

Traxport, Belgian Firm Partner To Boost Nigeria's Freight Rail Operations

Traxport Rail Services company Vecturis to Traxport by CET Ltd has entered a expand and modernize Group and targets technical support and freight rail operations key corridors, investment partnership in Nigeria. The including with Belgian rail agreement follows a Lagos-Kano. m a n a g e m e n t recent investment in In a statement on

CONTINUES ON P7

Rainoil Expands Logistics Fleet With 45,000MT Princess Oge Tanker

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CONTINUES ON P3

GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION REPORTING GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION TRENDS

thelandmarkinfo.com.ng | Global Transportation E- Reports | Global_GTE Thurs, August 21st 2025 E - NEWSPAPER

CCECC Pledges Technology Transfer To Boost Abuja Rail Service

The China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) has reaffirmed its commitment to transferring technology to

strengthen and sustain operations of the Abuja Rail Mass Transit (ARMT) system,

positioning it as a model for West Africa. Deputy General Manager of CCECC's

rail operation department, Mr Zhuang YanHui, gave the assurance yesterday in

Abuja during the opening ceremony of a local training

CONTINUES ON P3

Lagos Council Flags Off Road Rehabilitation Projects P5

OSOPADEC Demands 55% Of Ondo's Oil Derivation Fund P2

AGF Aviation Leases Two Aircraft To Cally Air P3



Abuja Rail Service

Nigerian Filling Stations Reduce Fuel Price To Compete With NNPC, Others

Nigerian filling stations have once again reduced premium motor spirit pump prices to compete with the Nigerian National Petroleum Company

Limited, NNPC, and other fuel outlets nationwide. DAILY POST gathered on Wednesday that AA Rano, Raniol, Territory, Abuja, and

Emadab, Empire Energy, Total, Mobil, and NIPCO filling stations in the Federal Capital

surrounding areas have recently lowered their fuel prices. AA Rano, Rainoil, Mobil, and NIPCO have adjusted their

CONTINUES ON P2

Motorists Lament South East Deplorable Roads P5

Local Transport News

FRSC Honours Anambra Monarch For Safety Advocacy

Culled

The Federal Road Safety Corps, Anambra State sector, has conferred the traditional ruler of Obosi Kingdom, Igwe Chidubem Iweka III, with the title of "Honorary Special Marshal", which is the highest recognition of the Corps to individuals of outstanding stature and society influence.

Igwe Iweka III, who is also the Chairman of Anambra State Traditional Rulers Council, was conferred with the title at his palace at Obosi, Idemili North Local Government Area of the state.

The Chief Executive Officer, FRSC, Corps Marshal Shehu Mohammed, at the installation ceremony said the monarch was honoured for championing the cause it road safety and public discipline for the good of the public.

Mohammed said, "This honour is given to leaders whose characters, integrity, and service have made them symbols of inspiration and whose voices can champion the cause of road safety and

public discipline for the good of all.

"Equally, your concern for the wellbeing of road users within Obosi and beyond has not gone unnoticed. Through sensitisation, community mobilisation and your personal example, you have demonstrated a rare passion for preventing road traffic crashes and saving lives.

"These are the very values that define an Honourable Special Marshal discipline, selflessness, integrity and

Find Full Story In The Link



FRSC Conferring the award to the Monarch

OSOPADEC Demands 55% Of Ondo's Oil Derivation Fund

Culled

The Ondo State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (OSOPADEC) on Tuesday appealed for an increase in its allocation from the state's 13 per cent oil derivation fund, arguing that the current 40 per cent is insufficient to tackle the developmental challenges facing the impoverished oil-rich riverine communities in the state.

While revealing that the 40 per cent allocation has been static since the commission's establishment in 2004, OSOPADEC Chairman Biyi Poroye stressed that the allocation no longer reflects the economic realities and high costs of delivering infrastructure in the coastal communities' terrain.

