

## Aviation Unions Threaten Fresh Strike At NiMet Over Unfulfilled Agreement

Six months after staff of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency, NiMet, suspended their strike after Federal Government

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## NRC Raises The alarm Over Lagos-Ibadan Rail Signal Equipment Vandalism

The Nigerian Railway Corporation has raised concerns over the vandalism of critical signalling equipment along the

Lagos-Ibadan statement signed by Standard Gauge the Chief Public Relations Officer of the NRC, Callistus Unyimadu, on Wednesday.

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# GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION

REPORTING GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION TRENDS

thelandmarkinfo.com.ng | Global Transportation E-Reports | Global\_GTE Thurs, October 9th 2025 E-NEWSPAPER

## Lagos Govt Issues Traffic Advisory Ahead Of Adeniyi Adele-CMS Road Repairs

The Lagos State Government has released a traffic advisory to inform residents and motorists of planned repair works on the stretch between

the Adeniji Adele Interchange Junction and CMS.

The Commissioner for

Transportation, Oluwaseun Osiyemi, disclosed this in a statement issued on

Wednesday. He noted that the repair works are scheduled to begin on Sunday,

October 12, and will run for six weeks, ending on Sunday, November 23.

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**Lagos Taskforce Intercepts Four Suspected Robbers At Obalende**  
**LASTMA Nabs Fake Operative After Extorting Motorist At Itire Junction**  
**FERMA Unveils Initiative To Curb Road Crashes In Kogi**

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Mr Oluwaseun Osiyemi, Honorable Commissioner of Transportation

## Gov Sanwo-Olu Flags Off 4.2km Onosa Road Project In Ibeju-Lekki

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has flagged off the construction of a 4.2-kilometre Onosa/Onosa Y Junction-Fokunmade/O

nosa Road in Ibeju-Lekki Local Council Development Area (LCDA). Represented by the Special Adviser to the

Governor on Rural Development, Dr. Nurudeen Yekinni Agbaje, Sanwo-Olu said the road would run from Onosa

Road through Onosa Y Junction to Fokunmade and connect to Onosa Road 4 leading to the Expressway. He said the project, to be

CONTINUES ON P7

## FERMA Launches Operation Safeguard The Road In Oyo

P7

## Local Transport News

# Stop Rejecting Accident Victims, FRSC Urges Hospitals

### Culled

The Federal Road Safety Corps has appealed to hospitals to prioritise the treatment of road crash victims and not reject them when brought in for emergency care.

The Sector Commander of the FRSC in Plateau State, Olajide Mogaji, on Wednesday appealed during the agency's Customer Service Week event held at its headquarters in Jos, the state capital.

According to Mogaji, the FRSC is aware of complaints that some hospitals refuse to treat crash victims — an act that contravenes the law.

"We are aware of complaints of some hospitals not accepting to treat crash victims when they are brought in. This is wrong. The government's position is that they should be treated before anything else.

But here in Plateau State, we don't have such cases because many hospitals have been helping to treat crash victims whenever they are brought in," Mogaji

said.

He emphasised that there are penalties for any hospital found violating this directive and urged medical institutions to always give priority to emergency cases involving crash victims.

"We want to use this opportunity to plead with hospitals to always accord priority to such emergency situations involving crash victims and not reject them, in order to save their lives," he said.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Mogaji

# IMION Commended For Training Future Maritime Professionals

### Culled

The Secretary General of the International Maritime Organisation, Arsenio Domínguez and Nigeria's Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, have commended the International Maritime Institute of Nigeria (IMION) on its achievement around maritime training within its first year of operation.

Domínguez, who was at IMION on Friday, October 3, 2025, as part of his three-day official visit to Nigeria, commended the IMION Director General, Rear Admiral Thaddeus Udofia (rtd), for providing leadership while describing the facilities of the Institute as commendable.

The IMO scribe described the institute's facility as being impressive and thanked the DG for the warm reception accorded them during the visit.

After being briefed on the courses of IMION and the growing number of participants, Dominguez congratulated the institute for providing a platform for maritime training, education and research.

