiative that brings media professionals into the heart of traffic management in the state. Under the scheme, select media practitioners have been inducted as "Traffic Mayors" to complement the work of LASTMA officers in advancing an integrated and orderly transportation system across Lagos.

Speaking at the inauguration, the General Manager of LASTMA, Olalekan Bakare Oki, described the initiative as a groundbreaking milestone in traffic governance.

"This initiative is a deliberate and far-sighted attempt to broaden the frontiers of stakeholder engagement by embedding media practitioners as active participants in the crusade for traffic sanity," he said.

"Their induction as Traffic Mayors augments the moral suasion dimension of our operations and will significantly deepen the culture of voluntary compliance among motorists," he added.

Mr Bakare Oki stressed that the media holds an irreplaceable role as "both architects of public consciousness and catalysts for societal transformation," noting that their involvement will give traffic advocacy greater visibility and impact.

Under the arrangement, the Traffic Mayors are expected to work closely with LASTMA officers by sensitising motorists, amplifying traffic advisories, countering misinformation, and serving as role models of orderly road use.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Bakare-Oki

AAAU Seeks Increased Data Collection For Aviation Sector Growth

Culled

African Aviation and Aerospace University (AAAU) is seeking an increased level of data collection in the aviation sector for enhanced policy draft and implementation that would further boost growth in the industry in Nigeria, Africa and the globe.

Speaking at the Weekend at the closing session of the first International Research Conference in Abuja, the Registrar of the University, Dr. Mustapha Abdullahi said participants at the meeting have agreed that the issue of data collection as far as the aviation sector is concerned, is very low.

"So, we believe that from all the discussions that we have been having, a number of questions have been answered, and it is going to be useful to the entire aviation industry, not only to Nigeria, but to the globe".

He explained that from the over 80 papers presented at the conference, "I am confident that the outcome of this

conference is going to be useful to the entire global aviation.

"Many people around the world believe only in the technical aspect of aviation, without necessarily aligning with the managerial aspect of aviation. So, there is already an obvious lacuna that exists within the industry".

The Registrar stated that many see academia as a place where only ideas with short licensing training are considered without necessarily having the full impact of the academic research that will aid in advancing development within the sector.

"I believe that this is one of the major reason why the university is established, to really give its own big footing for the industry, largely within the atmosphere of the managerial segment of aviation" he explained.

A participant at the conference, Dr. Siona O'Ben who presented a paper on multimodal mode of transport and innovation said the conference was timely.

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Petrol Marketers Plans To Enforce Fuel Pump Integrity At Filling Stations

Culled

The Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN) plans to safeguard fuel pump integrity at filling stations by addressing cheating and related malpractices.

Chairman of IPMAN Enugu Unit, Chief Chinedu Anyaso, disclosed this on Sunday in Enugu shortly after the association's 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The Enugu Unit of IPMAN encompasses independent petroleum marketers in Enugu, Anambra, and Ebonyi States, as well as parts of Abia, Imo, Kogi, and Cross River States.

Anyaso said that members unanimously agreed at the AGM to uphold the integrity of fuel pumps, ensuring Nigerians receive value for their money.

He stressed that IPMAN was committed to maintaining its reputation for service and product excellence, adding, "IPMAN resolved and planned to set up a task force to ensure compliance of all members to fuel



Fuel Pump

pump integrity."

According to him, the task force will be inaugurated in September and will operate through dedicated teams in each state under the unit.

"In order to sanitise the system and ensure that the reputation of IPMAN and our members' fuel stations is maintained, the members during the AGM unanimously agreed that fuel

pump cheating and malpractice must be stopped.

"IPMAN will set up a daily mandate task force soon, while the association's members collectively agreed on a heavy monetary fine as well as sanction for any defaulting fuel station owned by any member," he said.

He noted that the association had resolved to be firm in dealing with the menace through its own internal

disciplinary mechanism, just as the association eradicated stocking bad fuel.

The chairman stated that the IPMAN Enugu Unit also appreciated the strides made by various governors and state governments in development, particularly in road and security infrastructure within the unit's states of coverage.

"We are encouraged by the governors' commitment to continue to create a conducive business environment and to ensure smooth road corridors for fuel products to get to all nooks and crannies of the unit," he said.

Anyaso noted that the members unanimously agreed to write to Gov. Chukwuma Soludo of Anambra again on the issue of IGR for fuel stations in Anambra.