The OSOPADEC chairman disclosed this during the official flag-off ceremony of the Commission's 2023/2024 bursary and scholarship scheme in Akure, where a total of N286.7 million was distributed to 4,837 indigenes from the mandate areas. He said, "If the government gives us 55 per cent, the people of the mandate areas

will be happy, and we can assure them that OSOPADEC will do better. It is sad that despite the difficult terrain of our oil-producing areas, Ondo still receives only 40 per cent. If you spend N100 million on a road in the upland, you will spend double, if not more, in the riverine."

Poroye, who disclosed that the commission had saved costs by settling litigations out of court and channelling the funds into development projects, revealed that Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa had approved a N33.8 billion budget for OSOPADEC, the highest in its history. While flagging off the 2023/2024 scholarship and bursary scheme, Poroye reiterated the state government's commitment to education and youth empowerment, saying the initiative reflects the present administration's people-oriented governance.

According to him, more than 5,000 students benefited from the scheme in 2024, ensuring that the 2024/2025 bursary cycle would be implemented without delay.

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Nigerian Filling Stations Reduce Fuel Price To Compete With NNPC, Others

Culled

Nigerian filling stations have once again reduced premium motor spirit pump prices to compete with the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, NNPC, and other fuel outlets nationwide.

DAILY POST gathered on Wednesday that AA Rano, Raniol, Emadab, Empire Energy, Total, Mobil, and NIPCO filling stations in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, and surrounding areas have recently lowered their fuel prices.

AA Rano, Ranoil, Mobil, and NIPCO have adjusted their fuel price to N890 per litre, down from N945, matching the price at NNPC retail outlets in Abuja.

Others, including Empire Energy, Emadab, and Total filling stations in Gwarimpa, Abuja, have reduced their petrol pump prices to between N899 and N910, from N945 and N935, respectively.

Reacting, the National President of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria, Abubakar Maigandi, said the latest drop in fuel



Fuel Pump

prices was due to a reduction in ex-depot and crude oil prices.

"It is due to a drop in the petrol ex-depot price, which stood between N820 to N845 per litre, and lower crude oil prices," he told DAILY POST.

NNPC had earlier reviewed its fuel price downward to N890 in Abuja and N865 per litre in Lagos following Dangote Refinery's ex-depot price

adjustment to N820.

DAILY POST reports that the crude oil price on Wednesday morning stood at \$66.52 and \$63 per barrel for Brent and West Texas Intermediate crude futures, according to oilprice.com.

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Local Transport News

AGF Aviation Leases Two Aircraft To Cally Air

Culled

AFG Aviation Ireland Limited, a global leader in commercial aircraft leasing and asset management, has confirmed the successful lease of two Bombardier CRJ1000 regional jets to Cally Air, the state-backed carrier of Cross River State, Nigeria.

The aircraft, bearing Manufacturer Serial Numbers 19004 and 19009, were recently acquired by AFG from Regional One and placed with Cally Air under a finance lease agreement.

This came weeks after the Cross-River State government, owners of Cally Air, announced the purchase of the two aircraft and handed them over to ValueJet in partnership.

According to a statement, ValueJet stated the understanding allows it to manage and operate the two newly bought Bombardier CRJ1000 regional jets on behalf of Cally Air.

The agreement, Under the sublease, ValueJet will be responsible for the day-to-day operating functions for the two

CRJ1000s under ValueJet's Air Operator Certificate.

However, while announcing that the aircraft was leased to Cally Air, Founder and CEO of AFG Aviation, Christian Nuehlen, said this marked a strategic milestone in both AFG's growing presence in the African aviation market and Cally Air's fleet expansion plans.

The AFG boss added that "These modern, fuel-efficient regional jets are key assets that will help Cally Air strengthen domestic connectivity and

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Cally Air

NSIB To Take Over Maritime Accident Investigations From NIMASA - DG

Culled

The China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) has reaffirmed its commitment to transferring technology to strengthen and sustain operations of the Abuja Rail Mass Transit (ARMT) system, positioning it as a model for West Africa.

