

## Imo Communities Lament Poor State Of Rural Roads, Call For Government Action

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# GLOBAL REPORTING GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION TRENDS TRANSPORTATION

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## Lagos To Begin Night-Time Repairs On Ozumba Mbadiwe Road

The Lagos State Government has announced that it will commence repair works on a section of Ozumba Mbadiwe Road, from

Bonny Camp junction, starting Monday, September 15, 2025. According to a

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Commissioner Oluwaseun Osiyemi on Sunday, the rehabilitation exercise will last for one week, ending on Sunday, September 21.

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## Mobile Court Convicts 245 Traffic Offenders In Abuja

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## LASTMA Nabs Hit-and-run Driver After Ogudu Flyover Accident

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Ozumba Mbadiwe Way

## CNG: Motorists Lament Inadequate Infrastructure, Frustrating Queues

As more motorists key into Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to run their vehicles, the search for the product has become frustrating, given the

inadequate infrastructure by marketers.

A correspondent who went around Abuja reports that motorists

were seen queuing for endless hours for CNG.

The introduction of CNG is about chasing a cleaner,

cheaper, and sustainable energy path, but Nigerians have raised concerns that the rapid expansion of CNG infrastructure should have

CONTINUES ON P7

## Soludo Plans New Airport At Industrial Park P5

**Local Transport News**

## FRSC Redeploys Senior Officers, Sector Commanders

### Culled

The Corps Marshal, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Shehu Mohammed, has approved the redeployment of some senior officers, including the Corps Secretary, four other Assistant Corps Marshals (ACM), and Sector Commanders (CC) across several states. FRSC spokesman, Assistant Corps Marshal Olusegun Ogungbemide, announced this in a statement on Sunday.

According to him, the redeployment was part of the corps' efforts to reinvigorate its operations and consolidate its commitment to road safety management in Nigeria.

Those affected, according to Ogungbemide, are ACM G. Ntukidem, who has been deployed to the FRSC National Headquarters, Abuja, as the new Corps Secretary.

Others are ACM J.W. Toby, who was redeployed as ACM (Policy) in Policy Research and Statistics Department to assume duty as Zonal Commanding

Officer (ZCO), RS11HQ Osogbo; ACM I. Abubakar, who was redeployed from ZCO RS11HQ Osogbo, to assume duty as ACM Policy, at the FRSC Headquarters, Abuja; ACM A.M. Hassan redeployed from Man Power Development, in the Department of Training, now to head the Technical Service Department at the FRSC Headquarters, while ACM A. Sanusi will resume as ACM Man Power Development in the Training Department.

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Shehu

## Driving Against Traffic Is Unlawful, Enugu LG Boss Warns Motorists

### Culled

The Chairman of Nkanu West Local Government Area of Enugu State, Hon John Ogbodo, has issued warning to motorists driving along the Enugu-Port Harcourt expressway against violating the traffic regulations, especially at the Four Corners junction, describing driving against traffic as unlawful.

This follows a recent accident at the same spot on September 3, 2025, where over ten people died in two separate incidents involving trucks, buses, and cars.

Ogbodo emphasized that driving against traffic is both unlawful and hazardous, posing significant risks to road users. He urged the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) to intensify efforts to curb this menace and ensure road safety.

In a Facebook post, Ogbodo mentioned that he personally intervened to stop drivers who were endangering others by driving against traffic.

He instructed FRSC operatives to evacuate defaulting vehicles to their

office in Ozalla for prosecution. This move, according to him, aims to prevent avoidable road accidents and protect lives, especially given the road's notorious condition due to ongoing construction.

"I revisited the Four Corners junction where an accident recently occurred. To my dismay, I still met some commuters driving against traffic. I had to personally intervene and stop them from endangering others. Driving against traffic is unlawful, unsafe, and must stop. I repeat my call on the Road Safety Corps to intensify efforts to curb this menace. Together, let us keep our roads safe and protect lives," he wrote.

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Ogbodo emphasized that driving against traffic is both unlawful and hazardous, posing significant risks to road users. He urged the Federal Road Safety Corps

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## Delta Community Cries Out As NDDC Road Collapses One Year After Completion

### Culled

Amuokpokpor-Elume community, Sapele Local Government Area of Delta State, is lamenting how its road failed a year after its completion by the Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC.

Daniel Ogbodo, the community chairman, who recounted how the project started in 2020, alleged that the contractor used substandard materials to carry out the project, resulting in its outright failure after one year of completion.