On his part, Udofia, who thanked the IMO scribe for the visit, added that IMION will continue serving as a base for research with a view to helping in expanding Nigeria's participation in the blue economy. Giving a brief on IMION, Udofia said it was established on June 1, 2024, by the Nigerian Navy to serve as a think-tank and research institute dedicated to advancing maritime strategy, policy advocacy, education, and training.

He added that the institute has trained course participants cutting across the private and public sectors with a focus on the Gulf of Guinea region.

Udofia also said IMION is addressing key challenges in maritime security, governance, and the blue economy through targeted programs, workshops, and executive courses.

According to the DG, since its inception, IMION has offered over six courses and programs, including the Institute's Research Programme, which invites scholars to contribute to maritime knowledge and professional development.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# NRC Raises The Alarm Over Lagos-Ibadan Rail Signal Equipment Vandalism

### Culled

The Nigerian Railway Corporation has raised concerns over the vandalism of critical signalling equipment along the Lagos-Ibadan Standard Gauge corridor, specifically between Agege and Agbado stations.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Chief Public Relations Officer of the NRC, Callistus Unyimadu, on Wednesday.

A few weeks ago, the Nigeria Safety Investigation Bureau, through its report on the recent accident on the Abuja-Kaduna corridor, raised alarm over the deteriorated state of the NRC infrastructure in that area.

Over the years, the corporation has complained of various stages of vandalism, ranging from rail tracks to signal equipment, among others by scavengers.

In its statement, the corporation revealed that unidentified individuals tampered with essential signalling infrastructure.

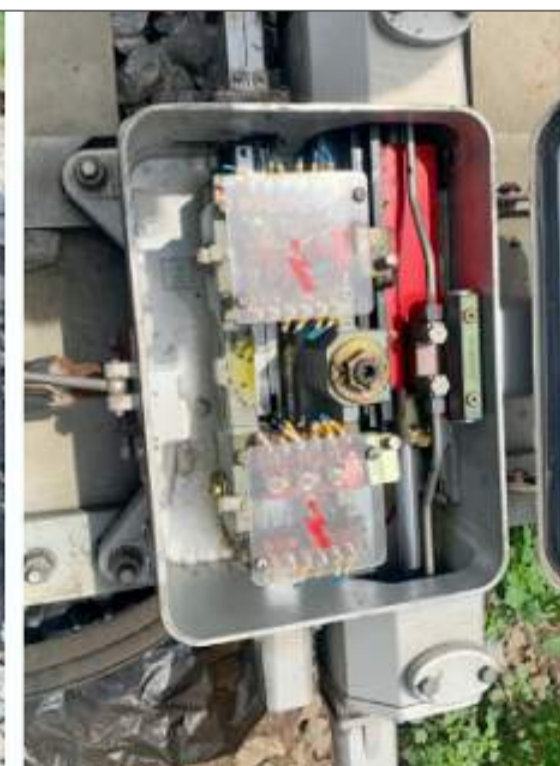
The damage includes the removal of



NRC

signal machine cap protectors and the severing of connection cables on Switch Point Machine No. 2. The incident was uncovered during a routine inspection.

Unyimadu described the act as a deliberate sabotage of national infrastructure, highlighting its potential to compromise passenger and staff safety.



Despite the damage, the Corporation confirmed that train operations on the Lagos-Ibadan route remain unaffected. Security agencies have been alerted to investigate and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The statement partly reads, "The Corporation strongly condemns these acts of sabotage against national infrastructure, stressing that such



actions not only disrupt smooth train operations but also pose serious safety risks to both passengers and railway staff. However, NRC assures the general public that train movement on the Lagos-Ibadan corridor was not obstructed and operations have continued without interruption.

"Security agencies have been notified to investigate and apprehend those

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# FUTD SPECIAL BULLETIN

A PUBLICATION OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TRANSPORTATION, DAURA | VOL.2 NO.17

## 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, 19<sup>th</sup> 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

# Ports Police Task Users, Operators On Safety Compliance At Terminals

### Culled

The Ports Authority Police Western Command has called on port users and operators to adhere strictly to terminal safety regulations to safeguard lives, cargo, infrastructure and investments.