"We commend him for the discussion so far; however, we are calling all involved to come to a round table and resolve their differences and come to an amicable compromise for the benefit of all," he said.

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Local Transport News

NIWA Begins Enforcement Of Life Jacket Use On Waterways

Culled

The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) Niger-Kwara Area Office on Saturday commenced enforcement of life jacket use for passengers boarding boats across its waterways.

Mr Akapo Adeboye, Area Manager, flagged off the 2025 sensitisation campaign on safety of lives and property in line with inland waterways regulations at Gabgibo community.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the campaign was tagged "Safety and Safe Trip: Zero Tolerance to Boat Mishap – No Life Jacket, No Boarding."

NAN also reports that the enforcement, which began at the Gabgibo waterfront in Mokwa Local Government Area of Niger, is part of the authority's efforts to reduce boat accidents and ensure safety on waterways.

Adeboye said the sensitisation aimed to enforce the use of life jackets by boat operators and passengers, adding that

NIWA would no longer tolerate non-compliance.

"We are shifting from sensitisation to enforcement, and we expect all boat operators and passengers to comply," he said.

He recalled that NIWA had been carrying out sensitisation on the importance of wearing life jackets while on boats for the past three years.

According to him, the campaign has recorded positive results, with a decline in boat accidents in recent times.

Find Full Story In The Link



NIWA

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IPMAN To Enforce Fuel Pump Integrity In South East

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Dantoso's Push To Boost Maritime Activities At Eastern Ports



Dantoso

Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Dr. Abubakar Dantoso, is sustaining conscious steps aimed at improving ship traffic to the eastern ports and repositioning them for optimum efficiency.

As part of the Authority's contribution to boosting the national economy, Dantoso is working tirelessly to maximise the potentials of Onne and Porthacourt ports while also reviving the existing ports in Calabar, Warri and other parts of the South South without losing focus on greenfield port projects.

For years, shipping into Nigeria meant Lagos ports first, everywhere else second. The Eastern Ports- Port Harcourt, Onne, Warri, and Calabar-

were left in the shadows despite their proximity to key markets and resource corridors. Despite its potential, weak infrastructure and limited connectivity kept the Eastern ports underused. Lagos absorbed over 90 per cent of maritime traffic while Eastern facilities ran below a third of their capacity.

But today, that story is beginning to change. Under the leadership of Dantoso, Eastern ports are being repositioned as a competitive gateway.

For shippers, the benefits are obvious-shorter turnaround times, closer access to the South-East and North-Central industrial clusters, lower transportation costs, and the ability to move agricultural and mineral products more efficiently.

All these are aimed at deepening Nigeria's participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) regime.

To demonstrate his hands-on approach, Dantoso embarked on a series of tours of focussed on driving investment into the Eastern Ports. These tours have

started to yield expressions of interest for Rivers, Calabar, and Burutu Ports. One of these is the recently celebrated call of the wholly Nigerian-owned MV Ocean Dragon at Onne's West African Container Terminal (WACT) on July 31, 2025.

With a 349 TEU capacity, the MV Ocean Dragon shall be plying routes across West, Central, and Southern Africa, exemplifying the "Nigeria First" policy and pronouncing Nigeria as a key player in intra African trade. Through these efforts, the NPA is showing its commitment to integrating Nigerian producers with global markets and maximising the immediate benefits of the proximate African trade corridor by water.

Dantoso's management introduced new tariffs, which became effective on March 1, 2025. The tariffs reflect operational costs while maintaining competitiveness and enhancing the actualisation of the Authority's 25-year master plan which emphasizes automation, cybersecurity, and sustainability, including a proposed

"Green Craft Acquisition Fund" for IMO-compliant vessels.

The NPA has continued to pursue strategic partnerships, which are driving growth. For instance, Hapag-Lloyd launched a weekly service at Onne, connecting Eastern Nigeria to global routes and enhancing transshipment under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Collaborations with relevant agencies of government like the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) for 24-hour operations also aim at reducing cargo release times and curb diversions to neighbouring ports.

And performance metrics reflect success so far. Records show that service boat Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) rose 129.3% to 4.58 million tons in 2024. The Eastern Ports have also seen larger vessels berth safely, with stakeholders like Indorama reporting higher export tonnages.