He said the newly constructed concrete-paved road did not last a year before deteriorating, leaving the community in a worse state than before the contractor's intervention.

While urging NDDC to revisit the site and construct a good road, he bemoaned the immense hardship resulting from the road's deplorable condition.

"People are complaints about the deplorable state of the road, loss of life, and paralysis of their economic activities just a year after its completion by the



NDDC Road

contractor."

He appealed to NDDC to resume work on the collapsed road connecting the agrarian community to other parts of the council.

"The road constitutes a death trap owing to the presence of heaps of stones, exposed construction iron, and no drainage.

"At the project's inception, the

community was filled with jubilation, knowing the struggles residents had faced with poor road conditions for years. However, we were surprised that..."

Community elder Olu Majelele and Felix Emuobonuvie, President General of Elume District, explained the challenges caused by the poor road conditions, including frequent falls and delayed vehicular movement.

"Currently, the Amuokpokpor road is almost impassable because the rods and other metal objects utilized in its construction have resurfaced. This has resulted in the bursting of motorcycle and vehicle tyres. Consequently, no one wants to ride their motorcycle or drive their vehicle into the village for fear of punctured tyres.

"In the recent past, this road has been the

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**Local Transport News****LASTMA Nabs Hit-and-run Driver After Ogudu Flyover Bridge****Culled**

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) on Sunday apprehended the driver of a Nissan Jeep who attempted to flee after allegedly knocking down a pedestrian in a reckless driving incident along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, shortly after the Ogudu flyover inward Ifako.

According to official statements, the vehicle, with registration number KJA 354 ET, was travelling at high speed when the driver tried to outmanoeuvre a fully loaded 40-foot articulated truck.

The dangerous manoeuvre caused the driver to lose control, ramming into a pedestrian before veering into the expressway's central median.

Instead of stopping to help the victim, the motorist reportedly attempted to escape. LASTMA officers deployed in the area gave chase and successfully intercepted the suspect. The injured pedestrian was simultaneously rescued and rushed for emergency medical attention.

Confirming the incident, LASTMA's Director of Public Affairs and Enlightenment, Adebayo Taofiq, said the suspect was immediately handed over to the Ogudu Police Division for further investigation. The damaged vehicle was also evacuated to the station.

Despite the accident occurring close to ongoing rehabilitation works around the Ogudu-Ifako bridge intersections, LASTMA officials said they swiftly managed traffic flow to prevent gridlock or further crashes.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Hit and run car

**Lagos To Begin Night-Time Repairs On Ozumba Mbadiwe Road****Culled**

The Lagos State Government has announced that it will commence repair works on a section of Ozumba Mbadiwe Road, from Bonny Camp junction, starting Monday, September 15, 2025.

According to a statement released by the Ministry of Transportation and signed by Commissioner Oluwaseun Osiyemi on Sunday, the rehabilitation exercise will last for one week, ending on Sunday, September 21.

The works are scheduled to take place at night, between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. daily, in a bid to reduce the impact on traffic during the day.

Osiyemi said the decision to work at night was deliberate, aimed at minimising inconvenience for motorists and businesses that rely heavily on the corridor.

"Ozumba Mbadiwe Road is a critical artery linking Victoria Island with

other parts of Lagos.

"The rehabilitation is part of our continuous efforts to maintain the state's road infrastructure.

"We urge motorists to cooperate with traffic officers and show understanding during this short period," Osiyemi said.

The Ministry advised motorists and commuters to plan their trips accordingly, noting that while the works are ongoing, minor delays may occur despite the night schedule.

Road users are urged to follow traffic signs, exercise patience, and comply with instructions from traffic enforcement agencies deployed along the corridor.

Ozumba Mbadiwe Road is a major route connecting commuters from the Lekki axis into Victoria Island and Ikoyi.

The road is often plagued by heavy traffic, especially during peak hours, making timely maintenance essential for the smooth flow of vehicles.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

**Imo Communities Lament Poor State Of Rural Road Call For Government Action****Culled**

Some Communities in the 27 Local Council Areas of Imo State have lamented the poor state of roads in their respective areas and called on the State Government to take adequate measures to address the issue before they are cut off from the state.

They noted that, although the State Government is trying in road construction within the capital territory, much attention need to be given to rural roads which they said have become death traps for the people using them.

