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CONTINUES ON P7

FRSC, Ilaje LG Forge Alliance For Safer Roads In Ember Months

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Igbokoda Zonal Command, has reiterated its readiness to partner with the FRSC, Igbokoda Local Government

CONTINUES ON P3

GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION

REPORTING GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION TRENDS

thelandmarkinfo.com.ng | Global Transportation E-Reports | Global_GTE Mon, October 20th 2025 E-NEWSPAPER

Omi Eko: Lagos Partners Global Investment Agencies To Revolutionize Water Transportation

The Lagos State Waterways Authority, LASWA was on Friday 17, October agog with the launch of 'Omi Eko', a strategic mass water

transportation project that is set to crystalize Governor Sanwo-Olu's master plan of

upsaling water mobility in the state into global reckoning and ranking. According to the

Governor, 'Omi Eko' is not a mere project, but a bold statement that will lead Lagos and Africa in

building a sustainable, connected, forward thinking water

CONTINUES ON P2

Freight Forwarders Oppose N35,000 Call-up Charge At Onne Port NPA Blocks Truck Access To Lagos Ports Amid Congestion Crisis

P5

Snake Island Reaffirms Commitment To Economic Growth

P2

P5



Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and other stakeholders at the Omi Eko Water Transportation Project

Marina, Mile 2 Transport Interchanges Ready Mid Q2 2026 - LAMATA MD

The Managing Director of LAMATA, Mrs Abimbola Akinajo, has said the two-transport interchange being built at Marina and Mile 2 to promote

intermodal transportation will be ready between the end of first quarter and middle of second quarter 2026.

Speaking after a delegation from Agence Française de Développement (AFD) led by Sandra Kessab, the

Director, Africa Department of the agency, toured the Marina and Mile 2 transport interchange to check the progress of the work, she said

CONTINUES ON P3

Six Dead, 14 Injured In Ebonyi Road Accident

P5

Local Transport News

NPA Blocks Truck Access To Lagos Ports Amid Congestion Crisis

Culled

The Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) has suspended the movement of all trucks from designated pre-gate areas into the Lagos Port Complex (LPC) pending the clearance of the current backlog of cargoes at the terminals.

In a notice to stakeholders, the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), through its technical partner, Transit Truck Parks Limited (TTP), explained that the move was aimed at easing congestion along the port access routes. The NPA added that the operational restriction is a temporary measure and that the pre-gates will be reopened once the terminals have sufficient space to accommodate additional trucks.

Part of the statement reads, "The Nigerian Ports Authority has directed a temporary hold on the release of trucks from all pre-gates serving the Lagos Port Complex, LPC, until further notice.

"The measure is to facilitate the clearance of congestion along the port access route. Please note that this

operational measure is temporary. The pre-gates will be reopened as soon as the terminals absorb all the trucks on the roads.

"We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work with relevant authorities to restore normal operations. Updates will be provided as they become available."

Reacting to the development, Mr. Sani Mohammed, an official of Association of Maritime Truck Owners (AMATO), said

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



NPA

Umahi Addresses Concerns Over Ondo/Ore Road Construction

Culled

The Minister of Works, Engr. Dave Umahi, has addressed concerns raised by Dr. Akinola Awodeyi-Akinsehinwa, a prominent chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ondo State, regarding the quality of wire mesh used in the ongoing construction of the Ondo/Ore Road.

Dr. Awodeyi-Akinsehinwa had reached out to the minister following public concerns about the mesh wire being used on the project.

In his response, Minister Umahi explained that the wire mesh applied on the outer shoulders of the road conforms to global construction standards, noting that the design adheres to international best practices. He stated that while the main carriageway requires heavy reinforcement due to high flexural stress from continuous traffic, the outer shoulders experience minimal load and therefore utilize lighter wire mesh.

The Ondo/Ore Road project, spanning

86.43 kilometres from Ore to Akure, is designed to last over 50 years and employs Continuous Reinforced Concrete Pavement (CRCP) technology.

According to the minister, the road features a 7.3-metre main carriageway and 2.75-metre shoulders on each side. Minister Umahi commended Dr. Awodeyi-Akinsehinwa for his inquiry, describing him as "a responsible partner in progress."

