

Maritime S'holders Urge Caution Over Proposed Review Of Cargo Survey Contracts

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CONTINUES ON P2

OPEC+ To Raise Oil Production By 137,000 bpd From November

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CONTINUES ON P3

GLOBAL

REPORTING GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION TRENDS

TRANSPORTATION

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Lagos Unveils Commuter Survey To Boost Transport Planning

The Lagos State Government has commenced a survey to capture the experiences of commuters across road, rail, and water transport services. According to a statement by the Lagos State Government on X on Saturday, the Lagos Bureau of Statistics, in partnership with the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport coordinators, Authority and the Lagos supervisors and Ferry Services enumerators who will Company, trained

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South-South Residents Groan Under Broken State Owned Roads P7

Tinubu, PDP Hail Okpebholo's Road Infrast'tural Revolution In Edo P3

FRSC Arrests Over 250 FCT Taxi Drivers For Overloading P5



Stakeholders at the training held at the Debt Management Office in Ikeja

Wike Assures Completion Of Kuje-Airport Road By 2027

Minister of the Federal Capital Territory FCT, Nyesom Wike, on Saturday inspected ongoing road projects in Abuja, including the long-awaited Airport-Kuje expressway, pledging that the road would be completed and inaugurated within President Bola Tinubu's first term in office. Speaking to journalists after the inspection, Wike said the Kuje road, an eight-lane dual carriageway, would drastically cut travel time to the city centre to less than 20 minutes once completed.

CONTINUES ON P5

One Dead In Anambra Road Crash P5

TRACE Clears Dangote Truck In Fatal Ogun Road Accident

Culled

The Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Agency has apologised to the Dangote Group for erroneously attributing the truck involved in the accident that occurred along the Alapoka axis of the Papalanto–Ilaro Road on Friday night to the organisation.

The TRACE spokesperson, Babatunde Akinbiyi, disclosed this in a statement released on Sunday.

PUNCH Online had reported on Saturday that the accident claimed five lives after the truck rammed into a tricycle.

Akinbiyi had noted that the truck suffered brake failure before it rammed into the tricycle.

Clarifying the incident on Sunday, Akinbiyi disclosed that the erroneous identification of the truck was accidental and was not aimed at causing any embarrassment to the Dangote brand.

The statement read, “Ogun State Traffic

Compliance and Enforcement Agency, an agency of government charged with the administration and control of road traffic matters in the state, apologises to the management of Dangote Cement Factory, Ibese, for erroneously ascribing Dangote Cement Factory, Ibese, as the owner of the third-party truck involved in the unfortunate death of five commuters, who were transiting in a tricycle from Papalanto to Ilaro on Friday, October 3, 2025.

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Omonajoyo

NUPRC Reports Surge In Investor Confidence As Rig Count Rises To 69

Culled

The Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) says it has observed a resurgence in activity within the country's upstream oil and gas sector, with the rig count rising from 8 in 2021 to 69 as of October 2, 2025.

The Commission in a statement to mark its 4th year anniversary, signed by Eniola Akinkuotu, the head of media and strategic communication, said that the increase shows a renewed investor confidence in Nigeria. The latest rig count according to the commission, comprises 40 active rigs, eight on standby, five on warm stack, four on cold stack and 12 on the move.

“The number is expected to increase even further in the coming months. This shows a renewed investor confidence in Nigeria. The success aligns with the charge of President Tinubu that Nigeria is ready for business and that the right investment climate prevails now in the Nigeria upstream as daily actioned by the NUPRC,” it stated.

Also among the activities of the commission, since its inception is the implementation of 'Drill or Drop' policy which prescribes that unexplored acreages are to be relinquished.

The policy which is in line with the PIA, 2021, is designed to ensure the optimal use of oil assets and prevent dormant fields from tying up potential reserves. With this policy, the Commission said it has identified 400 dormant oil fields and has also propelled complacent oil companies to take quick action.

As part of its achievements in past four years, the Commission said, “To give meaning to the intent of the PIA, 2021, the Commission in consultation with stakeholders has developed 24 forward-thinking Regulations. So far 19 have been gazetted while five await gazetting. These forward-thinking Regulations serve as tools for transparency and creation of enabling investment climate and benchmark best practices.