Speaking with our correspondent, a Community Head from one of the villages in Owerri West LGA, Nze Marcel Osundu, narrated that virtually all the roads in the Council area are in deplorable condition worsened by the rainy season.

He hinted that plying the roads is like embarking on a journey of death owing to serious accidents on them, even as road users unintentionally engage in violating traffic rules while trying to avoid major bad spots.

"Without mincing words, many roads in



Poor state of a particular rural road

Owerri West Local Government Area and across other LGAs in Imo State remain in deplorable condition.

"While the Executive Governor, Senator Hope Uzodinma, has made commendable strides in infrastructural development under his Shared Prosperity Administration, it is also essential that more visible efforts be directed toward rehabilitating rural roads across the State," he said.

Mr Desmond Aririguzo, who resides in Umuguma, the Headquarters of Owerri West LGA, informed that lack of a proper access route from Owerri town to Umuguma is unbelievable and worrisome as the distance from the community to the State capital city is just a stone throw.

He lamented that businesses and other social engagements have been paralyzed owing to the bad nature of

the roads.

Aririguzo added that the situation is turning to a point where it can no longer be overlooked, observing that it is the common man that bears the brunt of the whole thing.

"When you go to a shop to buy certain items you find out that the price of what you bought yesterday has been topped when you try to ask, shop owners will be quick to tell you that it because of the cost of transportation.

"The Owerri-World Bank-Umuguma Road, for instance, is particularly in an appalling state, despite being only five-minute drive from Government House, Owerri.

Thousands of residents of the state who live and conduct their daily activities along this axis endure significant hardship as a result of bad roads "he further lamented.

A provision shop owner, Lady Ihuoma Ekwueme told our correspondent that roads leading to rural areas are very bad and pose a great danger to road users who ply them on a daily basis.

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## Local Transport News

# Mobile Court Convicts 245 Traffic Offenders In Abuja

### Culled

The Federal Road Safety Corps of FCT Command has intensified efforts against traffic violators under Operation Restore Sanity IV, arresting 254 offenders, including a military impersonator, and securing 245 convictions during Mobile Court sittings held earlier this month.

In a statement signed by Assistant Corps Marshal and Corps Public Education Officer, Olusegun Ogungbemide, on Sunday, the FRSC said the special operation, conducted in collaboration with the Nigerian Correctional Service and the Nigerian Army Brigade of Guards, targeted the busy Abuja-Nyanya corridor, a hotspot for route violations, overloading, and reckless driving.

"In all, 254 offenders were arraigned for committing a total of 563 traffic-related offences.

"Out of these, 245 were convicted, while 9 were discharged after due consideration by the court," the statement partly read.

The offences recorded included seatbelt violations (129 cases), driver's licence violations (122), overloading (111), and route violations (63).

"Other offences such as dangerous driving, traffic light violation, number plate violation, wrongful overtaking, use of phone while driving, caution sign violation, and impersonation were also booked," the FRSC added.

Seven notorious offenders, Shaab Murtala, Abel Sunday, Sunday Salasi, Benjamin Augustine, **Ekem Charles**,  
*Find Full Story In The Link*



Court Ruling

### Culled

Anambra State Governor, Professor Chukwuma Soludo, is planning to build a new airport in Ndikelionwu, Orumba North local government area, as part of his administration's desire to transform the state into a smart mega city.

Speaking during a tour of the site of the proposed airport, the Managing Director of Chinua Achebe International Cargo Airport, Umueri, Mr. Martins Nwafor, said that the visit was to identify a suitable and flyable location where the state government can establish an airport alongside the proposed industrial park within an aerotropolis.

Nwafor, who also chairs the newly inaugurated Airport and Aerotropolis Committee, described the project as a game changer that would unlock untapped economic opportunities in the state.

According to him, the integration of aviation infrastructure with the surrounding commercial, residential, and logistics facilities would create a dynamic airport-driven city capable of attracting significant investment.

# Soludo Plans New Airport At Industrial Park

He added that the development of multiple airports across Anambra will accelerate industrialisation and foster the state's overall growth.

In their separate remarks, the former President-General of Ndikelionwu Welfare Association, Hon. Fabian Nwosu, and the association's Vice President, Hon. Ifesinachi Chukwurah Onwurah, expressed gratitude to the state government for siting the project in their community.

They pledged the people's full support, security, and cooperation to ensure the successful take-off and completion of the airport.