In a statement titled, the Command's Police Public Relations Officer, Isaac Hundeyin, underscored the importance of public awareness and cooperation in maintaining safe and efficient operations across terminals that handle millions of tonnes of cargo yearly.

Hundeyin described port terminals as nerve centres for maritime logistics where cargo is loaded, unloaded, stored and processed daily, involving heavy machinery, vehicles and high-value goods as well as the movement of people.

He stressed that safety at the terminals goes beyond technical and administrative responsibility, but serves as a pillar for national interest, public concern, economic stability and global trade reputation.

Hundeyin warned that unsafe handling of cargo, reckless driving, or unauthorised access to restricted areas at the terminals can lead to serious injuries or fatalities, adding that effective safety measures prevent accidents, loss of lives, protect cargo investments, ensure business continuity and preserve investor confidence in Nigeria's port system.

He highlighted several critical areas of terminal safety monitored by the Port Police, including access control, traffic

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



CSP Hundeyin

# Lagos Taskforce Intercepts Four Suspected Robbers At Obalende

### Culled

Operatives of the Lagos State Taskforce has arrested two robbery suspects who were part of a four-man gang that snatched a vehicle at Ago Iwoye, Ogun State, and later abandoned it along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway after it developed a mechanical fault.

A press release signed by Gbadeyan Abdulraheem, Director, Public Affairs for the agency, revealed that the suspects, after abandoning the vehicle, reportedly boarded commercial motorcycles heading towards Lagos Island. Upon arrival at Obalende, they were intercepted by Taskforce officers on routine patrol at Obalende who found their movements suspicious.

Upon interrogation, the suspects confessed to having robbed some residents at Ago Iwoye, Ogun State, before fleeing with the stolen vehicle.

Further investigation led the Taskforce Chairman and his team to their hideouts in New Supreme hotel and Yemite Hotel at Odiolowo in Mushin area of the State

where other suspected criminal elements were arrested.

The Hotels has since been sealed by men of Lagos State Environmental Taskforce in line with the State government Property laws.

All the suspects has been charged to court where they pleaded not guilty and has been remanded in Kirikiri Maximum Correctional Centre till 28th October, 2025 for further hearings.

Confirming the arrest, the Chairman of the Lagos State Taskforce, CSP Adetayo Akerele, stated that the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Command, CP Jimoh Moshood, has been fully briefed on the development and has given assurance of the Command's unwavering commitment to the safety and security of lives and property across the state.

According to CP Moshood, the Command will continue to work closely with sister security agencies to ensure that criminal elements are tracked down, arrested, and brought to justice, warning

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# Aviation Unions Threaten Fresh Strike At NiMet Over Unfulfilled Agreement

### Culled

Six months after staff of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency, NiMet, suspended their strike after Federal Government intervened, aviation unions have warned the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Mr Festus Keyamo, that failure to honour their agreement could cause another industrial action.

Deputy General Secretary of the National Union of Air Transport Employees, NUATE, Odinaka Igbokwe, and Secretary General of Association of Nigeria Aviation Professionals, ANAP, Abdul Rasaq Saidu, in a letter addressed to Keyamo on October 2, 2025, said outstanding balance of nine months of 2019 minimum wage arrears and payment of the omitted 30 staff of the 2019 minimum wage, among others, had not been resolved.

However, they warned that if these issues lingered until next week Wednesday, the strike action would be resumed.

The statement reads: "You would recall



Keyamo

that workers in NiMet led by our unions embarked on a strike action on April 22, 2025, to press home the demands for improved conditions which included salary relativity, minimum wage implementation, nine months arrears of Consequential adjustment, 25-35 per cent wage award and peculiar allowance, subsistence benefit, annual staff training, contract staffing and engagement of special advisers/special

assistants in NiMet, NiMet Salary Structure (CONNIMet), review of conditions of service, among others.

"But the minister graciously intervened and apprehended the matter through a meeting on April 24, 2025, which led to the signing of a resolution by parties involved, and the subsequent suspension of the strike action.