He further assured Nigerians that the structural integrity of the road remains intact and that construction is being carried out in line with global engineering standards.

The minister's clarification has brought relief to citizens and stakeholders in Ondo State, who have been eagerly awaiting the project's completion.

With his assurance, expectations remain high that the Ondo/Ore Road will meet all required standards and serve the people of Ondo State for decades to come.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Omi Eko: Lagos Partners Global Investment Agencies To Revolutionize Water Transportation

Culled

The Lagos State Waterways Authority, LASWA was on Friday 17, October agog with the launch of 'Omi Eko', a strategic mass water transportation project that is set to crystalize Governor Sanwo-Olu's master plan of upscaling water mobility in the state into global reckoning and ranking.

According to the Governor, 'Omi Eko' is not a mere project, but a bold statement that will lead Lagos and Africa in building a sustainable, connected, forward thinking water transportation ecosystem, away from the congested roads leading to traffic bottlenecks.

"Lagos began as a network of islands. It was knitted together by water long before the bridges connected us, connecting us as a people and to our dreams. The waters were used to deliver our goods and people across the lagoon, prompting us to be deliberate about returning to those routes, not nostalgically, but strategically." Sanwo-Olu said.



The Omi Eko Water Transportation Project

The project is expected to gulp a whopping EUR 410m to be sourced via the Global Gateway Initiative, involving; the French Development Agency, AFD, the European Union, EU, and the European Investment Bank, EIB, who will be investing a total of EUR 360 million.

The breakdown includes a EUR 60 million grant contribution from the EU,

a EUR 130 million subsidized loan from AFD and a EUR 170 million subsidized loan from EIB.

According to LASWA, the project encompasses two main components: involving the construction of inland waterways transport and associated facilities, including the development of 15 high-quality infrastructure priority ferry routes, the channelization,

marking, and dredging of 140 km of ferry routes, comprising 25 ferry terminals and jetties.

The provision of electric charging infrastructure to power e-vessels, depots for routine vessel maintenance, the provision of land connections including road surfacing, and small transport facilities for other transports services connecting to ferry terminals.

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20TH SEPTEMBER, 2025



FUTD SPECIAL BULLETIN

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POST UTME AND DIRECT ENTRY ONLINE SCREENING EXERCISE FOR THE 2025/2026 ACADEMIC SESSION

The Management of Federal University of Transportation, Daura wishes to inform all candidates who applied for admission into the University through the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) and scored 150 points and above with the relevant Five O'Level credits, and Direct Entry (DE) candidates that Online Screening Exercise for the **2025/2026 Academic Session** is scheduled to commence from **Friday, 19th September, 2025**.

To register for the Post UTME Screening, candidates are required to log onto: <https://futd.edu.ng> to initiate the process using their UTME registration number as their **Username** and State of origin as their **Password**. Applicants are required to generate a Remita Retrieval Reference (RRR) Number and proceed to any Bank for payment or use their Debit Cards to pay the non-refundable screening fee of **Two Thousand Naira (N2,000.00)**.

Steps to Follow:

- Access the portal via <https://futd.edu.ng>
- Make payment of N2,000.00 through Bank or REMITA
- Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the Screening Form
- Upload all required documents as specified and submit
- Print the acknowledgement slip and retain as evidence of successful registration

For inquiries or technical support, please contact the University ICT Directorate using the contact details provided on the portal or call **08032848658**.

Signed:
Mal. Umar Faruk Bayu
Registrar

Local Transport News

Imo State Govt Reintroduces Traffic Management Agency

Culled

The Imo State Government has officially reintroduced the Imo State Traffic Management Agency, ISTMA, to ensure strict adherence to traffic rules by road users.

The return of the agency, which had been suspended for a few years by the State Government, became feasible following its recent inauguration by the Commissioner for Transport, Emeka Okoronkwo, who charged the new management of the agency to carry out their duties with a human face while ensuring road orderliness.

The inauguration of the new ISTMA teams, held at Arugo Motor Park along Onitsha Road in Owerri, was witnessed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport, Mrs Moneme Judith, the Head of Transport, and other key stakeholders.