Other dignitaries who were with Nwafor during the tour included the MD/CEO of Anambra State Solid Minerals  
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# Residents Lament Poor Condition Of Dukku-Gombe Road



Dukku-Gombe Road

Residents of Dukku local government area of Gombe state have decried the deplorable condition of the road linking the community to the state capital.

According to some motorists, the Dukku-Gombe journey, which was barely 50 minutes before the deterioration of the road, now stretches to about 2 hours, leaving both passengers and drivers frustrated.

First constructed in the 1980s, the Gombe-Dukku-Darazo road was rehabilitated in the early 2000s, but later suffered neglect even as it served as a major route for travellers from Adamawa, Taraba, Jigawa, Kano, Bauchi, among others.

Usman Abubakar, a 45-year-old driver with 19 years of experience, said he faced numerous challenges plying the Dukku-Gombe road, lamenting how the poor state of the road leads to frequent repairs and sometimes total breakdowns.

He said, "Honestly, the road is in a very bad condition. Before the road deteriorated to this level, the journey would take around 45 minutes at a moderate speed of 80-100 km/hour, but now even drivers who are used to the road take around 1 hour 40 minutes, while others may take over 2 hours. Some, especially those who are not familiar with the road take even longer than that.

"There are potholes all over. For example, from Tongoyel to Bojude and Bozonshulwa is completely worn out. Only well-serviced vehicles in top condition can withstand the harsh condition of the road. Sometimes while traveling early in the morning, you will pass by many stranded cars that couldn't make it due to breakdowns. The poor

road condition leads to frequent repairs, with parts like shock absorbers and windshields wearing out rapidly.

"Before, your shock absorbers would last two years, but now they won't last more than three months. Hitting the potholes also damages your windshield.

"A good used windshield now costs ₦90,000 and lasts barely two weeks without developing cracks, while shock absorbers, which previously cost ₦6,000, now sell for ₦42,000. Car kingpin, which used to cost ₦4,000, now goes for ₦12,000."

Further narrating his ordeal, Abubakar recounted his recent accident when his car darted off the road and entered the bush after he lost control.

"Personally, I have had three accidents in the past two months, including a recent breakdown where I damaged my kingpin, burst a tire (which now sells around ₦60,000), and destroyed a shock absorber (which is about ₦45,000). The kingpin alone now costs ₦12,000, against its former price of ₦4,000. Upon hitting a pothol, I lost control and the car darted off the road to the bush."

For Abubakar Hassan, another driver, the terrible state of the road coupled with frequent knockdowns made him contemplate giving up driving at a time.

"The road is terrible. I ply it almost every day. Sometimes, when you hit a pothole, you feel like crying. We have seen cars knocked down, and motorists forced to spend the night on the road. Those who aren't familiar with the road find it particularly difficult.

"When it rains, the journey becomes almost unbearable. Last year, I hated driving on this road to the point of nearly giving up. There was a time my car broke down. I spent hours trying to get it repaired. There were times when I got caught in the rain on the road with a broken car. These days, we make a single trip mostly, so as not to stress the car."

Sharing a similar experience, Adamu Muhammad Jungudo, said the poor road condition has resulted in fewer passengers, as some people are now hesitant to travel on the road due to safety concerns, especially for those with health issues.  
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- Rub down old gloss painted surfaces with abrasive paper.
- Stir content very well
- Add little quantity of thinner if necessary
- Apply with brush or roller
- Close firmly when not in use.

### DIRECTION FOR USE:

- Mix paints in well-ventilated areas
- Spray paint outdoors or in special booths
- Never smoke or have any source of fire in the vicinity
- Wear a respirator or paint mask
- Avoid electrocution!



20 LITERS

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# CNG: Motorists Lament Inadequate Infrastructure, Frustrating Queues

## Culled

As more motorists key into Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to run their vehicles, the search for the product has become frustrating, given the inadequate infrastructure by marketers.

A correspondent who went around Abuja reports that motorists were seen queuing for endless hours for CNG.

The introduction of CNG is about chasing a cleaner, cheaper, and sustainable energy path, but Nigerians have raised concerns that the rapid expansion of CNG infrastructure should have been envisaged.

Some motorists who spoke to journalists blamed the marketers for not putting enough infrastructure in place to dispense CNG, urging the government to mandate them to do so.

One of the motorists, Olakunle Ajayi, said he was in the queue for six hours before he could buy, adding that he joined the queue around 9:00 a.m. at the NNPC Zone 1 retail outlet and was able to get a refill



Motorists

around 3:00 p.m.