“The Commission approved divestments running into billions of dollars in 2024.

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Maritime S’holders Urge Caution Over Proposed Review Of Cargo Survey Contracts

Culled

Stakeholders in the maritime industry have urged the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) to exercise caution in its reported plan to review Cargo Survey (CS) contracts awarded in 2019 for a 10-year duration.

The contracts, which have been in operation for over five years, are scheduled to expire in 2029.

In a letter dated September 2025, NPA Managing Director, Abubakar Dantsoho, said the planned review was aimed at enhancing operational needs and efficiency.

Representatives of the industry, under the aegis of the Maritime Integrity Movement, appealed for broader consultation with affected companies before any major changes are implemented.

Convener of the group, Lucky Abegunde, said the NPA should ensure that all actions related to the contracts align with due process and the provisions of the Public Procurement Act, 2007.



Maritime

He noted that maintaining transparency and fairness in procurement procedures would help strengthen investor confidence and prevent disruptions in port operations. The group further advised that any review of the contracts should be handled in a way that protects government interests while sustaining efficiency within the maritime sector.

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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)**.

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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

Tinubu, PDP Hail Okpebholo’s Road Infrastructural Revolution In Edo

Culled

President Bola Tinubu has lauded the infrastructural strides of Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, particularly the ongoing construction of the state's first-ever flyover bridge, describing it as a landmark intervention in easing urban traffic and modernizing Edo's transport system.

The President extolled the governor's foresight in embarking on the one-kilometre flyover project at Ikpoba Hill in Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area, noting that its completion would transform vehicular movement and strengthen the urban fabric of Benin City.

Mr Tinubu praised Okpebholo's early performance in office, affirming that the governor had set a new standard of governance in Edo.

The president represented by the Minister of Works, Engr. Dave Umahi, emphasized that the governor's bold approach to road and bridge construction in the State underscores

the All Progressives Congress',APC, progressive agenda.

“This is a 24-span structure, each span measuring 20 meters, amounting to a one-kilometre bridge. The quality and pace of work are impressive. Edo is witnessing a first, and I believe more such projects should follow in Benin City to address the heavy traffic,” Mr Umahi conveyed on behalf of the President.

The minister contrasted the efficiency of state-driven projects with some federal contracts, lamenting that contractors

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Senator Umahi representing Tinubu

OPEC+ To Raise Oil Production By 137,000 bpd From November

Culled

Saudi Arabia, Russia and six other members of Opec+ on Sunday decided to raise their production quotas by 137,000 barrels per day in November, as they continue to push for greater market share.

“In view of a steady global economic outlook and current healthy market fundamentals, as reflected in the low oil inventories, the eight participating countries decided to implement a production adjustment of 137 thousand barrels per day” from October's levels, the group said in a statement after an online meeting.

The increase was less than many analysts expected, with the cartel seeking to avoid pressuring prices amid weak demand.

“OPEC+8 stepped carefully after witnessing how nervous the market had become” in light of market rumours that production could be hiked by 500,000 barrels a day, said Jorge Leon, analyst at Rystad Energy.

“The group is walking a tightrope between maintaining stability and clawing back market share in a surplus environment,” he added.

In the past few months, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Oman and Algeria have already raised their quotas by more than 2.5 million barrels a day.

Opec+'s priority at the start of the year was to maintain prices high by limiting supply, but it changed strategy starting in April and is now seeking to gain market share from other producers such as the United States, Brazil, Canada, Guyana and Argentina.

The production increases come as the International Energy Agency forecasts that oil demand will only increase by 700,000 barrels a day between 2025 and 2026.

OPEC, generally more optimistic in its reports, expects global oil demand to increase by 1.3 million barrels a day in 2025 and by another 1.4 million in 2026.

A barrel of Brent, the global benchmark

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Army Destroys Eight Illegal Refineries, Confiscates Stolen In N’Delta

Culled

The Nigerian Army, 6 Division said its troops have destroyed eight illegal refineries, arrested some suspects involved in the illicit activity and recovered about 18, 000 litres of stolen crude oil in the Niger Delta.