In his speech, the Commissioner stated that ISTMA will now serve as the sole government agency responsible for traffic control and management in the

state.

He emphasised that the new phase of operations is designed to foster a friendly working relationship with drivers while strictly enforcing traffic regulations, particularly around sensitive areas such as the Assumpta Cathedral–Control Post flyover.

Okoronkwo explained that the enforcement became necessary following the state government's ban on the indiscriminate loading and offloading of passengers and goods

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Governor Uzodimma

Marina, Mile 2 Transport Interchanges Ready Mid Q2 2026

Culled

The Managing Director of LAMATA, Mrs Abimbola Akinajo, has said the two-transport interchange being built at Marina and Mile 2 to promote intermodal transportation will be ready between the end of first quarter and middle of second quarter 2026.

Speaking after a delegation from Agence Française de Développement (AFD) led by Sandra Kessab, the Director, Africa Department of the agency, toured the Marina and Mile 2 transport interchange to check the progress of the work, she said there LAMATA can see great progress with the work done, reason it is very comfortable that at the very latest, at the beginning of the second quarter of 2026, the two interchanges would be delivered.

According to her, the state has a non-motorised policy which is driving the non-motorized aspect of the Marina Interchange project. "And it's something that is probably unique when you look at the intermodal transport system in

Lagos. We must note that Lagos has a non-motorized transport policy as part of its transportation policy. And Lagos is probably the first state that has incorporated that in its transport policy.

"In fact, Lagos is probably the first state that has got its own transport policy, and that's under the purview of the ministry of transportation. But what is important here is that Lagos is deliberate about ensuring that we have an adequacy of non-motorized transportation system. And the backbone of that is connectivity, the ability to connect non-motorised transport (NMT) infrastructure to other transport modes."

She disclosed that when the Marina Interchange is completed, the plan is to have commuters walk from outer Marina and get to J. Randle Museum and some parts of the offices around inner Marina.

With this, the MD of LAMATA said the state would be reducing carbon emissions because passengers will not use car to connect these locations. Commenting after the tour, the head of

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

FRSC, Ilaje LG Forge Alliance For Safer Roads In Ember Months

Culled

As part of efforts to improve the safety of road users during the ember months, the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Igbokoda Zonal Command, has reiterated its readiness to partner with the management of Ilaje Local Government area of Ondo State. The Zonal Commander of the FRSC, Igbokoda Command, Mrs Janet Oluseyi, stated this in Igbokoda at the weekend during a courtesy visit to the Chairman of Ilaje Local Government in his office at the council headquarters.

Mrs. Oluseyi said the visit was part of the Corps' efforts to sensitise residents, promote safer road practices during the ember months, and solicit the council's support for the activities of FRSC officials across the area.

Describing road safety as a shared responsibility between the public and the FRSC, the zonal commander expressed the Corps' commitment to working closely with the local government to ensure greater safety



FRSC

on the roads.

In his response, the Chairman of Ilaje Local Government, Mr. Maurice Oripnaiye, commended the FRSC for its activities in the area, noting that the partnership initiative would further promote the safety of motorists and commuters, especially during the ember months.

While welcoming the FRSC team to his

office, M.r Oripnaiye acknowledged the critical role of the Corps in ensuring safer roads, and reaffirmed the council's readiness to collaborate with the organisation beyond the ember period.

The chairman also emphasised the need for more caution and vigilance among drivers, commending the FRSC officials for their sustained public

enlightenment campaigns within the local government. He assured that the council would continue to support the Corps in its efforts to make the roads safer for all.

Mr. Oripnaiye further appealed to FRSC officials to intensify sensitisation on the dangers of overloading and over-speeding, particularly on the popular market days in the area.

He also assured the Corps of the council's continued logistical and moral support to enhance the effectiveness of their operations, urging the FRSC to maintain close collaboration with his administration to make Igbokoda one of the best-managed local government headquarters in the state.