“Something should be done urgently; otherwise, this initiative will be dead before the end of the year,” he said.

Sylvester Abua, another motorist, said he was an ardent user of CNG due

to its benefits of being a cleaner energy, low combustion rate, and affordability. However, he regretted the current waivers for more board.

“I also want the government to ensure

that it sets up a mechanism to monitor the sales and prices by the retailers to the end users. This will regulate their activities, excesses, and foster guidelines to operate,” he said.

Another motorist, who only gave his name as Ehis, said it was difficult to comprehend that there was an increase in price two weeks ago, yet the product was still difficult to get.

“Initially, we bought at N230 for one standard cubic metre (SCM), but it was increased to N380 for one SCM; that is, an additional N150.

“So, why is it still difficult to get that we will have to queue for hours before we can buy?” he asked.

Mr Ehis called on the government and the CNG marketers to use the opportunity of the increase in price to spread infrastructure to ease the suffering of motorists who saw the product as an alternative fuel.

Ezekiel Manah, who expressed disappointment over the situation and decried the acute scarcity of CNG filling stations, said the aim of converting his car was defeated because of the paucity of refilling stations in the FCT and beyond.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

## Dangote Petrol N65 Cheaper In Togo - Importers



Dangote Refinery

Some fuel importers in the country have alleged that the Dangote refinery sells a litre of petrol to international traders at N65 cheaper than the amount it gives the product to marketers in Nigeria.

The Depot and Petroleum Product Marketers Association of Nigeria, Petroleum Products Retail Outlet Owners Association of Nigeria confirmed this in separate exclusive interviews with Sunday PUNCH.

While kicking against the planned slashing of prices on Monday, DAPPMAN in particular said it was a ploy to stifle competition.

The Dangote refinery recently announced that it would drop petrol prices from N865 per litre to

N841 in Lagos and the South West, and N851 in Abuja, Edo, and Kwara.

This would come alongside the commencement of its direct fuel distribution scheme.

In an interview with our correspondent on Saturday, the DAPPMAN Executive Secretary, Olufemi Adewole, told Sunday PUNCH that members of the group bought Dangote's petrol from international traders in Lome, Togo, at prices lower than what was offered locally by the refinery.

Adewole said importers had made efforts to buy petrol from the Dangote refinery, but the price was higher, adding that sometimes, it could be better to import the product.

But the Dangote refinery downplayed the allegations, suggesting DAPPMAN might be the force behind the recent attack against it by the Nigerian Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers.

NUPENG had accused the refinery of anti-union practices, including

refusing to allow drivers to join the group. The union threatened to embark on industrial action over the matter.

Adewole told Sunday PUNCH that Alhaji Aliko Dangote once said he would crash prices whenever importers brought in fuel cargoes into Nigeria.

“So, anytime our cargoes are coming, we expect him to reduce the price. He may give a different reason for the reduction,” he said.

“Dangote is selling to international traders at N65 lower than what he offers in Nigeria, or how is it possible for some of our members to buy from someone who bought from Dangote?”

“Dangote sells to international traders at N65 cheaper than what he is selling to us. In some instances, we were able to buy from those people and still bring it to Nigeria. They will take the product to Lomé, claiming that they are buying large quantities.

“I have collated the volume of the products needed by DAPPMAN and

sent to Dangote twice, yet he is not giving us products. What else does he want us to do? Even if he would give it to us, it would be with conditions that would not be profitable. Is that business?” he said.

Asked if it was cheaper to import petrol than to buy from the Dangote refinery, Adewole said, “It's not all the time that it is cheaper. But there are instances in which it was cheaper to buy from international markets, and not only did we buy from international markets, we bought from international traders that Dangote sold to.”

When our correspondent sought to know what DAPPMAN's requests were, he emphasised the need for discounts.

“Dangote has to give us a discount for the freight cost and other costs that we incur between his jetty and our jetty so that we can sell at the same price, and then we'll be competitive. People will continue to import if the price is cheaper elsewhere,” he added.

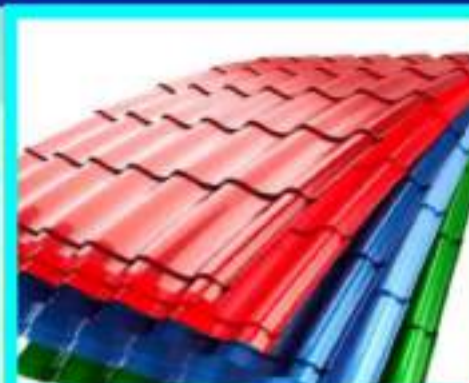
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# Gatwick Rail Line Closes For 13 Days For Upgrades



said that by upgrading the signals - the railway's traffic lights - fewer faults would occur and services would be more reliable and safer.