The Army also said several equipment used by the criminals including receivers, ovens, drums and pipes were deactivated.

The Acting Deputy Director, 6 Division Army Public Relations, Lt. Col. Danjuma Jonah, disclosed this in a statement issued in Port Harcourt on Sunday evening and sent to newsmen.

According to Danjuma, the feat was achieved during a two-week raid of some black spots across three states of the region with the application of both 'kinetic and non-kinetic lines of operations'.

The statement reads, “Determined to end the cycle of oil theft, pipeline vandalism, and associated crimes in the Niger Delta Region, troops of 6 Division, Nigerian Army, have scaled up both kinetic and non-kinetic lines of



The Nigerian Army

operations across the region.

“These efforts led to the successful deactivation of eight artisanal refineries, the arrest of several suspected oil thieves, and the confiscation of over 18,000 litres of stolen crude oil.

“The operations, which were conducted with other security agencies between 21st September and 5th October 2025, have reinforced the Division's quest to emplace a safer and more conducive

atmosphere for legitimate socio-economic activities to thrive in the Niger Delta Region.

“The operations conducted in Rivers State, around Joinkrama 4 in Ahoada West Local Government Area, resulted in a newly constructed illegal refining site being dismantled by the troops. Other items destroyed included receivers, ovens, drums, pipes, as well as over 3,500 litres of stolen crude

recovered. Additionally, acting on credible intelligence, troops intercepted a red Mercedes-Benz vacuum truck.

'The truck, with registration number AHD 925 XA, was loaded with over 3,200 litres of stolen crude and was intercepted along Aba Road in Oyigbo LGA. The driver abandoned the vehicle and fled on sighting troops.

“Similarly, clearance operations conducted along the fringes of Imo River resulted in the deactivation of an illegal refining site, with three drum pots, two drum receivers, and over 2,000 litres of stolen crude stockpiled in sacks recovered. Other seizures were made at Odogwa in Etche LGA (Rivers State), Obeama Uzomiri Waterside in Oyigbo LGA, and Obiafor Oil Field in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA.”

In Akwa Ibom State, the Army said, its troops intercepted two Toyota Camry vehicles with registration numbers ANA 495 CK and AKD 233 EQ conveying 120 nylon bags filled with over 3,600 litres of illegally refined Automotive Gas Oil along Ikot Okoro, Abak LGA.

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Local Transport News

Wike Assures Completion Of Kuje-Airport Road By 2027

Culled
Minister of the Federal Capital Territory FCT, Nyesom Wike, on Saturday inspected ongoing road projects in Abuja, including the long-awaited Airport–Kuje expressway, pledging that the road would be completed and inaugurated within President Bola Tinubu's first term in office. Speaking to journalists after the inspection, Wike said the Kuje road, an eight-lane dual carriageway, would drastically cut travel time to the city centre to less than 20 minutes once completed. He noted that the project, being handled by Arab Contractors, had made significant progress despite its rocky terrain. “We have visited this site not less than seven or eight times, and the work done so far is commendable. With our support and the contractors' commitment, we believe that before the third year of Mr President's tenure, this road will be ready for commissioning,” Wike stated. The minister linked the project to the Renewed Hope Agenda of the current administration, stressing that it would

transform Kuje into a viable residential hub and reduce pressure on housing in central Abuja. On security concerns in the FCT, Wike dismissed claims that the city was unsafe, arguing that incidents should not overshadow the broader progress made. He pointed to initiatives such as the Light Up Abuja project, which he said was designed not just to beautify the capital but also to enhance safety. “Abuja remains one of the safest cities in the country.

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Airport road

Culled

One person has died and four others have been injured in a tragic road traffic crash that occurred along the Ihiala-Owerri Road, near Basco Hotel, on Saturday.

It was gathered that the incident, which occurred at about 9:15 am, involved six vehicles, with a total of eight persons (all males) involved in the collision.

