

## NSIB To Take Over Maritime Accident Investigations From NIMASA - DG

Director-General of the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau, NSIB, Establishment Capt Alex Badeh, has said the full implementation of the Act 2022 will reduce serious incidents, that the agency's accidents and improve safety in all modes of transportation in Nigeria. Badeh also insisted that the agency's extension to the

CONTINUES ON P3

## NCAA Bans Airplane Mode, Orders Phones Off During Take Off, Landing

The Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority has said that all mobile phones must be completely switched off during flight take-off and landing. The Director General of Aviation Security Authority, Capt. Chris Najomo, stated this during a stakeholders' meeting themed "National Civil Aviation Security Committee Meeting" in Abuja on Tuesday. He declared that all passengers must

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# GLOBAL REPORTING GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION TRENDS TRANSPORTATION

thelandmarkinfo.com.ng | Global Transportation E- Reports | Global\_GTE Wed, August 20th 2025 E - NEWSPAPER

## Umahi Commends Progress Of Coastal H'way Construction, Knocks Social Media Critics

Senator David Umahi, the Minister of Works and Housing has commended the level of work on the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway,

describing it as impressive, while saluting Hitech for their professionalism, commitment and going beyond expectations to stem unforeseen challenges thrown up by heavy rains and ocean surge. Umahi gave the commendation on Monday during inspection tour to ascertain the level of

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## NPA Commits To Enhanced Port Efficiencies For Export Growth

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## New Licensing Charges Unsettle Port Operators, N3.5trn Investment

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## Kwara Court Convicts Driver For Assaulting FRSC Patrol Team

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Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway

## LAMATA Commissions Non-Motorized Walkway Project Along Redline Corridor

The Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) has commissioned the Non-Motorized Walkway Project (NMWP) along the Red Line rail corridor, providing new pedestrian-friendly infrastructure at Oyingbo, Yaba, Mushin, and Ikeja. The project, officially signed off on Tuesday, is designed to enhance intermodal connectivity between the railway and bus systems by creating safe walking spaces beneath bridges at the four locations. LAMATA said the NMWP will

CONTINUES ON P2

## Enugu Govt Begins Palliative Works On Iwollo Road

P5

## Local Transport News

# Kwara Court Convicts Driver For Assaulting FRSC Patrol Team

### Culled

A Magistrate Court in Ilorin, Kwara State has convicted one Samson Ayadi, for assaulting a Federal Road Safety Corps patrol team.

Samson, appeared on a four count charge before Magistrate I.Y. Jimade's court for the offenses he committed against the corps patrol team of Oloru unit, along the Ilorin-Jebba highway by Molete junction on 20th July, 2024.

The convict who was a driver of a Toyota Sienna stopped, mobilised the crowd, not only to assault the patrol team but also climbed into the patrol vehicle to remove an impounded motorcycle, whose rider had taken caution to the wind and stripped himself naked.

Three witnesses testified on behalf of the prosecution while the defendant was the only witness for the defence.

The No case submission earlier made by the Defence Counsel was overruled by the court, with only one charge sustained.

After analyzing the evidence of the prosecution and defence counsel and the

exhibits, the court held that the case has been proved beyond reasonable doubt.

In his judgement, the Magistrate convicted Samson to six months imprisonment or N20,000 for criminal intimidation, three months imprisonment or N30,000 fine for criminal assault, three months imprisonment or N10,000 fine for inciting disturbance and six months imprisonment or N30,000 fine for resistance or obstructing a public officer on duty.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Court

# FRSC Warns Motorists On Dangers Of Mixing Passengers With Goods

### Culled

The Federal Road Safety Corps has issued a fresh warning to motorists, transport operators, and passengers across the country over the dangers of overloading vehicles and mixing passengers with goods.

In a statement released on Monday on X (Formerly Twitter), the corps shared photographs as a stark reminder of the grave risks such practices pose to lives and property.

FRSC explained that carrying human beings alongside heavy loads not only places them at extreme risk but also compromises the stability of vehicles, thereby increasing the chances of accidents.

"Carrying human beings alongside heavy loads not only exposes them to extreme risk but also destabilizes the vehicle, making it difficult for the driver to maintain proper control. In the event of sudden braking, swerving, or a crash, lives can be lost instantly because passengers seated on top of the vehicle

or clinging to unsafe positions are completely unprotected," the statement read.

The corps noted that many lives have already been lost due to reckless acts of overloading, stressing the urgent need for all road users to abandon the practice.