Deputy General Manager of CCECC's rail operation department, Mr Zhuang YanHui, gave the assurance yesterday in Abuja during the opening ceremony of a local training programme for railway operations, maintenance and management.

YanHui explained that as part of the company's technology transfer drive, selected Nigerian personnel have undergone batches of specialised technical training in China.

He said: "Over the past few months, the operations team from Nigeria has undergone a rigorous and comprehensive training programme in China, immersing themselves in every aspect of urban rail operations — from

dispatching and control to station management, maintenance protocols and safety procedures."

According to him, the commencement of the local training phase signals the practical beginning of knowledge transfer and local empowerment for sustainable operations of the rail system. "This ceremony is not just about celebrating the completion of training — it represents a deeper milestone: the beginning of knowledge transfer, local empowerment and sustainable operations for the ARMT," he said.

YanHui noted that since the ARMT commenced operations using its Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs) in May 2024, it has recorded over 450 uninterrupted days of service, transporting more than four million passengers to date.

He commended the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) leadership for their support and reiterated CCECC's resolve to uphold the highest standards of safety, service and efficiency. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Rainoil Expands Logistics Fleet With 45,000MT Princess Oge Tanker

Culled

Rainoil Limited has strengthened its petroleum distribution capacity with the reception of MT Princess Oge, a 45,000-metric-ton oil product tanker that berthed in Nigerian waters on Wednesday.

The Japan-built vessel, which has a deadweight tonnage of 45,996MT, successfully discharged 20,000MT of petrol at Rainoil's Ijegan depot in Lagos during its maiden voyage.

Speaking at the reception ceremony, Dr. Gabriel Ogbechie, Group Managing Director of Rainoil, said the acquisition marked a milestone for the company and a major contribution to Nigeria's downstream and maritime sectors.

"The acquisition and reception of MT Princess Oge is not just about expanding our logistics capacity. It represents a long-term investment in Nigeria's maritime and downstream sector," Ogbechie said.

"It reflects our belief that private sector players must take the lead in building



Princess Oge

infrastructure to safeguard the country's energy security. At Rainoil, we remain committed to strategic investments that will strengthen Nigeria's energy value chain, making it more robust, reliable, and globally competitive."

Ogbechie noted that the vessel's arrival demonstrates Rainoil's ability to ensure a steady nationwide supply of petroleum products, particularly at a time when energy logistics remain

critical to the economy.

Mrs. Ese Erokoro, Group Head of Retail Sales, emphasised the vessel's role in enhancing Rainoil's supply chain efficiency.

"This further demonstrates Rainoil's commitment to being a leading energy company in Nigeria. This achievement reflects our continuous pursuit of operational excellence. We are pleased to welcome the vessel into

Nigerian waters and pray for her safe voyages," she said.

The event was attended by senior Rainoil executives, including Group Chief Financial Officer Mrs. Uche Umeh, Retail Executive Ms. Oge Ogbechie, and Trading Manager Mr. Larry Onwochei.

With MT Princess Oge, Rainoil joins the ranks of indigenous companies investing in large-scale maritime assets to boost petroleum product distribution, signalling growing private sector participation in Nigeria's quest for energy security.

Speaking at the reception ceremony, Dr. Gabriel Ogbechie, Group Managing Director of Rainoil, said the acquisition marked a milestone for the company and a major contribution to Nigeria's downstream and maritime sectors.

"The acquisition and reception of MT Princess Oge is not just about expanding our logistics capacity. It represents a long-term investment in Nigeria's maritime and downstream sector," Ogbechie said.

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Local Transport News

Lagos Council Flags Off Road Rehabilitation Projects

Culled
Ayobo-Ipaja Local Council Development Area, LCDA, has flagged off six road rehabilitation projects aimed at enhancing business access, improving security and promoting socio-economic growth for residents.