The vehicles involved in the crash included a Mack trailer, a Lexus 350 SUV with registration number YAB-131-DA, an Inveco truck with registration number ABC-693-XD, a Mitsubishi L300 truck with registration number JJJ-488-SQ, a Toyota Camry with registration number MKA-331-AA, and an Inveco tipper with registration number HAL-604-ZX

An eyewitness at the scene said, “The driver of the trailer, who was in top speed, experienced brake failure, lost control, and collided with the other five vehicles. “One of the victims, the driver of the Lexus, was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital and has been deposited in the hospital's morgue.”

The Sector Public Education Officer,

One Dead In Anambra Road Crash

Federal Road Safety Corps, Margaret Onabe, confirmed the incident in a statement on Saturday, adding that the FRSC rescue team from RS5.34 Ihiala responded promptly, evacuating the injured victims to the hospital. Onabe said the Sector Commander in the state, Corps Commander Bridget Asekhauno, extended her sympathies to the family of the deceased victim and wished a quick recovery to the injured. “The sector commander emphasised the importance of defensive driving techniques and adherence to traffic regulations. “We urge all drivers to exercise caution, drive within the designated speed limit, and maintain maximum concentration while driving.

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FRSC Arrests Over 250 FCT Taxi Drivers For Overloading



Overloading

More than 250 commercial vehicle drivers have been apprehended in the Federal Capital Territory for violating a directive that mandates only one passenger in the front seat of taxis, the Federal Road Safety Corps disclosed. The FCT Sector Commander, Corps Commander Felix Theman, disclosed this in a statement signed by the Command's Public Education Officer Helen Ntaji, on Saturday in Abuja. The statement noted that the arrests came within the first two days of a new enforcement campaign launched by the FCT Command of the FRSC on October 2, aimed at curbing overloading in commercial transport and

restoring compliance with vehicle safety standards. According to the statement, Theman said the operation was a decisive step toward restoring passenger dignity and safety on the roads. “One of my key priorities upon assumption of office was the restoration of passenger dignity and safety through strict adherence to road safety laws. “Enforcement is the most civil and effective means to ensure that safety is not compromised for convenience. “In the first two days of the operation, over 250 commercial vehicles and drivers were apprehended for violating the directive mandating only one passenger in the front seat of taxis – in accordance with vehicle design specifications,” Theman stated. The FRSC noted that overloading — especially placing two passengers in the front seat — makes it impossible for seatbelts to be used properly and compromises overall vehicle safety. Theman warned that such practices not only endanger lives but also put

additional stress on tyres and suspension systems and reduce driver control, particularly in emergencies. “The overloading of passengers and goods not only endangers lives by making seatbelt use impossible. “But also places undue stress on vehicle tyres and suspension systems. Additionally, it impairs the driver's ability to control the vehicle effectively, especially in emergency situations,” he explained. To prepare for the crackdown, the Command held months of consultations with transport unions and stakeholders across the FCT. According to the FRSC, the unions have expressed full support for the operation and pledged to promote safer driving practices among their members. The enforcement is being carried out in conjunction with mobile magistrate courts, which allow for the on-the-spot prosecution of offenders. Theman also used the opportunity to warn commercial drivers operating unsafe vehicles to either upgrade their

vehicles or risk having them impounded. “Passengers and commuters must support the FRSC's efforts to uphold their rights to safe and dignified transportation. “All commercial drivers operating vehicles that fall below minimum safety standards must upgrade their vehicles or risk immediate impoundment,” he said. The FRSC said full activation of mobile court locations across the FCT will begin on Monday, October 6, to intensify the enforcement and bring greater order to the city's transport system. PUNCH Online reports FRSC had said no fewer than 620,000 traffic offenders across the country between January 2024 and July 2025. Spokesperson for the corps, Olusegun Ogungbemide, who confirmed the figure, said it included 350,536 violations recorded between January and June 2024, and nearly 300,000 fresh infractions documented from January to July 2025.

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Lagos Unveils Commuters Survey To Boost Transport Planning

Culled

The Lagos State Government has commenced a survey to capture the experiences of commuters across road, rail, and water transport services.