The statement further highlighted the mechanical dangers of exceeding vehicle capacity, explaining that it not only endangers passengers but also damages vehicles over time.

"Vehicles are designed with specific capacities, and exceeding those limits places everyone on the road in danger.

"Overloading accelerates wear and tear on the vehicle, increases the risk of tire bursts, and reduces braking efficiency," the statement noted.

The corps therefore urged all road users to adopt a safety-first approach to travel, reminding them that journeys should never be made at the expense of human lives.

"Let us always remember: no journey is worth a life lost. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# LAMATA Commissions Non-Motorized Walkway Project Along Redline Corridor

### Culled

The Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) has commissioned the Non-Motorized Walkway Project (NMWP) along the Red Line rail corridor, providing new pedestrian-friendly infrastructure at Oyingbo, Yaba, Mushin, and Ikeja.

The project, officially signed off on Tuesday, is designed to enhance intermodal connectivity between the railway and bus systems by creating safe walking spaces beneath bridges at the four locations.

LAMATA said the NMWP will not only provide a safe and convenient passage for commuters but also encourage walking as a healthy and environmentally friendly mode of transport. By integrating walkways with the public transport system, the authority aims to promote a more sustainable and efficient mobility network in Lagos.

Key benefits of the initiative include improved pedestrian safety, better connectivity between buses and trains,



LAMATA

increased mobility in densely populated areas, and environmental gains through reduced dependence on motorized transport.

The NMW concept was developed by transportation solution expert, Engr. Toks Akingbade, who served as Concept and Project Director. He was joined by NMW Senior Project Lead, Engr. D. Rofiat, and Client Liaison

Manager, Ms. Maxwel, at the signing and commissioning ceremony.

The project complements the 27-kilometre Lagos Red Line rail project, which runs from Agbado to Oyingbo with major stops at Ikeja, Oshodi, and Yaba. The Red Line is expected to cut travel times, reduce congestion, and improve air quality across the state.

LAMATA has already commenced

controlled test runs of the Red Line, which began on August 13, 2025, as part of preparations for the formal launch of passenger services.

According to the agency, projects like the NMWP and Red Line demonstrate its long-term vision of reducing congestion, enhancing intermodal transport, and improving the overall quality of life for Lagos residents.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

## Local Transport News

# Abuja-Lokoja Highway Gridlock Eases As FRSC Opens Alternative Route

### Culled

The gridlock on the Abuja-Lokoja highway has eased up for motorists and commuters because the Federal Road Safety Corps opened a second lane for traffic flow.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports on Tuesday in Koton-Karfe that there is an easy flow of traffic on both lanes, that is, the Lokoja-Koton-Karfe-Abuja and Abuja-Koton-Karfe-Lokoja routes, in the early morning of the day.

The Federal Road Safety Corps, Sector Commander in Kogi, Mr Kumar Tsukwam, said that the unfortunate gridlock, which began on Sunday, has finally been tackled through drastic measures.

"We took a proactive measure by meeting with the Federal Ministry of Works and the construction companies along the route so as to mitigate and find possible solutions.

"Part of it is that the contractors should fast-track works and create an

alternative road to ease vehicular movement.

"As it is, the gridlock at the Koton-Karfe and environs has drastically reduced. Thanks to the combined efforts of operatives mobilised from RS8.3 Kogi Sector, RS8.33 Koton-karfe Unit Command, Corridor 3 and Military Personnel," he said

He said that cars were diverted to use the Lokoja/Abuja lane, under construction, to mitigate traffic congestion within the corridor.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Abuja-Lokoja Highway

# NSIB To Take Over Maritime Accident Investigations From NIMASA - DG

### Culled

Director-General of the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau, Capt Alex Badeh, has said the full implementation of the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau, NSIB, Establishment Act 2022 will reduce serious incidents, accidents and improve safety in all modes of transportation in Nigeria.

Badeh also insisted that the agency's extension to the maritime sector would not create overlaps with the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA.

The DG said this in a virtual session held with newsmen to unveil the safety regulations for maritime, rail and air transportation.

According to him, these regulations were not only the bedrock to ensure security across these sectors, but they were important in shaping the future of safety across Nigeria.

Addressing newsmen, Badeh said although there was communication gap between the NSIB and NIMASA, both

agencies were working to change the situation.

He said: "The maritime safety investigation regulations seek to streamline regulations into maritime incidents and accidents. It helps us promote transparency and accountability and improve our safety protocols in our waterways and ports in Nigeria.