In anticipation of the growth that this progress growth indicates, the NPA projects ₦1.28 trillion in revenue for 2025, up from ₦894.86 billion in 2024.

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FERMA, GCPRC Sign Strategic Framework To Boost Nigeria-China Road Cooperation

Culled

The Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) has entered into a Long-Term Strategic Framework Agreement (LSFA) with the Global Cooperation Promotion Research Centre (GCPRC), setting the stage for a new era of collaboration in Nigeria's road maintenance and infrastructure management.

The agreement, signed on Wednesday at FERMA headquarters in Abuja, formalises a partnership between Nigeria's statutory road maintenance body and the GCPRC, an international think tank established in Nigeria in February 2025 under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning.

The cooperation framework includes provisions for regular communication channels, joint project planning, and FERMA's authorisation for GCPRC to coordinate business activities with Chinese partners.

It will remain in force for two years, with



FERMA

an option for renewal, fostering global cooperate in federal road requiring strict cooperation, promoting network maintenance, adherence to anti-South-South transportation security, corruption measures, partnerships, and and road asset Nigerian law, and deepening strategic management, drawing transparency relations between on China's expertise in frameworks such as the Nigeria and China. modern road Public Procurement Act. Under the agreement, infrastructure. GCPRC focuses on both organisations will The framework

emphasises technology transfer, innovative road policies, and capacity building to strengthen Nigeria's ability to sustainably manage its road network.

FERMA Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Emeka Agbasi, described the signing as a milestone for Nigeria's infrastructure ambitions, saying, "Our mandate has always been to maintain and improve the federal road network.

"Through this agreement with GCPRC, we are positioning ourselves to adopt global best practices in road asset management, maintenance technology, and capacity building.

"This collaboration will not only improve the condition and safety of our roads but also strengthen Nigeria's capacity to sustainably manage critical infrastructure well into the future."

GCPRC Head, Mr. Li Zhensheng, said the agreement demonstrates a shared vision for development.

"GCPRC is proud to partner with FERMA on this strategic initiative. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

MDAs Spent N3bn On Generator Fuel, Maintenance



Fuel Tankers

Federal Ministries, Departments, and Agencies were allocated a combined N3.76bn on diesel for generators and plant maintenance in two years.

This is according to line-by-line Treasury payments captured on GovSpend, the public finance tracker managed by BudGIT.

The expenditures cover outright diesel purchases, monthly fuelling of large-capacity sets, and the routine servicing that keeps the plants running.

However, Sunday PUNCH observed that the expenditure was higher in 2023 when compared with 2024.

In 2023, payments specifically tagged to

generator fuelling and maintenance totalled N2.15bn, but dropped to N1.61bn, which is a decline of N536.55m or 25 per cent in 2024.

Sunday PUNCH observed that the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation was the heaviest spender, committing about N706m across the two years.

Its payments are notable for their precision: repeated orders of 6,000 to 10,000 litres at a time for distinct generator banks — 400KVA, 750KVA, and 1,000KVA — serving the main building, the Presidential Wing, and the P-Wing at the Shehu Shagari Complex.

Individual contracts typically cleared between N16.4m and N17.5m per batch through 2023 and 2024.

The Nigerian Defence Academy followed with roughly N639m over the period. The data shows two standing lines most months: one for "plant/generator fuel cost", another for "maintenance of plants/generators".

In 2023, the monthly fuel charge clustered around N10.56m, while maintenance hovered near N17.60m.

In 2024, the fuel line moved to about N15.70m and maintenance to about N21.99m per month.

Close behind was the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission with about N635.5m. The bulk came in December 2023, when the Commission raised N500m "for settling all outstanding on diesel for generator" and N44m as a deposit covering headquarters, the Academy, and the Abuja Zone.

In 2024, the books reflect an N86.50m internal reclassification to operations for "generator fuelling", signalling that the need did not abate even as the accounting line changed.

Police institutions were another large cluster. Payments by Police Formations and Commands — alongside the Nigeria Police Academy's own fuel order —

amounted to about N550m over the two years.

Several of the entries capture bulk deliveries to the Force Headquarters tanks at Louis Edet House in Abuja.

Among others, the police booked N82.21m for 90,000 litres and multiple N34.98m–N65.93m tickets for 40,000 litres in 2023.

In 2024, a further 40,000-litre consignments landed at different times of the year, keeping the standby sets energised.