Earlier, the Secretary to the Local Government, M.r Segun Odolo, commended the FRSC for its consistent efforts in promoting road safety in the area. He reiterated the readiness of the council's management to sustain its partnership and support for the Corps in ensuring the safety of all road users.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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#LagosMOT
#SafetywithMOT
#SafetyFirst
#Staysafe

Local Transport News

Snake Island Reaffirms Commitment To Economic Growth

Culled

Snake Island Port has reaffirmed its commitment to port infrastructure development and economic advances.

According to a statement on Friday, the Port stated this during a familiarisation tour of its terminals in Lagos Harbour by the governing board of the Nigerian Ports Authority.

Speaking during the tour, Executive Chairman of Snake Island Integrated Free Zone, Maher Jarmakani said, "This visit indicates the critical partnership between private entities and government agencies in driving regulatory compliance and operational excellence. We appreciate the authority's continued support for Snake Island Port, as we develop world-class infrastructure which strengthens economic growth in the region and further connects Africa with global trade."

Earlier, the Chairman of the NPA governing board, Dayo Adeyeye, remarked, "We commend the management of Nigerdock and SIIFZ for their rigorous efforts in developing the

terminals through strategic partnerships with global industry players and investment in key infrastructure. This development is crucial for economic advancement, and we are delighted to provide the required support."

In 2024, Nigerdock and the NPA completed an agreement for the development of Snake Island Port, a green port comprising three terminals. The port is sponsored by Nigerdock and SIIFZ as a public-private partnership with the Federal Government.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Snake Island

Culled

Six persons have died and 14 others were injured in a fatal crash along the Abakaliki–Enugu Expressway in Ebonyi State.

The accident, which occurred near the Nkalagu overhead bridge in Ishielu Local Government Area, involved a tipper truck and a commercial bus carrying passengers.

Confirming the incident, the Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Ebonyi State, Anthony Ogbodo, said 22 people were involved in the crash, while two escaped unhurt.

He attributed the cause of the accident to dangerous overtaking on the busy route.

Ogbodo said the victims were immediately evacuated to nearby hospitals for treatment.

"Some of the injured victims were taken to Annunciation and Orthopaedic Hospitals in Enugu by our officers and the Red Cross, while others were taken to the General Hospital, Ezzamgbo, in Ebonyi State," he said.

A resident of Nkalagu, who spoke on condition of anonymity, described the

Six Dead, 14 Injured In Ebonyi Road Accident

Enugu–Nkalagu Expressway as one of the most dangerous routes in the area, blaming its design and poor construction for frequent accidents.

"The road is very dangerous because of its one-way nature and the hard concrete central demarcation, which doesn't allow vehicles to manoeuvre or dodge reckless drivers," the resident said.

The source recalled that since 2019, when former Governor David Umahi began the dualisation of the Enugu–Abakaliki Expressway with a flyover at the Nkalagu junction, a one-kilometre stretch from the Enugu–Nkalagu boundary to the junction has remained incomplete and blocked.

"The central demarcation worsens the situation, leaving vehicles with no option during emergencies."

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Freight Forwarders Oppose N35,000 Call-up Charge At Onne Port



Freight

The Africa Association of Professional Freight Forwarders and Logistics of Nigeria (APFFLON) has petitioned the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) over the extra charges imposed on exports by the recently introduced call-up system and export terminal operations at the Onne Port in Rivers State.

In a letter addressed to the Managing Director of NPA, Dr. Abubakar Dantsoho, and signed by APFFLON's President, Frank Ogunojemite, the freight forwarders lamented that the newly introduced call-up arrangement has created operational confusion and imposed additional financial burdens on port users.

The group, in the letter made available to The

Guardian yesterday, stated that exporters are now confronted with additional charges and bureaucratic bottlenecks, which significantly discourage exports and run counter to the national agenda of boosting non-oil exports.

According to the freight forwarders, under the new system, one of the companies managing the process collects N35,000 on each container of both export and import, regardless of container size, while another operator of the electronic call-up system charges N15,000 plus 7.5 per cent Value Added Tax (VAT) for each transaction.

The group said the development is troubling in light of the Federal Government's continuous efforts to reduce the cost of port operations, promote the ease of doing business, and reposition Nigeria as a maritime hub in West Africa.