"It aligns with international standards from the International Maritime Organisation, IMO. It aims to standardise our marine safety investigations."

On overlapping functions with NIMASA, he said: "IMO recognises NIMASA as the sole body because there was a vacuum. There was no NSIB when it happened. IMO prefers to have an independent accident investigation bureau, but we had NIMASA, who are regulators.

"Best practices all around the world usually have an independent investigation body outside the regulator.

NIMASA, which is a regulator just like the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, NCAA,

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# Umahi Commends Progress Of Coastal H'way Construction, Knocks Social Media Critics

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Senator David Umahi, the Minister of Works and Housing has commended the level of work on the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway, describing it as impressive, while saluting Hitech for their professionalism, commitment and going beyond expectations to stem unforeseen challenges thrown up by heavy rains and ocean surge.

Umahi gave the commendation on Monday during inspection tour to ascertain the level of progress made by the contractor handling the work, while expressing his satisfaction, he said, "I am very happy with what HITECH is doing. No one else would have done this, because I have experience with contractors, there are so many unwritten things that have been done here for the stability of the job and for it to go ahead."

He added that, it takes people that are committed to development of the country, who will not put profit first will do what Hitech contracting firm is doing for this legacy project.

In his words, "I commend HITECH very,



Lagos Calabar Coastal Highway

very highly, they are very courageous, as you can see from every section of the construction work. You see the sophisticated equipment deployed by Hitech, so I commend them very highly and particularly for the quality of work, any of the certificate that comes will be approved without hesitation, because we've been here and acknowledged the great work being done."

Umahi also berated online critics, who

according to him speak out of ignorance and deliberately being malicious of the ongoing work, stressing that when a project is ongoing, there are bound to be some damages in certain places but it cannot be on the concrete, it will just be on the finished section like the shoulders.

Saying, "some of the people say there's no drainage. I don't know why they take so much delight in publishing false

information, which is part of cybercrime that must be condemned and addressing false information. We have 750 kilometers of underground drainage by two, which is 1,500 kilometers of underground drainage. And you can see the pipes. You see it for yourselves as pressmen."

In respect to the repair of the Third Mainland Bridge, Umahi said no final cost has been determined, stating that the figures making rounds in the media were only preliminary estimates from Julius Berger alone, which were never presented to the Federal Executive Council (FEC) for approval.

"What we presented to Council was not a request for N3.6 trillion or N3.8 trillion. We merely said this is what Julius Berger is saying, but we do not trust these figures because one consultant cannot give a reliable estimate. That was why we sought approval to invite a minimum of seven global contractors to carry out their own investigations, designs and proposals. No approval has been given for any figure," He said.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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## Local Transport News

# NPA Commits To Enhanced Port Efficiencies For Export Growth

### Culled

MANAGING Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Dr. Abubakar Dantsoho, has tasked his team to renew commitment towards continuous improvement of port efficiencies with a view to sustaining the positive export performance Nigeria has recorded so in 2025.

Speaking during the recently concluded NPA Management Retreat in Onne, Rivers State, Dantsoho said: "We are proud of the excellent work being undertaken by the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) as evident in the increased export numbers passing through our platforms, but we cannot rest on our laurels, we must commit to a continuous improvement paradigm of Port operations and service delivery that places high premium on issues of sustainability".

Dantsoho further stated: "Minimizing environmental impact through eco-friendliness, promotion of social responsibility, and ensuring long-term economic viability are the drivers of global progress, and we cannot afford to be left

behind. We owe posterity a duty to infuse sustainability paradigms into the way we do things."

At the Retreat themed, "Repositioning the Nigerian Ports System for Sustainability", which focused on reviewing and optimizing operational processes to enhance service delivery, the management team undertook a Business Process Re-engineering to identify and address bottlenecks and inefficiencies, ensuring a more customer-centric approach. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Dantsoho

### Culled

The government of Enugu State has begun major repairs on the erosion-threatened 9th Mile-Iwollo Road.

THE WHISTLER reported that the road became impassable in the month of August following heavy downpours that extended the erosion to the middle of the road.

The affected part is Eke junction, which is the country home of former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Geoffrey Onyema. Bulldozers and tippers were seen on Tuesday filling the deep gully preparatory for major engineering work.