Other agencies recur throughout the ledger. The National Primary Health Care Development Agency incurred significant maintenance costs in 2023 to keep vaccine cold-chain generators running at the National Strategic Cold Store and six zonal stores.

The Federal Ministry of Justice, the Federal Ministry of Works, and the Office of the Surveyor-General repeatedly procured diesel for headquarters generators, often in 15,000-litre and 7,000-litre tranches. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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American Airlines Flight Diverted After Passenger's Device Catches Fire

Culled

Video shows JetBlue plane veering off the runway after landing at Boston airport. The plane veered off the runway after landing at Boston Logan International Airport in June.

An American Airlines flight on its way to Phoenix diverted to Washington Dulles International Airport on Saturday after a passenger's device reportedly caught fire, according to the Federal Aviation Administration and the airline.

American Airlines said Flight 357 "landed safely" at Dulles "following reports of smoke from a customer's device."

"The device was quickly contained by crew members prior to landing," the airline said in a statement.

Officials didn't specify what type of device it was.

An American Airlines Airbus A321 airplane taxis at San Diego International Airport



before departing to Dallas at sunset on May 10, 2025 in San Diego, California.

Emergency personnel met the aircraft on the runway when it landed

around 11:50 a.m. Saturday.

Passenger Adriana Novello, 22, said in a video shared with ABC News that she was seated in an exit row on

the flight and was sleeping when she was awakened by one of the flight attendants jumping on her seat to get the fire extinguisher.

"Then I started smelling

smoke, and a lot of people on the plane were coughing," she said. "But I looked behind me, and what we could tell was that there was something on fire in the aisle."

The flight took off from Philadelphia and was headed to Phoenix. The airline said there were 160 customers and 6 crew members on board.

The FAA said it's investigating the incident.

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Passenger Adriana Novello, [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's Minimum Wage Insufficient To Lift Citizens Out Of Poverty

Culled:

The government of the United States has said that currency devaluation in Nigeria has reduced the value of the N70,000 minimum wage, making it lower in value and insufficient to lift citizens out of poverty.

According to the 2024 country reports on human rights practice, the new minimum wage at N70,000 is equivalent to \$47.90 per month, and rarely effectively enforced by the Nigerian government.

Also, some states, according to the report are declining to implement the minimum wage law, citing financial constraints, adding that the number of labor inspectors was insufficient to enforce compliance.

In its Country Reports on the U.S. department of state website dated August 12 on Human Rights Practices for 2024, released by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labour, the report noted that the new wage, pegged at about \$47.90 per month, had lost its value due to the naira trading at over N1,500 to the dollar. It added that firms with fewer than 25 workers did not benefit from the wage increase.

According to the report, between 70 and 80 per cent of Nigeria's working



Minimum Wage

population operates in the informal economy, where authorities fail to enforce wage, hour, and Occupational Safety and Health laws.

Meanwhile, the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) has unveiled NGF Investopedia — an investment platform aimed at unlocking capital flows into bankable projects across all 36 states. NGF said the investment platform was created in an effort to

address Nigeria's annual infrastructure financing deficit estimated at \$100 billion.

The launch event, held in Abuja on Tuesday, brought together governors, development partners, and global investors committed to transforming Nigeria's infrastructure financing landscape.

Speaking at the launch, Abdulrahman AbdulRazaq, NGF chairman and governor of Kwara state, highlighted

the pressing challenges and untapped opportunities within Nigeria's subnational economies.

“Here is Africa's largest economy, endowed with abundant human and natural resources,” he said.

According to the 2024 country reports on human rights practice, the new minimum wage at N70,000 is equivalent to \$47.90 per month, and rarely effectively enforced by the Nigerian government.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Lagos Agog With Drum Queens Festival

Culled:

The highly anticipated Drum Queens Festival was held on Sunday at the Breath of Life Ministry located in Obanikoro, Lagos.

This remarkable festival was spearheaded by Odebiyi Temitope, affectionately known as Topsticks, who holds the distinction of being the first female drummer in Africa.

Her unwavering passion lies in inspiring female drummers and empowering young individuals to evolve into the best versions of themselves.

The festival's mission is to create a supportive environment that nurtures talent and promotes gender equality in the drumming community.

The event was graced by Bishop Jedafe, the esteemed pastor of The Breath of Life Ministry, who advocates for transformation through mindset change. His dedication to uplifting young talents aligns harmoniously with Topsticks' vision for the Drum Queens Festival.