"Adding more cost layers through a duplicative or commercially driven call-up system undermines these objectives and threatens Nigeria's

regional competitiveness," the group warned.

Furthermore, the freight forwarders lamented that the situation at the export terminal in Onne Port is equally alarming.

The freight forwarders warned that these inefficiencies, new charges, rising costs, and bureaucratic bottlenecks at the export terminal not only impede business operations but also risk driving exporters to neighbouring ports in other West African countries.

"While we understand the importance of orderliness and traffic management around port environments, it is worrisome that this call-up system has been introduced at Onne Port with associated costs, especially when the West Africa Container Terminal (WACT) already has facilities that can effectively manage traffic without incurring additional charges to port users," the group stated.

The freight forwarders urged the NPA to immediately suspend the call-up system at Onne Port pending a

comprehensive stakeholder consultation and cost-benefit analysis, and to address the multiple levies currently being imposed on exporters and importers.

The group also called on the Authority to ensure uniform policy implementation across all port terminals, particularly where operators like WACT already have functional systems in place to manage truck movement and port access.

"Address the bottlenecks and extra charges associated with the export terminal at Onne in order to encourage export activities and align with the Federal Government's trade facilitation policies. Involve stakeholders in policy formulation and review processes, as collaboration remains the key to achieving sustainable port reforms," the group added.

The freight forwarders further urged the NPA management to uphold fairness and transparency in port reforms to protect Nigeria's maritime interests and sustain the sector's contribution to the national economy.

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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!



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20 LITERS

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QUALITY EMULSION

...quality speaks

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20 LITERS

QUALITY EMULSION

...quality speaks

Local Transport News

LASTMA Apprehends Truck Driver For Killing Pedestrian On Osborne Road

Culled

Operatives of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), over the weekend, apprehended the driver of an empty Mercedes Benz truck with registration number KRD 466 XJ, following a ghastly road traffic accident that tragically claimed the life of a pedestrian after the vehicle at a high speed suffered a brake failure.

The incident occurred along Simpson Street, inward Ikoyi, on Osborne Expressway by the Traffic Light Junction, when the truck, reportedly travelling at an excessive velocity, experienced a sudden brake malfunction. In a frantic effort to avert a collision with vehicles ahead, the driver lost control, ramming into a pedestrian walking along the roadside instantly killing the victim.

LASTMA officers in a swift response deployed an immediate emergency response, professionally securing the accident scene to forestall further mishaps and ensure the seamless flow of



LASTMA

vehicular movement Dolphin Estate and Ikoyi accident scene by Police within the axis.

The driver of the ill-fated further interrogation and a mortuary in Ebute truck was swiftly necessary legal Metta, pending formal apprehended by procedures. identification by the

LASTMA personnel and The remains of the victim's family.

subsequently handed deceased pedestrian The General Manager of over to security were respectfully LASTMA, Mr. Olalekan operatives from the evacuated from the Bakare-Oki, expressed

deep sorrow and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, describing the incident as both tragic and entirely preventable.

He emphasized that the unfortunate accident underscores the imperative of routine vehicular inspection and maintenance, particularly for heavy-duty vehicles and articulated trucks operating within Lagos and beyond.

Mr. Bakare-Oki earnestly admonished all motorists especially truck drivers and fleet operators to conduct comprehensive mechanical evaluations of their vehicles, with particular emphasis on the braking system, before embarking on any journey, whether within or outside the State.

He further lamented that mechanical negligence and poor vehicle maintenance culture remain among the primary causes of avoidable road traffic fatalities across the metropolis.

While commending the swift and coordinated intervention of LASTMA operatives and security agencies, the General Manager

Find Full Story In The Link

FG Terminates P'Harcourt-Aba Road Contract Over Poor Performance



Umahi

The Federal Government has terminated the 43-kilometre Port-Harcourt-Aba-bound road contract being handled by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation over poor performance.

The government said the decision stemmed from the failure of the contractor to improve its works despite repeated warnings, which has led to the collapse of the project despite the huge funds expended on it.

The Minister of Works, David Umahi, disclosed this while speaking to newsmen shortly after an inspection of the project on Sunday.

Umahi said the government will scout for a competent indigenous contractor to take over

the job and see to its completion.