"This is a sigh of relief for us," Leonard Ukwueze, a native of Eke, said. "The erosion was massive. It forced the diversion of vehicles to Eke. We cried, and we are happy that the state has heard our cries. We expect them to do a thorough repair. Let them extend the culvert farther. What happened was that water was eating beneath the road backwards."

A commercial driver, Sheddy Omeje, said, "We felt forgotten. I was worried

# Enugu Govt Begins Palliative Works On Iwollo Road

because this is the route many big men pass through every day. The chairman of Ezeagu LGA passes here almost every day. The same thing to that of Udi LGA. Maybe they lacked the boldness to table our predicament to the state government."

Mr Jonathan Ezeugwu called on the state Ministry of Works to make its emergency task force more proactive. He said, "This is the road leading to Enugu State Polytechnic, Iwollo. It also leads to the headquarters of Ezeagu LGA. The other side is the popular Ama Breweries. It is one of the busiest roads in the state. And they left it until it became life-threatening."

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# New Licensing Charges Unsettle Port Operators, N3.5trn Investment



Comptroller Adeniyi

A sweeping review of various licensing fees paid by clearing agencies and bonded terminals may constrain capacity utilisation in the maritime value chain, which is already strained by falling importation.

The changes could also trigger mass job losses and undermine the N3.5 trillion investment in the already deprived indigenous bonded warehouses and terminals, The Guardian has learnt.

In Lagos and Ogun states alone, there are about 40 bonded terminals caught in the new licensing regime. With each employing at least 350 individuals, 14,000 Nigerians risk job losses if the firms, which are already operating at little or

no margins, close operations.

The Nigeria Customs Service's (NCS) new licensing structure fees for port operators could also stall the \$15 billion yearly turnover of the ship handling business and 'hand' it over to foreign cartels, analysts have also warned.

Whereas the affected operators are yet to come up with a decision, the fee review announcement could rattle the industry in the weeks, The Guardian has learnt.

The implementation of the planned review of licensing fees for port operators, scheduled to take effect from January 2026, will also have importers pay more, especially in service charges imposed by agents and chandling charges at the terminals – a possibility that would worsen the already-high costs of importation.

Industry players warned that the move could disrupt trade flows, deepen inflation, worsen congestion at the ports, and consolidate market control in the hands of a few large, strong financial firms.

In the copy of the rates made available to The Guardian, the proposed increased rate for issuing of fresh licenses for clearing agents/agencies is N10 million from the previous rate of N515,000, which is a 1,842 per cent upward review.

Existing agents will also need to cough up N4 million yearly for licence renewal. The amount is over 750 per cent above the current N215,000.

For bonded warehouses, the proposed increased licensing rate is N20 million, a 33,233 per cent increase from the subsisting N60,000 fee. Renewal rate has also moved up from N60,000 to N10 million.

The NCS also proposed a N2 million increase in licensing fees for shipping chandlers from the previous N515, while for renewal, it is N1million from N515.

Also, the NCS has proposed an increase in the bank bonds for clearing agents, raising it from N350,000 to N20 million. Bonded warehouses will also no longer pay N50 million but N500 million, while ship chandlers' charges are raised from N350,000 to N2 million.

The Comptroller General of NCS, Bashir Adeniyi, had on Thursday, August 7, 2025, held a high-level stakeholders' engagement on the planned review of the licensing fees and renewal rates at the Customs headquarters in Abuja, ahead of the planned implementation.

Industry operators warned that with cargo volumes already down, additional financial pressures on the struggling freight forwarding and clearing firms would accelerate industry retraction, paving the way for market dominance by a few financially stronger players, particularly foreigners and cartels.

According to the analysts, this could slow cargo clearance processing, create bottlenecks, increase storage charges and potentially worsen congestion at the already overburdened ports.

There is also fear that the move will undermine both trade facilitation and economic stability in the maritime sector as importers will be faced with increased terminal handling charges at bonded warehouses, which often exceed those at the mother seaports.

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# NCAA Bans Airplane Mode, Orders Phones Off During Take Off, Landing

## Culled

The Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority has said that all mobile phones must be completely switched off during flight take-off and landing.

The Director General of Authority, Capt. Chris Najomo, stated this during a stakeholders' meeting themed "National Civil Aviation Security Committee Meeting" in Abuja on Tuesday.

He declared that all passengers must now completely switch off electronic devices during fending the long-standing "flight mode" practice.

He said the regulation concerning phones and other electronic devices in Nigeria has now been unified, stressing that the widely accepted "flight mode" option will no longer be permitted.