In attendance was be several prominent figures from the music and business sectors like Mr. Gbóyèga Adélàjà, the 73-year-old virtuoso pianist known for his exceptional musical expertise.

Drum Queens Festival is more than just an annual event; it is a vibrant platform that celebrates the talents of young women, from ages as young as 7 to those ready to embark on professional music careers.

The festival aims to foster mentorship, training, and exposure in a predominantly male-dominated field, ensuring that female drummers receive the recognition and guidance they deserve.

Currently, the initiative boasts nearly 200 women on its platform and remains open to partnerships and sponsorships that will expand its reach, aspiring to impact thousands of young women across Nigeria and throughout Africa.

The Drum Queens Festival remain a beacon of empowerment, celebration, and opportunity for all who participate.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Nigeria Governors Launch New Investment Platform



Governor AbdulRazaq

Culled:

The Nigeria Governors' Forum, NGF, has launched Investopedia, a new investment platform aimed at positioning

Nigeria's 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, as a credible investment

destinations

The investment platform is designed to unlock capital, generate and boost economic growth across the country.

Speaking at the launch in Abuja, Nigeria's capital, the NGF Chairman and Kwara State Governor,

AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, emphasised the need for Nigeria

to harness both global and African capital financing opportunities.

According to Governor AbdulRazaq, the platform was specifically designed to position Nigeria as an attractive destination for investors and promote inclusive growth.

He said: “Over the last decade, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows have averaged only \$2 billion annually, less than 0.5% of GDP, and concentrated in a few sectors.

“Yet, Nigeria faces a \$100 billion annual infrastructure financing gap. Public projects alone cannot bridge this.

“The NGF Investopedia is a one-stop entry point that shows investors not only where to invest,

but how to invest with confidence.”

The Governor said the NGF Investopedia, a biennial publication, will feature major projects across sectors, provide market insights, and highlight incentives.

He added: “It will be published in print and digital formats and showcased at international platforms, including the UN General Assembly, Intra-African Trade Fair, and Africa Investment Forum.”

Governor AbdulRazaq further stated that investments in agro-processing, renewable energy, ICT and finance would deliver benefits beyond financial returns, including job creation and sustainable development in the country.

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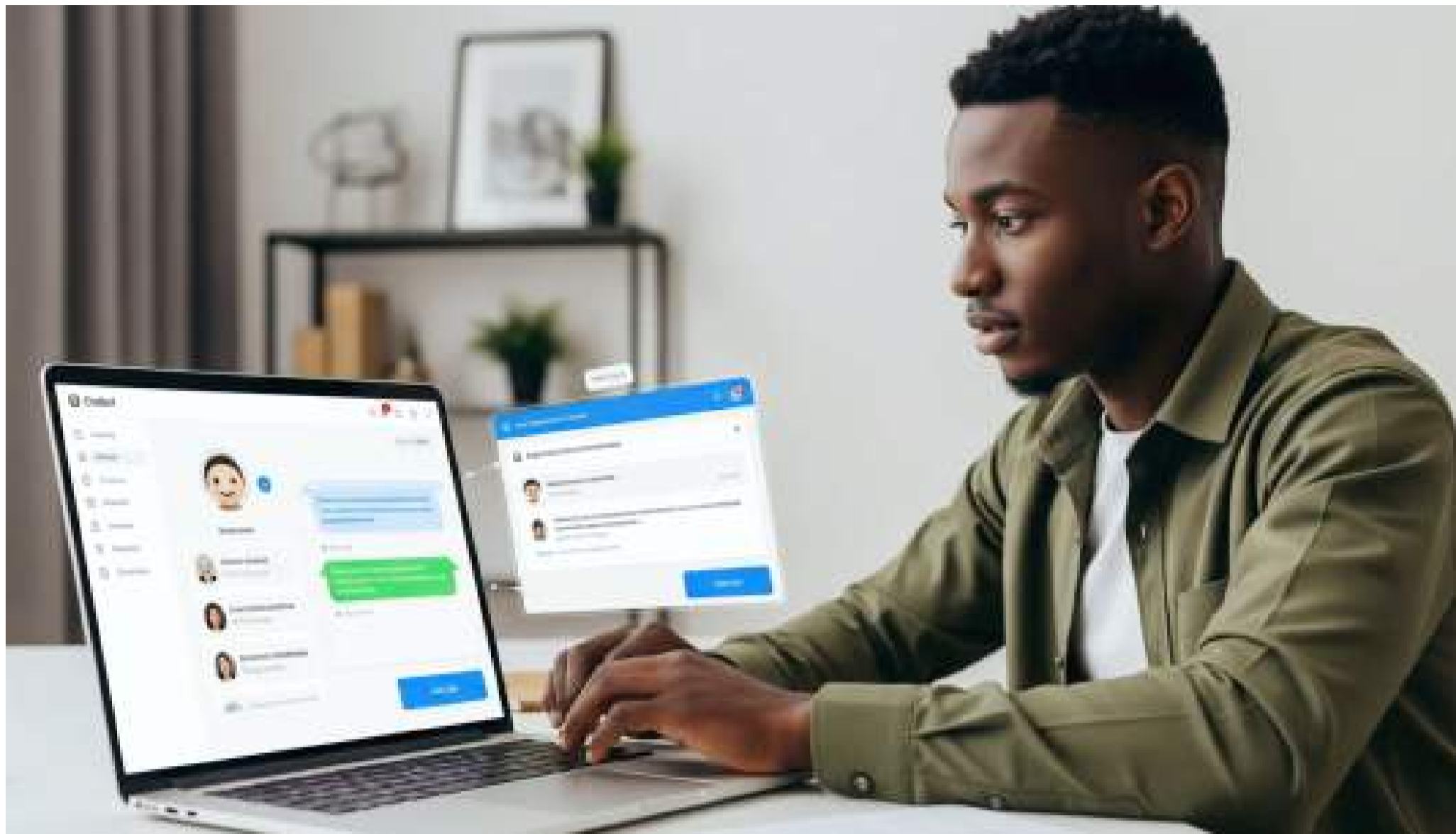
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Social Media Messaging Chatbox