"Today is the 19th of October, the Controller reported to me that the Aba-bound bound of Port Harcourt-Aba Road being constructed by CCECC is at the verge of total collapse.

"This job 43 kilometres from Port Harcourt to Aba, is an inherited project and since we came on board, we have been doing everything, putting funds to see how we can finish one carriage way.

"And so, we started working with CCECC on this one carriage way using concrete to do the inner shoulder and the outer shoulder so as to ensure the road lasts while they are using the Asphalt to do the 7.3 carriage way.

"And their method of construction has been a very serious source of concern, where you will do binder for over a stretch of 30 kilometres and you are not putting wearing. We have issued warnings to CCECC more than 20 times, and we have told them the implications of putting binder without

doing a shoulder and without wearing."

He continued, "And I want the press to capture the failure of a road that the federal government has used taxpayers' money to pay for. And CCECC has consistently refused to obey all the instructions. I have been here more than seven times. If you get to Port Harcourt end, which they did about two years or thereabouts, the entire road has almost totally failed."

While noting that several letters written to the contractor to maintain the road have fallen on deaf ears, the Minister said, "So I have to take responsibility and make a decision. Number one, the Port Harcourt-bound is discontinued; no longer going to be done by CCECC.

"I will direct the Ministry of Works to scout for very qualified indigenous contractors to handle the Port Harcourt-bound. They should be the contractor that should start work immediately, and then why should we source funds for them?"

Umahi said, despite the contract termination, the company must ensure to mill out the binder on the project because it has been paid for and threatened to shut all their projects in the country if they fail to do so.

"The site handled by CCECC should issue them a 14-day notice of termination of this job, and I want this directive to go very wide. After 14 days they fail to mill out the binder and replace it properly, they have to initiative it, they have to commit to doing that even if they are going to do it during the dry season they have to maintain the ones they have done and they put in writing that they are going to mill out the binder at their own cost and then be able to put a new binder which we have paid for.

"If they don't do that, I will shut down all their projects in Nigeria. I will do that. So the notice of termination must be issued before Wednesday, and I will publish it so that the efforts that the President is putting in, nobody is going to sabotage it."

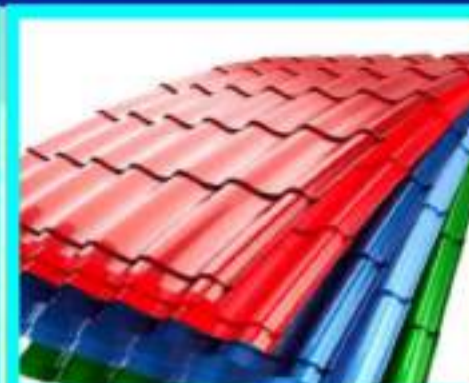
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Saudi Rail Passenger Volume Jumps 335% In Q3

Culled

Saudi Arabia's rail transport sector recorded a 335 percent year-on-year surge in passengers to 39 million in the third quarter of 2025, fueled by the full launch of the Riyadh Metro, official data showed.

The metro system handled 25.2 million passengers during the quarter, the Saudi Press Agency reported, citing figures from the Transport General Authority. The Kingdom's rail network carried 42.7 million passengers in 2024, a 41 percent increase from the previous year.

The growth aligns with the National Transport and Logistics Strategy, which seeks to raise transport's contribution to gross domestic product to 10 percent by 2030 from 6 percent now.

"As for trains inside cities, the authority's statistics showed that more than 36.3 million



passengers used trains within cities. Riyadh Metro topped the list with over 25.2 million passengers, followed by the Automated People Mover at King Abdulaziz

International Airport in Jeddah with more than 10.2 million passengers, and the Automated People Mover at Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University in Riyadh with

over 967,000 passengers," the SPA report stated.

Intercity rail services carried over 2.7 million passengers, led by the Haramain High-speed

Railway with 2.07 million travelers. The North Train served 251,000 passengers, while the East Train handled 378,000, reflecting continued strong demand

for long-distance travel.