He said, "All mobile phones, I repeat, all mobile phones and other portable electronic devices should be switched off during at least the critical phase of flight on all Nigerian airlines. Switched off."



Capt Najomo

Rejecting the use of amend their operations trend of unruly flight mode, he manual to reflect this passenger behaviour stressed, "There's requirement and submit across the country's nothing like anything to the NCA for approval, airports, warning that the like flight mode any if different from this era of "business as longer. Must be resolution." usual" is over. He announced a series Najomo said the air operators are of tough measures to Authority was committed therefore required to address the growing to enforcing stricter

compliance by both airlines and passengers, while also introducing public enlightenment campaigns to sensitize travelers on their responsibilities.

He said, "And, you know, I had to call this stakeholders meeting because going further, we know what the responsibilities of the airlines are, what the responsibilities of passengers are, and where the CA, the FAAN, AVSEC stands. I can assure you where we have decided. I've told the Director of Consumer Protection we're going to do a lot of radio jingles, TV series.

"We're going to go on air. We'll make sure that we take all these preambles of informing passengers, going further of their responsibilities, and going further, things will not be as usual as what it is. If you're unruly, you're unruly.

"So, you see, we have a new beginning from where we are. It will not be as business as usual. I can assure you that. It will not. And I want to also tell the airline operators here, we are going to start checking that you would do the adequate training."

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

## FG To Replicate Lekki Deep Seaport Model N'wide - Oyetola



Oyetola

The federal government has unveiled plans to replicate the success of the \$1.5 billion Lekki Deep Seaport across the country, describing it as a model for transformative growth in the maritime industry.

Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, disclosed this on Tuesday in Lagos at the Nigerian Chamber of Shipping Breakfast Meeting themed "Unlocking Opportunities: The Lekki Deep Seaport Playbook for Trade and Shipping in Nigeria."

He said President Bola Tinubu's administration is committed to building a modern, safe, efficient and globally competitive maritime sector, with the Lekki project serving as a template.

"The maritime industry stands at the heart of our economic aspirations — not merely as a conduit for trade, but as a catalyst for industrial growth, job creation, and regional integration. Our vision is clear: to build a modern, safe, efficient, and globally competitive maritime sector that fully unlocks Nigeria's economic potential," Oyetola said.

He explained that the Lekki Deep Seaport, with a capacity to handle 1.2 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) and accommodate some of the world's largest vessels, has already created thousands of direct and indirect jobs. He added that improved road access has freed Lagos ports from decades-long congestion.

"Cargo now moves out faster, investors move in with confidence, and trade flows without unnecessary delay," the minister noted.

Though currently operating at just 20 per cent of its installed capacity, Oyetola said the Lekki Port remains a

"landmark achievement" and a "game-changer" for West Africa, offering vast untapped opportunities for investors.

According to him, the "Lekki playbook" rests on five pillars: strategic location, robust public-private partnerships, integrated transport links, supportive policies, and technology-driven operations.

Building on this model, Oyetola disclosed that the government is modernising the Apapa and Tin Can Island Ports and upgrading the Eastern Ports in Onne, Calabar, and Rivers State.

He said, "Under the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, this administration is committed to taking the lessons of Lekki and applying them nationwide to transform our entire port system into a network of modern, efficient, and competitive gateways.

"To this end, we are modernising the Western Ports in Apapa, upgrading the Eastern Ports in Onne, Calabar, and Rivers to stimulate balanced

regional growth, and finalising the Port Community System — integrated with the National Single Window — to create a paperless, transparent, and secure digital environment for all maritime stakeholders."

On indigenous participation, the minister announced that he has directed the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) to commence immediate disbursement of the Cabotage Vessel Financing Fund (CVFF) to qualified Nigerian shipowners.

He stressed that building a strong national fleet and establishing a National Flag Carrier remain crucial to strengthening local capacity and asserting Nigeria's presence on global trade lanes.

Concluding, Oyetola described the Lekki Deep Seaport as "clear evidence of what can be achieved when policy, vision, investment, and execution align," urging stakeholders to replicate and scale the model for Nigeria's prosperity.

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# Emirates NBD Becomes UAE's 1st Equities Clearing Member



trading members with unmatched access, fueling the growth and stability of the UAE capital market."