Nigeria Removes 59m Harmful Posts, Shuts 13.5m Social Media Accounts

Culled: Nigerian authorities have taken down nearly 59 million pieces of harmful online content and shut down more than 13.5 million social media accounts for violating the country's internet regulations, according to a new compliance report.

The data is contained in the 2024 Code of Practice Compliance Report, jointly issued by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), and the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC). The report tracks how global tech

platforms are addressing online harms within Nigeria.

According to the report, a total of 58,909,112 pieces of content were removed from platforms including TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), Google, and Microsoft. In addition, 13,597,057 user accounts were shut down for violating platform guidelines and the Nigerian Code of Practice for online platforms.

The government also recorded 754,629 user complaints, while 420,439 contents initially removed were later restored after user appeals, the report said.

Speaking in Abuja, Hadiza Umar, Director of Corporate Communications at NITDA, commended tech companies for adhering to the 2024 Code of Practice, which mandates that large platforms register locally, comply with tax regulations, and follow Nigerian laws.

"These reports mark a significant step towards building a safer and more responsible digital environment for Nigerians," Umar said in a statement. "They demonstrate a shared commitment to protecting users and promoting a trustworthy online space."

Umar added that while current efforts are commendable, sustaining digital safety in Nigeria requires ongoing collaboration among regulators, tech firms, and civil society.

"We remain committed to working with all stakeholders to enhance digital literacy, enforce safety standards, and strengthen trust in Nigeria's digital ecosystem," she said.

The 2024 Code of Practice is part of the government's broader push to curb misinformation, harmful content, and online abuse across digital platforms operating within the country.

Find Full Story In The Link

Atiku Mocks Nigeria's Empty Booth At TICAD9

Former Nigerian vice president Atiku Abubakar has mocked the government of President Bola Tinubu after a video showing Nigeria's empty booth at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9) went viral, sparking embarrassment and criticism of the country's delegation.

The biennial summit, taking place in Yokohama, Japan, is one of the most significant global platforms for Africa's

development, bringing together heads of state, Japanese officials, investors and international organisations. Participating countries are expected to showcase their economic potential at dedicated stands, highlighting opportunities in trade, energy, agriculture and technology.

But on Tuesday, social entrepreneur Idris Ayodeji Bello posted a video on social media showing Nigeria's booth unmanned while delegations from

other African nations, including Senegal and Togo, actively engaged visitors. "It is sad that Nigeria is the only unmanned booth at TICAD9," he wrote, adding that he had temporarily taken it upon himself to answer questions from curious Japanese attendees.