Executive Chairman of the council, Mr Lukman Agbaje, who stated this at the flag-off ceremony yesterday, said the project marked a significant milestone in enhancing infrastructure and improving residents quality of life.

He noted that it was also part of fulfilling his campaign promises to the people.

“Roads provide mobility, enhance access to businesses and markets, improve security, promote socio-economic growth and make life easier for our people.

“This is why infrastructure remains one of our top priorities. The six roads flagged off for construction include Owonikoko Street (430m), Victor Off Fagbemi, Ipaja (88m), and Igbogila, Ipaja (198m).

“The projects also cover Akinola Market Road, Ipaja (200.5m), Aduloju Street,

Baruwa (250m), Koloba/Unity Road, Bada (400m) and Baale Road, Ayobo (107m),” he said.

The chairman stated that the roads were strategically selected based on community needs, traffic volume and potential to stimulate local economic growth.

Agbaje assured residents that the projects would be executed to the highest standards, incorporating durable surfacing, effective drainage systems and sustainable practices. *Find Full Story In The Link*



Governor Sanwo-Olu

Culled

Road users and motorists have expressed frustration over the deplorable condition of federal roads in the South-East which have been worsened as a result of constant downpour and heavy vehicular activities. Findings by South-East Punch showed that the federal roads in the South-East, ranging from Onitsha-Owerri Road, Onitsha-Awka-Enugu Expressway and Enugu-Okigwe-Umuahia highway, have indeed become death traps, while some of them have been abandoned and now out of use.

Although, the Federal Government awarded contracts for some roads in the region, the Enugu-Awka-Onitsha Road and the Enugu-Okigwe-Umuahia-Aba, while work on the Enugu-Awka-Onitsha Road is moving at a commendable pace, the Onitsha-Owerri and Onitsha-Awka roads have become both a disaster and nightmare to commuters.

In January 2025, the Federal Road Maintenance Agency carried out some rehabilitation works along the road, particularly from Upper Iwaka, People's

Motorists Lament South-East Deplorable Roads

Club, Mgbaemene, Enamel, Amanator, First Gate up till Oba axis, but today, just seven months after, those sections of the roads, among others, have practically been washed off by rains and are now terribly in bad shape.

Interestingly, both Onitsha-Awka-Enugu highway and Onitsha-Owerri Road are very critical roads in the South-East as they connect motorists coming from the River Niger Bridge to other parts of the region.

South-East Punch gathered that the presence of the Main Market, regarded as the largest market in West Africa, along these roads make it more vulnerable as this contributes to the high influx of trucks carrying containers in the areas.

Find Full Story In The Link

\$5bn Abuja-Lagos Super Highway To Commence This Year - AEC



Dr. Kenny

The Chairman of AEC Unity Network Limited, Dr. Kenny Martins, has assured Nigerians that the long-awaited 470 km Abuja-Lagos Superhighway will see groundbreaking before the end of this year, once the Federal Executive Council approval is given.

Speaking at a press conference held at the Oriental Hotel in Lagos on Tuesday, Martins said the project will cost an estimated \$4bn, though final costs may rise to \$5bn depending on adjustments during execution.

“The project will take about \$4bn, but with issues and adjustments, it can be rounded up to \$5bn”, Martins revealed.

“The time for completion is four years, and

when the road is ready, it will take just four hours to travel from Lagos to Abuja,” he added.

He also commended President Bola Tinubu's commitment to infrastructure development across Nigeria.

“We are today fully prepared to go to the site and commence construction as soon as we receive the Federal Executive Council approval for the project take-off and the flagging off of the project by the President and Commander-in-Chief,” said Martins, who expressed optimism that all necessary approvals would be secured soon, paving the way for construction to commence.

He disclosed that the company had secured assurances from key government officials, including the Minister of Works, Engr Dave Umahi, as well as the Director-General of the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission.