According to a statement by the Lagos State Government on X on Saturday, the Lagos Bureau of Statistics, in partnership with the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority and the Lagos Ferry Services Company, trained coordinators, supervisors and enumerators who will engage residents and collect feedback on the performance of the Bus Rapid Transit system, the Red and Blue Rail lines, and ferry services.

The one-day training held at the Debt Management Office in Ikeja is part of the People's Perception Survey on Lagos State Public Transportation Systems.

The statement noted that initiative is designed to provide government with data reflecting how commuters experience transport services, beyond



Stakeholders

operational efficiency, Intelligence are learning, adapting, to how they affect Department, Mr. Alao and evolving to meet the everyday life. Akinkunmi, said the real needs of our Permanent Secretary, survey underscores the citizens. Field officers emphasises traffic management, Ministry of Economic state's commitment to are the first and most transportation, and inclusive governance. Planning and Budget, inclusive and critical link in the data Lagos, Africa's largest city with over 20 million residents, has long grappled with gridlock, overstretched public transport, and inadequate infrastructure.

Mrs. Olayinka Ojo, transparent value chain. Their accuracy and professionalism directly influence how effectively the government can plan, allocate resources, and evaluate programmes," she said.

She added that empathy and trust were key to the data collection process, urging enumerators to carry out their duties with integrity.

LAMATA representative, Mr. Ayodeji Adegboye, briefed participants on Lagos transport operations, stressing the need for patience and professionalism while dealing with commuters.

He highlighted peak hours, major BRT corridors such as Ikorodu-TBS, and other standard routes including Abule Egba and Oshodi, while also drawing attention to seven-seater FLM buses.

The exercise aligns with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's THEMES Plus agenda, which emphasises traffic management, transportation, and inclusive governance.

Lagos, Africa's largest city with over 20 million residents, has long grappled with gridlock, overstretched public transport, and inadequate infrastructure.

Director, Economic "This initiative shows we professionalism directly

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South-South Residents Groan Under Broken State-Owned Roads



South-South

Our reporters take an inventory of state-owned roads requiring serious and urgent attention in the South-South region in the face of rising revenue from the federal purse.

Residents of the various states in the South-South have decried the poor conditions of their state-owned roads, especially access routes located within their capital cities.

Investigations revealed that most of the state-owned roads have remained impassible, impacting negatively on commercial activities, businesses and socio-cultural interactions.

While people are always quick to point accusing fingers at the federal government over the conditions of the federal roads in their domains,

the decrepit nature of most state roads in the South-South have caused lamentations among the road users.

Residents insisted that with improved revenue accruing to their states under the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration, watching critical and internal roads degenerate to their present conditions, especially in the state capital, is inexcusable.

For instance, the South-South states of Rivers, Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom, Delta, Edo and Cross Rivers received N568.9bn in the first quarter of 2025 from the Federation Account Allocation Committee, according to a report by BudgIT Nigeria. It represented the highest regional share for a period and was said to be a 27.74 per cent increase when juxtaposed with the N445.3bn the zone received in the first quarter of 2024.

In the first quarter of 2025 Rivers State got N374.56bn; Delta,

N368.75bn; Akwa Ibom, 309.15bn; Bayelsa, 259.94bn; Edo, N138.34bn and Cross Rivers N106.34bn from the FAAC. The states also generated humongous amount of money in Value Added Tax (VAT) in the first quarter with Rivers posting N278.23bn; Bayelsa, N27.26bb; Delta, N20.04bn and Edo N20.73bn.

In 2024, out of the N15.26tn distributed by FAAC, the South-South states received N1.57trn according to the Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI). Delta state topped the list with N450.4bn; Rivers, N349.9bn; Akwa Ibom, N309.15bn; Bayelsa, N259.94bn and Edo, N138.34bn.

With such significant improvement in revenues accruing to the South-South states, residents insisted that their governments should embark on massive repairs, rehabilitation and reconstruction of deplorable internal roads and other highways linking their communities.

In Rivers State, for instance, many

internal roads within the Port Harcourt capital city are in deplorable conditions. The Chinda-Douglas Road linking other communities in Obio-Akpor has been impassible for many years. Commercial drivers are plying the routes sparingly. The drivers of commercial tricycles, who ply the route regularly to eke out a living, complained that they spent all their money repairing their vehicles because of the chains of failed portions of the road.