The video quickly circulated online, triggering outrage at home. Atiku Abubakar, Tinubu's main opponent in the disputed 2023 presidential

election, seized on the incident to criticise the government's performance.

"Just like the ongoing show of shame at the empty Nigerian booth in faraway Japan, two years into this administration we are probably waiting for an official inauguration or preferably an 'unveiling' of Renewed Hope before Nigerians can experience good governance," Atiku posted on X.

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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Your participation in our community platforms opens up new business relationship opportunities with operators, Regulators, Vendors, Researchers and Investors across the globe as membership is open worldwide.

GOOD BUSINESS

PROFILE/LEVERAGE

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

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

OTHER BENEFITS

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DSSAA will promote your business from time to time on our growing social media handles.

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You earn money from time to time facilitating Road Safety Courses and Seminars online and physically in different Countries.

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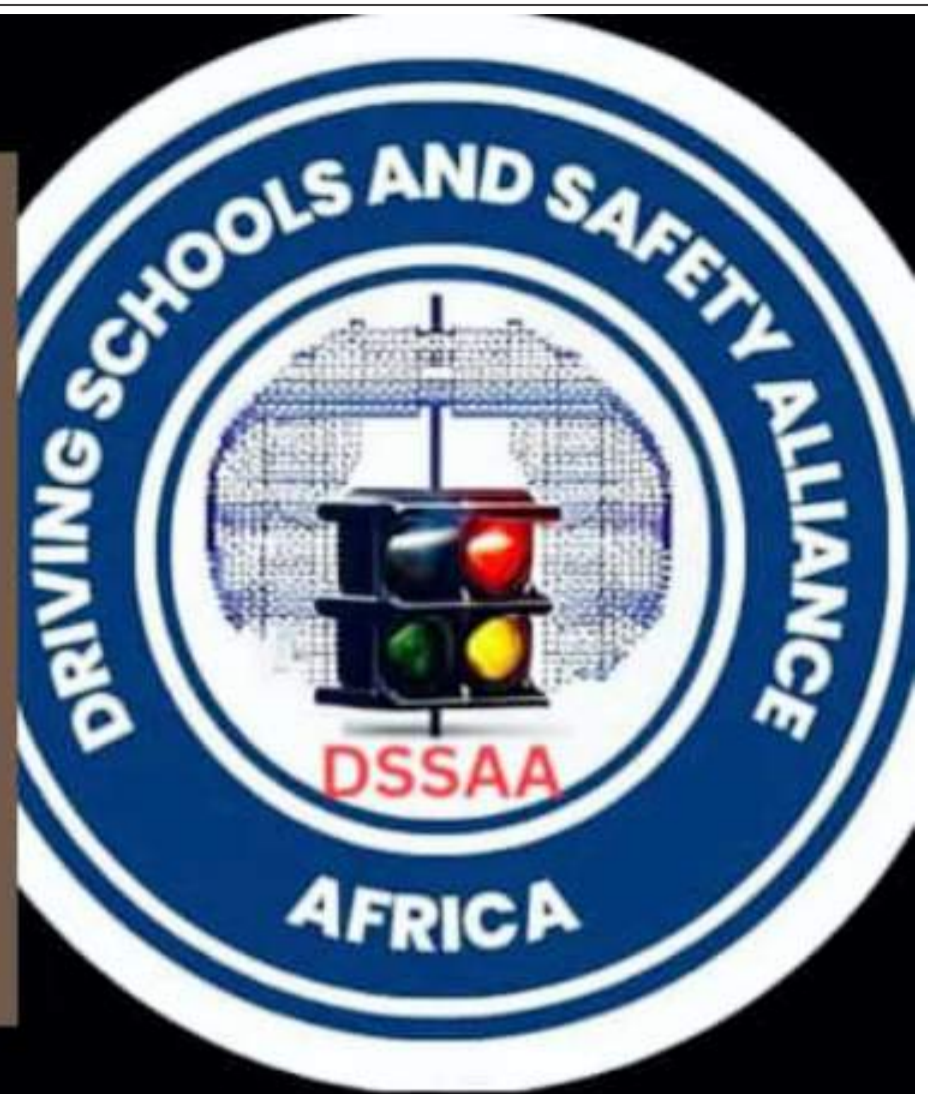


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