“We have the commitment of the Honourable Minister of Works. We also have the words of the DG of the ICRC

on this. Nigeria should be expecting the cutting of the tape for the flag-off of this road project in a very, very short while,” he added.

Martins said the timeline for the groundbreaking ceremony was realistic and would not drag into the new year.

“Hopefully and prayerfully, God willing, that will happen before the end of the year. With the Federal Executive Council's approval, the commencement of the construction will be good,” he told journalists.

He also emphasised that the highway will not only shorten travel time but also incorporate modern safety and security features.

Martins added that when completed, the superhighway is expected to ease pressure on existing road networks, open up communities along its corridor, and serve as the fastest road link between Nigeria's political and economic capitals.

He stated that the superhighway will feature solar-powered street lighting, modern security infrastructure, and

service terminals, making it one of the most advanced road projects ever undertaken in the country.

“There will be security provisions, solar lights, and terminals along the route to ensure safety and comfort for commuters,” Martins explained.

Martins, who led a roll call of financiers, advisors, contractors, and consultants at the event, stressed that AEC Unity Network had concluded all preliminary designs, studies, and approvals.

“One of the reasons we are confident and happy to announce ourselves after six years of preparation is that we know that we are ready and good to go. Nigeria should be expecting the cutting of the tape for the flag-off of this project in a very, very short while. Hopefully, prayerfully, God willing, that will happen before the end of the year”, he stated.

He said the superhighway will connect Abuja, the Federal Capital, with Lagos, the economic hub, while opening up communities in Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ekiti, Kwara, Kogi, Niger, and the FCT. *Find Full Story In The Link*



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DIRECTION FOR USE:

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- 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 speaks

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QUALITY EMULSION

...quality speaks

Traxport, Belgian Firm Partner To Boost Nigeria's Freight Rail Operations

Culled
Traxport Rail Services Ltd has entered a technical support and investment partnership with Belgian rail management company Vecturis to expand and modernize freight rail operations in Nigeria. The agreement follows a recent investment in Traxport by CET Group and targets key corridors, including Lagos-Kano.

In a statement on Monday, Emeka Ndu, chairman of Traxport, said the collaboration with Vecturis will provide technical and managerial expertise to address operational challenges and accelerate the deployment of modern freight rail solutions.

"Vecturis' wealth of experience in similar markets will enable us to leapfrog operational challenges and fast-track the delivery of modern, sustainable freight rail solutions for Nigeria," Ndu stated. "Together, we are not just moving goods — we are



Traxport Railway Service

helping reshape across the country." Eric Peiffer, chief executive officer of Vecturis, described the partnership as an opportunity to improve performance, reliability, and sustainability in Nigeria's transport sector. "Nigeria has one of the most promising rail freight markets in Africa, and our previous partnership as an opportunity to improve performance, reliability, and sustainability in Nigeria's transport sector has given us a clear understanding of its opportunities and

challenges," Peiffer said. "By combining our technical expertise with Traxport's vision and local drive, we believe we can deliver a step-change in performance, reliability, and sustainability for Nigerian freight rail."

The partnership supports Traxport's strategy to reduce road congestion, lower carbon emissions, and enhance economic opportunities through the deployment of LNG-powered locomotives. Vecturis brings over three decades of experience operating rail networks in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, including projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Cameroon, and Madagascar.

Vecturis was also previously designated to operate Nigeria's narrow-gauge railway under a General Electric-led consortium, a concession that did not materialize. The new collaboration is expected to leverage lessons from those past initiatives to strengthen freight transport infrastructure across the country.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Nigeria's Oil Worth N341trn Locked In Undeveloped Fields



Nigerian Oil

Over 3.5 billion barrels of oil and condensate reserves are locked in undeveloped fields across different basins in Nigeria, according to reports in a publication by the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission.

At the current average price of \$65 per barrel, the reserves are valued at about \$227.5bn, translating to a staggering N341.25tn when converted at the exchange rate of N1,500 to a dollar.