"The authority also noted that more than 4.09 million tons of cargo and over 227,000 containers were transported via railways, underscoring the vital role trains play in supporting the Saudi economy and boosting supply chains, particularly in the industrial and mining sectors," according to SPA.

The data was released as Riyadh hosts the Saudi International Railways Exhibition and Conference 2025.

During the event, Transport and Logistics Minister Saleh Al-Jasser, who also chairs the Saudi Railways Co., reviewed investment opportunities and major rail projects underway across the Kingdom.

He said modern railway transport has become a key driver of development and a vital contributor to the national economy.

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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

Finance Minister, Wale Edun Returns To Nigeria After Medical Trip Abroad

Culled:

The Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr. Wale Edun, has returned to Nigeria after a brief medical trip abroad.

A video circulating on social media on Sunday showed the minister at Fraser Suites, Abuja, where he reportedly held a closed-door meeting with a Qatari delegation, alongside the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr. Jumoke Oduwole.

Edun's return comes weeks after reports surfaced that he had taken ill and left Abuja for Lagos before proceeding abroad for medical attention.

Last week, Presidential spokesperson Bayo Onanuga confirmed that the minister had been "indisposed," which led to Central Bank Governor Olayemi Cardoso representing Nigeria at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) annual meetings held in Washington, D.C. While abroad, the minister was also sighted at the 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair in London, where he visited the O'DA Art Gallery booth and addressed guests.

Onanuga later shared a video of the



Edun

appearance on his official X (formerly Twitter) handle, clarifying that the minister was in the United Kingdom for an officially approved period of rest.

"Finance Minister Wale Edun visits an art exhibition in the UK. He is in the country for an officially sanctioned few days of rest from the rigours of managing the Nigerian economy," Onanuga wrote. With his return to the country, Edun is expected to

resume his official duties amid ongoing efforts to stabilise the Nigerian economy.

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Find Full Story In The Link

Nigeria's Rising Poverty Is Deeply Troubling

Culled:

The Obi of Onitsha, His Majesty Igwe Nnaemeka Achebe, has expressed deep concern over the worsening hardship and increasing poverty across Nigeria.

Describing the situation as "critical and deeply troubling," Igwe Achebe, who spoke during the 24th Ofala Festival at his palace, Ime-Obi, Onitsha, also decried the growing political maneuvering ahead of the 2027 general elections.

He noted that emerging political alliances appear to be driven by selfish interests rather than the welfare of ordinary Nigerians.

Highlighting the rising insecurity across the country, particularly in the South-East, the monarch urged authorities to intensify efforts to combat violence and restore peace.

He said the theme of this year's Ofala Festival, "Njikọ na Ntachi" (Unity and Perseverance), reflects the nation's economic hardship and underscores the need for empathy, resilience, and collective resolve.

Quoting recent data, Igwe Achebe observed: "According to the latest World Bank Development Update on Nigeria, the national poverty rate has surged from 40 percent in 2018 to 60 percent in 2023, rising from 79 million to 104 million people now living in poverty."

He lamented the difficulty many Nigerians face in accessing basic necessities such as food, healthcare, transportation, and housing, warning that escalating violence was crippling the agricultural sector.

While acknowledging ongoing government macroeconomic stabilization efforts, the traditional ruler called for more targeted interventions to cushion the effects of hardship on vulnerable citizens.

"We urge the government to urgently provide relief measures and palliatives that will directly reach those most in need, bypassing bureaucratic bottlenecks that often derail such efforts," he said.

Find Full Story In The Link

Tribalism Deprives Nigeria Of Competent Leaders



Aniagwu

Culled:

Saint Leos Catholic Church, Ikeja, Lagos, has lamented the state of leadership in Nigeria, stating that tribalism has denied the country access to quality leadership.

The church lamented that

the country continues to sideline competent citizens in favour of ethnic considerations, thereby weakening its leadership pool.

Vicar General, Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos, Monsignor John Aniagwu, stated this at the

inauguration of St. Leo's Commandery 1010 and Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Laux 887 of the Knights of St. John International in Ikeja.

"Right now, people are not valued for what they can do or who they are. The first question asked is: Which tribe are you from? In the process, we lose the services of people who can really work for this country because we discriminate against them," Aniagwu said.