Businesses along the road are suffering low patronage, unable to break even. Matthias, who sells electrical fittings, said commercial activities along the popular road dropped significantly as people avoided the road.

"Rather than patronise us, they prefer to go to other areas with good roads. We are suffering and we are appealing to the state government to come to our aid.

"We hear that states are having a lot of money from the federal government.

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US Shutdown: Visa, Passport Services To Continue In Nigeria - Embassy

Culled:
The United States Embassy in Nigeria has assured that visa and passport services will continue, despite the partial shutdown of the US government.

In a notice issued via its official X handle on Wednesday, the embassy stated, “Due to the lapse in appropriations, this X account will not be updated regularly until full operations resume, with the exception of urgent safety and security information.

“At this time, scheduled passport and visa transit services in the United States and at U.S. Embassies and Consulates overseas will continue during the lapse in appropriations as the situation permits.”

It explained that its social media accounts would not be updated regularly until government funding is restored, except for “urgent safety and security information.”

The announcement comes as many Nigerians expressed concern that the shutdown in Washington could affect visa processing, student travel plans and other consular services.

The shutdown, which began after US lawmakers and President Donald Trump failed to reach a budget deal, has forced several federal



US Flag

departments and agencies to halt operations.

It stems from a dispute over Democratic demands for health care funding, which Republicans have resisted. Trump, while defending the shutdown, said it could help him eliminate programmes linked to Democrats' priorities.

The closure will not affect essential services such as the military, postal service, and social welfare schemes like Social Security and food

stamps.

However, as many as 750,000 federal workers could be sent home daily without pay until a funding deal is reached, according to the Congressional Budget Office. This marks the first government shutdown since the record 35-day closure almost seven years ago, during Trump's first term. Congress has often faced last-minute battles over spending bills, but most have been resolved before

triggering shutdowns.

A government shutdown in the US occurs when Congress and the President fail to agree on a spending plan, forcing many federal departments and agencies to halt operations until a deal is reached.

Workers in affected agencies are sent home without pay, while only essential services such as the military, postal service and welfare programmes like Social Security continue.

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Tinubu Unbothered By Nigerians - Tinubu

Culled:
Former Nigerian vice-president Atiku Abubakar on Wednesday accused President Bola Tinubu's administration of neglecting the welfare and security of citizens as the country marked its 65th Independence anniversary.

In a statement posted on X, the 2023 presidential candidate alleged that despite Nigeria's abundant human and natural resources, millions of people were reduced to refugees and beggars in their fatherland under the current leadership.

“Hunger is killing Nigerians, bandits are massacring communities, yet President Tinubu and his cabinet stand by, unmoved and uncaring,” Atiku wrote.

“Every responsible government holds the welfare and security of its citizens as supreme. But what we have today is an administration that has abandoned its people.”

He stressed that Nigerians must rely on the ballot box as a corrective tool: “Oppressed and battered as our people may feel today, they will have the chance to sweep away this inept government at the next polls. That is the power no cabal can take away from the people.”

Reflecting on the nation's progress since independence in 1960, Atiku lamented decades of poor leadership. “At 65, Nigeria remains a giant moving painfully slow on feet of clay, a direct result of decades of poor leadership and wasteful governance,” he said.

Nonetheless, he added, with the right leadership the country could still “rise from the ashes of failed governance to reclaim its rightful place among the comity of nations.”

Atiku resigned from the opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) in July 2025 citing irreconcilable differences.

He aligned with a coalition of parties led by the African Democratic Congress (ADC).

Meanwhile, Tinubu since coming to power in May 2023, has introduced sweeping economic reforms including

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NITDA Boss Advocates Tech Transition In Africa



Abdullahi

Culled:
The Director General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, has called on African nations to transition from being consumers of technology to becoming creators and

exporters of digital solutions.

Represented by Dr. Aristotle Onumo, Director of Stakeholders Management and Partnerships at NITDA, Inuwa stated this in his keynote address at the African Creators Conference held in Abuja,

Nigeria's capital.