Our correspondent observes that this is over 600 per cent of the 2025 budget, which is N54.9tn. Using the 2025 budget costing, the amount is enough to build over two million primary health centres at the rate of N150m each. It can build

over five million blocks of two classrooms at an average of N65m each. Also, 413,000 kilometres of roads can be constructed with the amount at N825m per kilometre.

The 2025 budget has a deficit of over N13tn. The fiscal plan makes provisions for N13.64tn in recurrent expenditure, N23.96tn for capital projects, N14.32tn for debt servicing, and N3.65tn for statutory transfers, while projecting a deficit of N13.08tn to be financed through domestic and external borrowing.

According to a report by the Debt Management Office, Nigeria's total public debt rose to N149.39tn as of March 31, 2025, marking a year-on-year increase of N27.72tn or 22.8 per cent compared to the N121.67tn recorded in the corresponding period of 2024.

As a country with high dependence on oil revenues, unlicensed and undeveloped oil blocks impact incomes, causing the country to resort to borrowing. It was learnt that the

government's debt stock crossed N149tn in Q1 2025, and the country continues to depend on imports to meet refined petroleum needs, even as its own refineries suffer from chronic crude shortages.

The persistent rise in debt stock is attributed to new borrowings by the Federal Government and the depreciation of the naira, which inflated the local currency value of external loans. Recall that a sizeable volume of yet-to-be-extracted oil has been committed to loans.

The regulator's report also stated that 18.8 trillion cubic feet of associated and non-associated gas reserves were still locked under the ground. According to the report, the development status of deepwater oil and gas fields revealed a significant untapped potential in the sector.

A pie chart analysis showed that 31.65 per cent of these fields remain undeveloped, marking the largest category. This figure underscores the vast reserves that are yet to be

harnessed, potentially impacting the government's financial capacity and forcing the country to borrow more.

In contrast, only a paltry 12.25 per cent of the deepwater oil and gas fields are currently classified as developed fields, indicating that operational sites constitute a moderate portion of the total allocated fields. This suggests that while some progress has been made in bringing these resources online, the majority of the industry's focus may still be on planning and initial stages rather than full-scale production. Meanwhile, 5.10 per cent represents fields where development is in view, indicating that there are limited projects in the pipeline at this time.

The development status of the deep offshore oil and condensate reserves showed that 1.7 billion barrels are in developed fields, representing 25 per cent; 1.5 billion barrels (23 per cent) are in fields tagged 'development in view', while 52 per cent are in undeveloped fields.

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Dozens Of Aghan Deportees From Iran Killed In Bus Crash

Culled

A traffic accident in western Afghanistan has killed 79 people, including 17 children, most of whom were on a bus carrying Afghan migrants deported from Iran, a Taliban interior ministry spokesperson confirmed to the BBC.

The bus, en route to Kabul, caught fire on Tuesday night after colliding with a truck and motorcycle in Herat province.

Everyone aboard the bus was killed, as well as two people from the other vehicles, Ahmadullah Mottaqi, the Taliban's director of information and culture in Herat, told BBC Pashto earlier.

In recent months Iran has stepped up its deportations of undocumented Afghan migrants who have fled conflict in their homeland.

"All the passengers were migrants who had boarded the vehicle in Islam Qala,"



provincial governor spokesman Mohammad Yousuf Saeedi told AFP, referring to a town near the Afghanistan-Iran border.

Herat police said the

accident happened because of the bus driver's "excessive speed and negligence", AFP reported.

Traffic accidents are common in Afghanistan,

where roads have been damaged by decades of conflict and driving regulations are not strongly enforced.

Since the 1970s, millions of Afghans have fled to

Iran and Pakistan, with major waves during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and following the Taliban's return to power in 2021.

This has contributed to

growing anti-Afghan sentiment in Iran, with refugees facing systemic discrimination.

Iran had previously given a July deadline for undocumented Afghans to depart voluntarily.