Abdulla Salem Alnuaimi, Group Chief Executive Officer of Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX), said: "We are delighted to welcome Emirates NBD Securities as the first General Clearing Member (GCM) on ADX. A key milestone that strengthens our post-trade infrastructure and improves access for investors. This step supports our ongoing efforts to enhance market efficiency, broaden participation and aligns with international best practices. It also reflects Abu Dhabi's growing role as a global financial centre and reinforces ADX's position as a dynamic marketplace connecting regional and international capital with a wide range of investment opportunities." [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

*Culled*  
Emirates NBD, a leading banking group in the Middle East, North Africa and Türkiye (MENAT) region, has announced that it has secured approval to become a General Clearing Member (GCM) for UAE equity markets through the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX). This makes Emirates NBD the first entity in the UAE to achieve GCM status. The approval allows Emirates NBD to offer comprehensive clearing services to trading members across the UAE. As a GCM, Emirates NBD can now provide trading members with a suite of tools, products, and access to credit facilities to reduce operational complexities and improve cost efficiencies within the clearing process.

This marks a critical step in bolstering the UAE's dynamic stock markets, delivering additional clearing

capacity and broadening the investment options available to participants as the UAE's equity market continues to expand and attract investor confidence.

Hessa Al Mulla, General Manager, Emirates NBD Securities, said: "It is a pivotal moment for Emirates NBD to become first General Clearing Member through ADX.

This milestone positions us at the forefront of market innovation at a time when the UAE equity market has been attracting substantial and growing investor interest.

Our new ADX general clearing membership will open up this opportunity to Emirates NBD's global network of clients. We are now uniquely equipped to provide

*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 Risks Backlash Over APC, PDP Terrorism Label, Says Falana

**Culled:** Human rights lawyer, Femi Falana, has warned that the recent Canadian court judgment classifying Nigeria's two dominant political parties, the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), as "terrorist organisations" carries grave implications for the country's democracy and international standing.



Falana

Speaking on the theme: 'Beyond Judicial Recognition of APC and PDP as Terrorist Societies', the Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) argued that the ruling should not be dismissed with insults or diplomatic protests, but treated as a wake-up call to confront the culture of electoral violence and impunity that has plagued Nigeria's political system for decades.

According to him, Nigeria's Terrorism (Prevention) Act 2022 already provides a broad definition of terrorism, which covers not only armed attacks but also actions intended to intimidate the public, coerce the government, or disrupt critical infrastructure.

He said that despite provisions exempting peaceful protests, the Federal Government continues to criminalise dissent by charging

unarmed demonstrators, such as participants in the #EndHardship protests, with terrorism and treason, while shielding politicians whose conduct had directly led to widespread deaths.

Falana noted that both APC and PDP routinely rigged elections with the backing of armed thugs, police, and military personnel, often leading to loss of lives, yet perpetrators are never prosecuted.

"The election riggers dare

their opponents to go to court, and judges in turn confer legitimacy on stolen mandates," he said. While the APC described the judge as "ignoramus" and "racist" and the PDP dismissed the ruling as "mischievous", Falana insisted their reactions "merely beg the question".

Falana, however, warned that instead of trading insults, the parties should adopt legal measures to prove they are not terrorist

organisations. He recalled statements by past and present leaders of the two parties that glorified political violence, citing former President Olusegun Obasanjo's description of the 2003 elections as a "do-or-die affair," Muhammadu Buhari's infamous "dog and baboon soaked in blood" warning ahead of the 2015 polls, and Bola Tinubu's 2023 declaration urging his supporters to "fight for power, grab it, snatch it, and run with it."

*Find Full Story In The Link*

# Culture, Tourism Will Boost Nigeria-China Ties

**Culled:** The Federal Government says culture and tourism will play a key role in boosting Nigeria-China relations.

The Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Art, Culture, Tourism and the Creative Economy, Mr Mukhtar Muhammad, said this at the 2025 China-Nigeria Culture and Tourism Festival on Saturday in Abuja. He described the event as a platform for cultural diplomacy, creative exchange, and mutual understanding between both nations.

He emphasized that culture and tourism are not just matters of heritage but also powerful drivers of economic transformation.

Muhammad noted that Nigeria's rich cultural diversity; more than 250 ethnic groups and a growing creative economy, makes it a beacon of cultural wealth on the continent.

He added that China, with its millennia-old civilization and global influence in arts and philosophy, offers important lessons and opportunities for collaboration.

He said, "Our Ministry recognizes that culture and tourism are vehicles of identity and heritage, but equally, they generate growth, jobs, and social cohesion. This is why we supported this event; to showcase the immense potential of the creative economy, from African fashion designs to traditional Chinese artistry, while opening new opportunities for investment and cross-cultural partnerships."