Speaking on the theme, “The Future of Africa in the Global Digital Economy,” the NITDA boss reiterated his vision for Africa's digital transformation, emphasising the continent's vast potential driven by its youthful population, creativity, and digital fluency.

“Our innovators and creators should take their rightful place as global leaders and solution providers,” he stated.

He stressed that with over 1.4 billion people, more than 60 per cent of whom are under the age of 25, Africa stands at a critical juncture in the global digital landscape, adding that the continent's young population is uniquely positioned to shape the future of technology and

innovation.

“Our young people, with their creativity, energy, and fluency in digital tools, are poised to shape Africa's future in technology and innovation,” he noted.

Highlighting Nigeria's strides in digital development, Inuwa cited key statistics and initiatives: “Over 126 million internet users, 205 million mobile subscriptions, and transformative programmes such as the 3 Million Technical Talent initiative, the Nigeria Startup Act, and NITDA's Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan 2.0.

“These efforts are aimed at repositioning Nigeria as a producer and exporter of digital solutions.”

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Rev Hayab

Northern CAN Tasks Citizens, Leaders On Commitment To Nigeria

Culled:
The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in the 19 Northern States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) has urged Nigerians to remain steadfast in supporting efforts to rebuild the nation, expressing optimism that the country will overcome its present challenges. In a statement issued on Wednesday in Kaduna to mark Nigeria's 65th Independence anniversary, Northern CAN Chairman, Reverend Joseph John Hayab, described Nigeria as a blessed nation with abundant human and natural resources capable of driving it to greatness.

He said the anniversary should be seen as a moment of sober reflection and renewed commitment, stressing that Nigerians must not give up on their country. "Nigeria is our country, and we must continue to believe in it. We must not surrender our hope to despair. Our responsibility as citizens is to contribute positively to nation-building, while our leaders must double their efforts to provide the right leadership that will inspire confidence and restore the dignity of being Nigerian," Hayab stated. He urged political, religious, and community leaders to use the

occasion to rededicate themselves to addressing insecurity, poverty, and unemployment. He added that citizens can only feel a sense of belonging when justice, equity, and fairness are guaranteed. According to him, Nigeria's diversity should be harnessed as a source of strength rather than division, with leaders and citizens rising above selfish interests to work for the common good. "Nigeria has what it takes to be a beacon of hope in Africa and beyond. What is needed is sincerity, vision, and action that put the welfare of the people first," he said.

Northern CAN also reaffirmed its commitment to continue engaging constructively with stakeholders across divides to ensure peace, unity, and progress remain the foundation of the Nigerian project. In a statement issued on Wednesday in Kaduna to mark Nigeria's 65th Independence anniversary, Northern CAN Chairman, Reverend Joseph John Hayab, described Nigeria as a blessed nation with abundant human and natural resources capable of driving it to greatness. He said the anniversary should be seen as a moment of sober reflection and renewed commitment, stressing

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Nigeria Spends Only \$8 Per Votes, Among Lowest In W’Africa

The Peering Advocacy and Advancement Centre in Africa (PAACA) has revealed that Nigeria spends only about \$8 per voter on its elections, making the country's polls among the least expensive in West Africa. The organisation said the clarification became necessary due to widespread misconceptions that elections in Nigeria are among the costliest in the world.

The Executive Director of PAACA stated this at a one-day town hall meeting organised by PAACA in Sokoto to sensitise key actors on electoral reforms introduced by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) ahead of the 2027 general elections. The meeting, organised with support from the MacArthur Foundation, brought together key representatives of security agencies, the media, civil

society organisations, and other stakeholders. Citing data from the ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions, Nwagwu said the figures show that Nigeria's elections are far cheaper than those of many neighbouring countries, adding that the perception of excessive spending is often driven by misinformation and lack of data. "Data published by the ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions,

which studied the cost of elections in the ECOWAS region, indicates that Nigeria's elections are among the least expensive, with the country spending about \$8 per voter," he said. According to him, there is a need for discussion on elections to be evidence-based, explaining that elections are guided by laws while urging stakeholders to study these laws to engage knowledgeably in electoral issues, rather than rely on

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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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