But since a brief war with Israel in June, Iranian authorities have forcibly returned hundreds of thousands of Afghans, alleging national security concerns - though critics say Tehran may simply be looking for scapegoats for its security failures against Israeli attacks.

More than 1.5 million Afghans have left Iran since January, according to the UN Refugee Agency. Some had been in Iran for generations.

Experts warn Afghanistan lacks the capacity to absorb the growing number of nationals forcibly returned to a country under Taliban government.

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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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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 Jedefe, 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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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.

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

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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.

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

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

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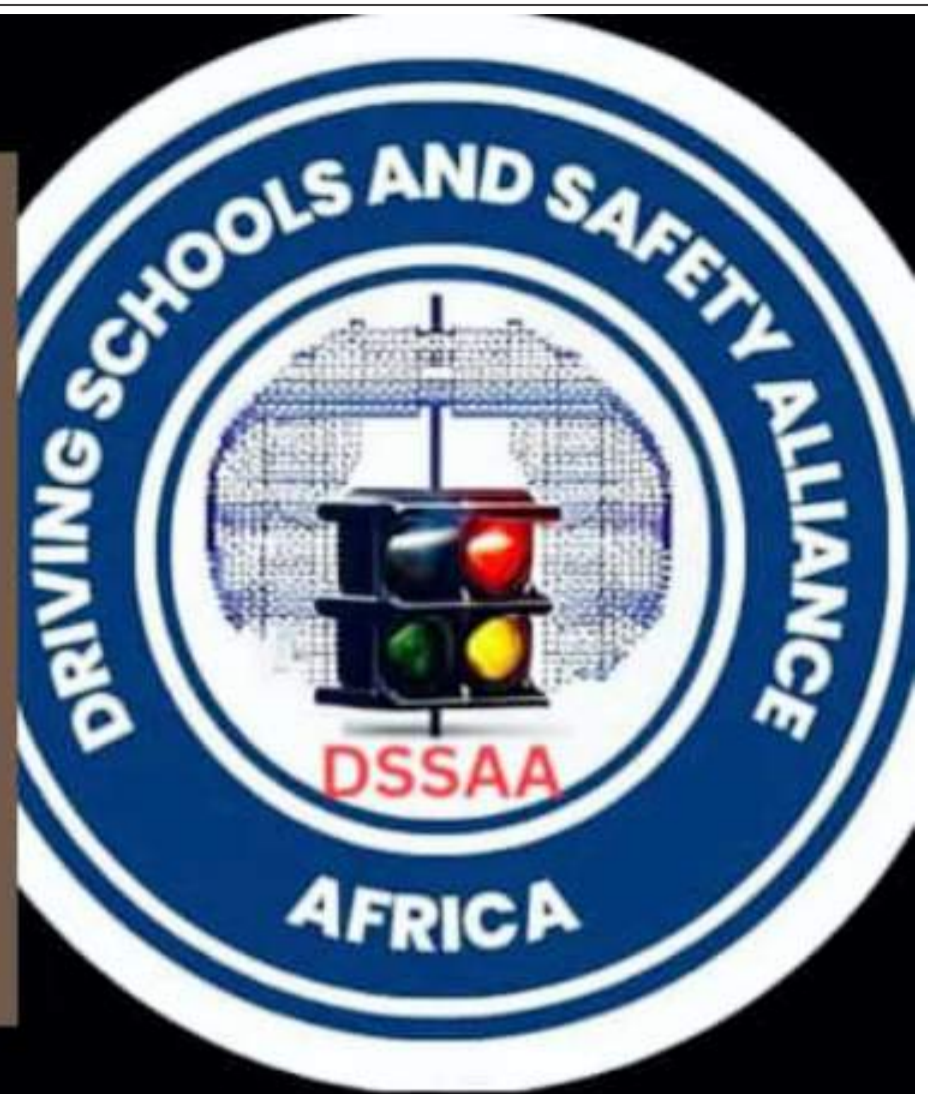


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