"The Federal Ministry is committed to leveraging the power of culture and tourism as catalysts for sustainable development.

"The tourism sector, in particular, holds immense potential for job creation, foreign exchange earnings, and promoting our national identity."

He further disclosed that the Ministry plans to expand cooperation with China in areas such as cultural heritage preservation, creative industry development, and tourism promotion.

*Find Full Story In The Link*

# Nigeria Spends \$10bn Annually On Food Imports - FG



Kyari

**Culled:** The Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Sen. Abubakar Kyari, says Nigeria spends \$10 billion annually on agro-imports, including wheat and fish.

Kyari disclosed this at the 2025 Agric and Export

Expo, on Tuesday in Lagos. The minister who decried the rising rate of agro-imports emphasised the need for increased financing of agricultural activities to boost local exports.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the minister was represented at

the event by his Special Adviser, Mr Ibrahim Alkali.

Kyari harped on the importance of increasing financing for the nation's agriculture sector to boost food export revenue generation.

"Nigeria spends over \$10 billion annually importing food such as wheat, rice, sugar, fish and even tomato paste.

"Agriculture already contributes 35 per cent of our Gross Domestic Product and employs 35 per cent of our workforce.

"We sit on 85 million hectares of urban land with a youth population of over 70 per cent under the age of 30, yet Nigeria accounts for less than 0.5 per cent of global exports.

"However, Nigeria earns less than \$400 million from agro exports, to

build a non-oil export economy, we must rethink how we finance agriculture," he said.

He reiterated the Tinubu's administration's stance on ensuring food sovereignty of the country, while insisting on increased financing of agriculture.

"President Tinubu's administration has made it clear that food sovereignty is the goal. Nigeria must not only feed itself, but to do on its own terms, free from excessive dependency on imports.

"Sovereignty means ensuring that no Nigerian goes hungry because of shocks in the global food supply chain, allowing every community to stand on the strength of our land, our people and our productivity.

*Find Full Story In The Link*



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A father and his child

# 25% Of Paternity Test In Nigeria Reveal Non-Biological Fathers - Report

**Culled:** Nigeria's leading DNA centre, Smart DNA, has released its 2025 Annual DNA Testing Report, highlighting a surge in immigration-related DNA cases amid the country's ongoing "Japa" wave, while paternity disputes remain a persistent concern.

According to the report, released on Sunday in Lagos, immigration-related DNA testing rose sharply to 13.1 per cent of all cases between July 2024 and June 2025, a trend driven by families seeking documentation for relocation abroad. "The increase reflects the growing number of dual-citizenship families

securing foreign papers for their children, often as 'second passport' insurance," the centre noted.

The report also shows that Nigeria's paternity exclusion rate remains at 25 per cent, meaning one in four presumed fathers tested are not the biological parents of the children in question. Though slightly lower than the 27 per cent recorded in 2024, the figure underscores the scale of uncertainty in family structures.

Findings further revealed that firstborn children are most affected by paternity discrepancies, with firstborn sons accounting for 64 per cent of negative results.

The study also pointed to a striking gender divide in DNA test initiations: men requested nearly 90 per cent of paternity tests, compared to just 11.8 per cent initiated by women.

Smart DNA's Operations Manager, Elizabeth Digia, called for urgent interventions through legal reform, healthcare integration, and public education.

"Nigeria lacks specific paternity fraud laws, unlike South Africa, leaving men with little legal recourse after years of financial responsibility for children proven not to be theirs," she said.

Digia urged that DNA testing be

integrated into family health programs and premarital counselling, stressing that misconceptions still fuel mistrust.

"Many believe DNA testing is only for wealthy families or assume physical resemblance guarantees paternity. Our role is to provide certainty through accurate testing while encouraging sensitive handling of this life-changing information," she added.

The centre concluded that the data paints a troubling picture of family trust, identity, and the socio-economic pressures shaping Nigerian households today.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

## Trustcrow Signs Partnership With NiDCOM, ANPA

IN celebration of Diaspora Day 2025, Trustcrow has officially signed two major partnership agreements with the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) and the ANPA Foundation, the nonprofit arm of the Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas. These partnerships are focused on one clear mission: to make it easier, safer, and more trustworthy for Nigerians living abroad to invest in

property back home. For years, many Nigerians in the diaspora have wanted to buy land or homes in Nigeria but are hesitant because of fear of fraud, unclear ownership, or unreliable agents.