Southern and Thameslink trains to and from London, Reigate, Redhill and Gatwick Airport are not affected by these works and will continue to operate.

Network Rail said it would use the opportunity to upgrade the level crossings at Chilworth, Tanglely, Brook and Burrows Lane.

Brook and Burrows Lane level crossings are being replaced by "state-of-the-art" level crossing technology to make them safer for both train and road users, they said.

The crossings will be fitted with radars to scan the crossing before trains approach, only lowering the barriers once all vehicles are clear.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

crossing before trains approach, only lowering the barriers once all vehicles are clear.

A picture of a level crossing with signs near it advertising of a closure

Meanwhile, Chilworth and Tanglely level crossings will be fitted with CCTV systems, which will be used by the signaller to safely operate the barriers.

All four crossings will have new signalling installed and will feed back to Guildford Area Signalling Centre.

Some local road closures near each level

crossing will be in place during the works, Network Rail confirmed.

A total of 16 signals will be upgraded on the line between Shalford and Gomshall. Network Rail

*Culled*

A railway line between Surrey and Gatwick Airport will close for almost two weeks to allow level crossings and signals along the route to be upgraded.

From Sunday until Saturday 27 September no trains will run on the North Downs Line, between Guildford and the West Sussex airport.

Buses will replace the trains, usually operated by Great Western Railway (GWR), throughout the entire closure.

Network Rail said it would use the opportunity to upgrade the level crossings at Chilworth, Tanglely, Brook and Burrows Lane.

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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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# No Need For Separate TIN To Operate Bank Accounts - FIRS Official

*Culled:*

The Federal Inland Revenue Service has dismissed claims that Nigerians must obtain a separate Tax Identification Number before they can own or operate a bank account, insisting that the new framework integrates seamlessly with existing national registries such as the National Identification Number and Corporate Affairs Commission records.

This clarification comes amid widespread debate following media reports suggesting that from January 2026, every Nigerian would be required to present a TIN to open or maintain a bank account, a development that generated fears of fresh bureaucratic hurdles for citizens.

Reacting to the controversy, Arabinrin Aderonke Atoyebi, the Technical Assistant on Broadcast Media to the Executive Chairman of FIRS, Zacch Adedeji, explained in a post on her official X handle, on Saturday, that the reports were misleading.

"In recent debates about Nigeria's tax reforms, a widespread misconception has taken root: that citizens without a Tax Identification Number (TIN) cannot own or operate



Atoyebi

a bank account.

"This view, while the reality is that Nigeria's tax system has evolved to integrate seamlessly with existing national registries, ensuring that every eligible individual or entity is automatically identifiable for tax purposes.

"This article clarifies how the new framework works, drawing from the Federal Inland Revenue Service's (FIRS) implementation of the National Taxpayer Directory under the Nigeria Tax

Administration Act (2025)", individuals, RC for parts of her explanation corporates), state of registration, and a cryptographic fragment for security, ending with a check digit.

She explained that the TIN is a 13-digit identifier designed to uniquely capture details of taxable persons and entities across Nigeria.

She continued, "What is a Tax ID? The Tax Identification Number (TIN) is a 13-digit unique identifier for all taxable persons and entities in Nigeria. It encodes details such as issuance year, registry source (NIN for

individuals, RC for corporates), state of registration, and a cryptographic fragment for security, ending with a check digit." [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# Africa Must Own Its Democracy, Says Tuggar

*Culled:*

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yusuf Tuggar, has called for a redefinition of the country's foreign policy to match new global realities, advocating a model of "strategic autonomy" grounded in national interest and pragmatic diplomacy.

Tuggar, who spoke at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs in Lagos on Friday, stressed the importance of aligning foreign policy with the rapidly shifting geopolitical and technological landscape.

Since taking office under President Bola Tinubu, Tuggar has emphasised a shift in Nigeria's foreign policy towards what he calls strategic autonomy.

This doctrine is built on pursuing foreign policy decisions based on Nigeria's national interest rather than aligning fully with any major power bloc or rigid ideological lines.