Aniagwu, who is the outgoing parish priest, stated that this culture has left Nigeria with second-rate leaders, explaining why the nation lags behind its peers.

"The Nigeria of today cannot be compared with the Nigeria of 40 years ago. Certainly, you cannot

compare Nigeria today with many other countries on our own continent. If you list the 10 best countries in Africa in terms of progress, Nigeria will not be among them, maybe not even in the first 20," he said.

Aniagwu urged Nigerians to uphold values of accountability, honesty, integrity, and meritocracy, urging everyone to work together irrespective of tribe or religion.

Chairman of the Media Organising Committee and Knight of Saint John, Vincent Okobi, urges Christians to always be embodiments of peace and love one another.

His words: "We should learn to preach unity, by showing love at all times, by removing tribalism.

Christ is for all. We are all one.

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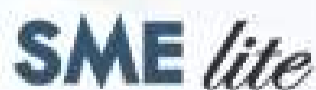
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Shettima

Nigeria Ready To Lead Africa's Economic Revolution - Shettima

Culled: Vice President Kashim Shettima on Friday declared that Nigeria is strategically positioned to anchor a new era of intra-African trade and investment, leveraging its market size, innovation hubs, and economic weight to lead the continent's commercial revolution.

Speaking on behalf of the Vice President, his Deputy Chief of Staff, Ibrahim Hassan Hadejia, delivered the message at the High-Level Conference on Intra-African Trade, convened by Woodhall Capital at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

The forum, held ahead of investment

roadshows in London, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi, brought together global investors, the diplomatic corps, governors, development finance institutions, and heads of key Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

Shettima commended Woodhall Capital for its "audacious mandate" to raise international funding for sovereign and sub-sovereign partners, describing it as "an act of deep patriotic service" that turns theoretical potential into bankable opportunities.

"For too long, the narrative of African trade has been dictated by what we extract and export to the Global North.

Today, we must pivot and activate the vast untapped energy of intra-African trade," he said, noting that while trade within the EU and Asia stands at 65 per cent and 60 per cent respectively, Africa's intra-continental trade remains below 17 per cent.

He stressed that the revolution would not be driven by Abuja alone but by sub-national structures, with governors taking the lead in presenting structurally sound, de-risked, and market-aligned projects capable of attracting global capital.

"As a government, we recognise that to attract sustainable investment, we must build an environment anchored on

predictable policy, institutional transparency and public accountability. Capital follows confidence, and confidence follows governance," Shettima said.

The vice president reaffirmed the administration's commitment to stabilising the currency, rationalising subsidies, simplifying trade integration, and removing bottlenecks through the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC).

He urged governors to seize opportunities in agro-exports, regional power projects, and digital platforms to harmonise commodity standards with neighbouring countries.

Find Full Story In The Link

Nigeria's Rising Debt Profile Soaring Away Foreign Investors

Legal luminary and founder of Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD), Aare Afe Babalola, has expressed deep concern over Nigeria's growing debt burden, warning that the country's economic reputation is deteriorating and discouraging foreign investment.

Babalola made the remarks over the weekend in Ado-Ekiti during the 2025 International Leadership Conference on Leadership, Governance,

Sustainable Change, and Wealth Creation (2.0), jointly hosted by ABUAD, Nigeria Trinity Western University (TWU), Vancouver, Canada, and the African Centre for Leadership, Strategy, and Development (CentreLSD).

Speaking at the conference themed "Shaping Transformational Leaders for a Changing World: Tackling Insecurity, Governance and Development", the elder statesman

described the theme as "most appropriate at this time of our development," noting that Nigeria's financial situation has become alarming.

Babalola lamented that the country's worsening debt profile is undermining investor confidence, adding that the local financial sector is also feeling the strain. He cited complaints from banks that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has been unable to honour

government promissory notes.

He, therefore, called for urgent reforms and responsible fiscal management to restore economic stability, investor confidence, and sustainable development in Nigeria.

"The theme of this conference is most appropriate at this time of our development," Babalola said. "Records show that Nigeria is now a big debtor country, with total public debt at N152.4 trillion, or \$99.7 billion. *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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