With these new deals, Nigerians living abroad can now explore trusted property listings, complete their transactions securely, and get help every step of the way. Whether you're buying your first plot of land,

investing in a family home, or looking to support your roots—the platform gives you the confidence to do it right.

Trustcrow and NiDCOM are collaborating to help more Nigerians abroad invest safely in real estate. NiDCOM will endorse the platform as a go-to place for verified properties and secure transactions, while Trustcrow will provide diaspora buyers with access to pre-

vetted listings and expert guidance. "These partnerships are about restoring trust. Diaspora Nigerians now have a reliable way to invest in property, and know they're protected every step of the way," said Joseph Orji, CEO of Trustcrow.

Trustcrow is also teaming up with the ANPA Foundation, offering doctors and healthcare professionals a dedicated property support program.

[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.

### NETWORKING

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

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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.

### OTHER BENEFITS

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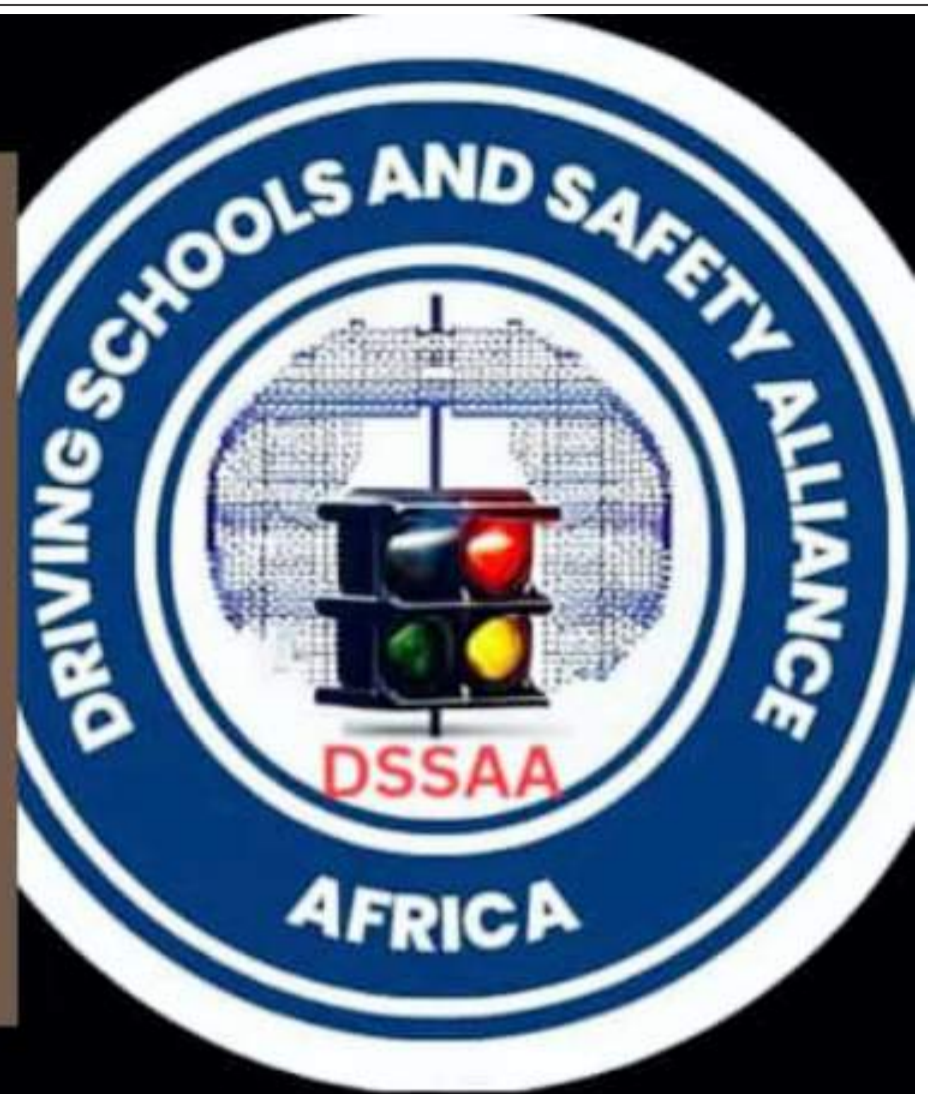


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