The guest lecture, titled "Navigating Realities: Aligning Nigeria's Foreign Policy Practice with Emerging Global Dynamics," drew attention to the evolving nature of global power and the need for Nigeria to assert its position with clarity and purpose.

The minister, in a statement signed by the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kimiebi Ebiefa, on Sunday, noted that the role of the NIIA is not merely symbolic but essential to the strategic direction of the country's foreign policy.

"The Institute's role is not ornamental—it is foundational. Its research, policy analysis, and convening power have shaped how Nigeria positions itself on the world stage," he added.

Tuggar painted a picture of a world in transition, where climate change, artificial intelligence, rising inequality, and global migration are reshaping international relations and the very concept of security.

"Climate change is redrawing the geography of security. Desertification in the Sahel is fueling conflict and migration." [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# Police Officers Now More Civil To Nigerians - AIG



Police

*Culled:*

The Assistant Inspector-General of Police, Zone 17, comprising Ondo and Ekiti States, Mr Ajani Omolabi, says the police are now civil in their relationship with people to ensure proficiency in modern policing.

Omolabi, in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria on Sunday in Akure, said the policy had endeared people to the police, which was useful in getting information to fight crime in the zone.

"The police have become civil rather than being bossy. We are now civil to the

people we are working with. We come to their level, engage them, and we understand one another. "It also helps us to get information easily from them. And also, the robust way of bringing ourselves to the community level, the open-door policy, has helped us," he said.

The AIG said there had been a series of seminars and lectures with police officers and men in the two commands on the need to operate with a policy of openness, transparency, and professionalism.

"I have held seminars and lectures with them. And this is always what I advocate, that we should be closer to the community in our workplace and on the issue of giving information to the police.

"I have also had meetings with

many communities, telling them that they should go directly to the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) or even come to the Commissioner of Police or AIG, go and give your information.

"We are not far away from the people we are working with and whoever is giving us information, we make sure we protect such person," he said.

Omolabi reiterated the need for the public to accept police as their friend and partners in fighting crimes, adding that police were servants to the people.

The AIG said his office was accessible to members of the public for any complaint or grievance.

"I operate an open-door policy. Since I came, the civilians have

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# Canada Rejects 1,596 Nigerian Asylum Claims, Approves 65% In 2025

## Culled:

Canada has turned down 1,596 asylum applications from Nigerian nationals, and has approved nearly two-thirds of the total claims filed so far in 2025.

Data from the country's Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) show that out of 3,548 applications lodged by Nigerians between January and August, 2,292 were accepted, putting the approval rate at 65 per cent, higher than in previous years.

When more than 13,000 applications from Nigerians were rejected cumulatively.

An analysis by Maple Crest Law, a Canadian immigration practice,

estimated that Nigeria ranked among the top sources of asylum seekers in early 2025 alongside Mexico, India, Haiti, and Colombia, with 3,455 claims already filed.

The firm linked the trend to the combined impact of Boko Haram violence and economic instability at home.

"Ontario and Alberta currently host the largest numbers of asylum seekers from Nigeria.

Under Canadian law, the Refugee Protection Division (RPD) grants refugee status if an applicant meets the United Nations definition of a convention refugee or is deemed a

person in need of protection.

"The 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees defines a refugee as someone with a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, nationality, religion, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

"In Canada, social groups recognized under this definition include sexual orientation, gender identity, women, and persons living with HIV/AIDS", the report said.

It also noted that to qualify, claimants must also demonstrate that returning to their country would expose them to risks such as torture, threats to life, or

cruel and unusual treatment.

Protection claims are typically initiated when immigrants alert the Canada Border Services Agency at ports of entry or report directly to an immigration officer. If found eligible, the claim is referred to the IRB for adjudication.

The data highlights a sharp contrast with recent years. In 2024, 811 Nigerian claims were rejected, while 2,230 were approved.

"Between 2013 and 2024, the RPD denied 13,171 applications from Nigerians but accepted 10,580, placing Nigeria consistently among the top five countries for asylum claim denials.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

## IPI Raises Alarm Over Media Repression In Nigeria

The International Press Institute (IPI), a global organisation committed to defending press freedom, has expressed concern over what it described as the growing wave of repression against the Nigerian media.

Musililu Mojeed, President of IPI Nigeria and Editor-in-Chief of Premium Times, raised the alarm in Abuja during a dinner organised to honour Hadiza Hussaina Sani,

retired Director of Digital Media at the Voice of Nigeria (VON).

Mojeed cited "disturbing" cases of clampdowns on journalists, including the banning of live political programmes in Kano, the harassment of reporters in Ekiti and Niger, the eviction of Channels TV crew from the Akwa Ibom Government House, and the detention of journalists in Kebbi. He described the trend as a daily assault

on press freedom and urged stronger advocacy to protect the rights of media professionals.

The ceremony was attended by media leaders and stakeholders, including VON's Director-General Jibrin Ndace, former presidential spokesman Garba Shehu, and ex-NUJ president Abdulwaheed Odusile, all of whom commended Sani's professional legacy and contributions to journalism.

In her remarks, Sani reflected on her 34-year career, pledging to remain active in the media through research, writing, and mentoring despite her retirement from public service.

Musililu Mojeed, President of IPI Nigeria and Editor-in-Chief of Premium Times, raised the alarm in Abuja during a dinner organised to honour Hadiza Hussaina Sani, retired Director of Digital Media at the Voice of Nigeria (VON).  
[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

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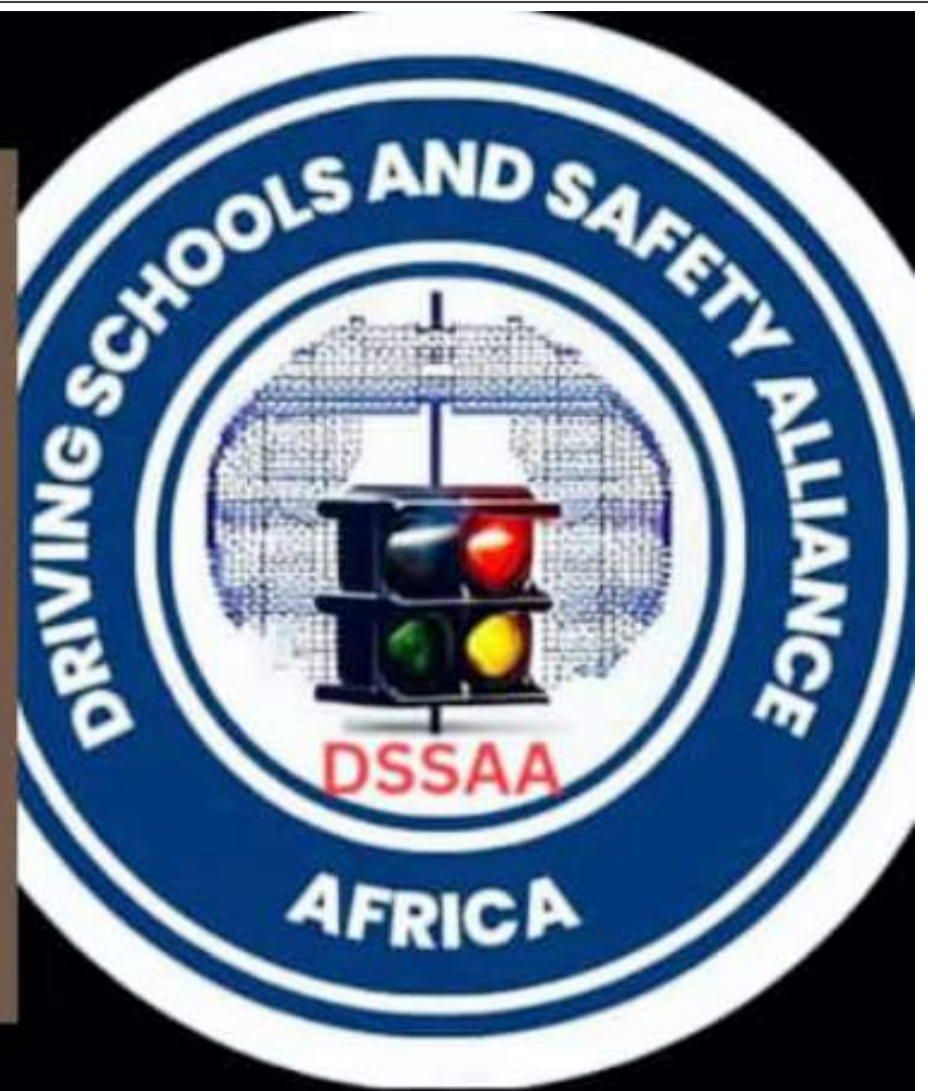


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