Unfortunately, we have received a letter from our in-house unions dated

September 15, 2025, calling for our urgent intervention on NiMet's lingering issues which include outstanding balance of nine months of 2019 minimum wage arrears and payment of the omitted 30 staff of the 2019 minimum wage, adoption of salary relativity, non-compliance with the official circular from the Permanent Secretary on the appointment and contract engagement of special assistants, personal assistants and other contract staff within the agency.

"It is disheartening and quite worrisome that these issues have lingered for too long despite several interventions and assurances from the government. We want to categorically state that the workers have demonstrated enough maturity by remaining peaceful and loyal, and have exercise enormous patience which has now run out.

"If these issues are not urgently addressed on or before October 15, 2025, the unions will be left with no other option but to resume the earlier suspended strike action."

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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**#SafetywithMOT**  
**#SafetyFirst**  
**#Staysafe**

## Local Transport News

# Lagos Govt Issues Traffic Advisory Ahead Of Adeniyi Adele-CMS Road Repairs

### Culled

The Lagos State Government has released a traffic advisory to inform residents and motorists of planned repair works on the stretch between the Adeniji Adele Interchange Junction and CMS.

The Commissioner for Transportation, Oluwaseun Osiyemi, disclosed this in a statement issued on Wednesday.

He noted that the repair works are scheduled to begin on Sunday, October 12, and will run for six weeks, ending on Sunday, November 23.

According to Osiyemi, the rehabilitation will take place daily between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

To reduce congestion, only one lane will be closed at a time, while the remaining lanes will remain accessible to road users throughout the duration of the works.

He explained that traffic management officers would be stationed at strategic points around the affected route to ensure smooth vehicular movement and

minimize disruptions during the period.

Osiyemi appealed to motorists to obey traffic personnel and follow directional signs to ease the flow of traffic, urging patience and cooperation from the public.

He noted that the repair works are scheduled to begin on Sunday, October 12, and will run for six weeks, ending on Sunday, November 23.

According to Osiyemi, the rehabilitation will take place daily between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Osiyemi

### Culled

The Federal Roads Maintenance Agency launched a special intervention, codenamed "Operation Safeguard the Roads", on Tuesday, aimed at reducing road traffic crashes in Kogi State.

The programme was inaugurated by Mr Muktar Abdulrahim, the Federal Road Maintenance Engineer in the state, at Ochadamu, along the Itobe-Anyigba Road.

Abdulrahim explained that the initiative seeks to enhance the efficiency of federal roads for motorists while providing opportunities for youths along the road corridors.

"The programme is designed to discourage road vandalism and abuses, such as dumping refuse on drainages and road sides, unauthorised cutting of roads, and theft of critical facilities like bridge handrails and road signs," he said.

He added that the programme aims to improve road safety, reduce travel time and costs, and provide temporary employment opportunities for youths in communities along major federal roads.

"This initiative will also foster a sense of

# FERMA Unveils Initiative To Curb Road Crashes In Kogi

ownership of the roads by local communities, ensuring they are properly safeguarded," Abdulrahim noted.

He further highlighted that the programme would include controlling vegetation along the roads to enhance visibility, reduce road crashes, and desilt lined drains and culverts to prevent flooding and lower maintenance costs.

"Minor repairs, including patching potholes and reinstating collapsed sections, will be carried out to enable free flow of traffic. We shall also conduct training on road maintenance operations for residents of communities along major roads," he said.

Abdulrahim expressed gratitude to FERMA Managing Director, Dr Chukwu Emeka-Agbasi, for initiating the programme.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# LASTMA Arrests Impersonator Who Extorted N7,800 From Motorist



Bakare-Oki

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority has apprehended a 47-year-old man for allegedly impersonating one of its officials and extorting ₦7,800 from an unsuspecting motorist.

The General Manager of LASTMA, Mr Olalekan Bakare-Oki, disclosed this in a statement on Wednesday in Lagos.

Bakare-Oki said the suspect was arrested on Tuesday near the Itire Junction area of the state.

According to him, preliminary investigations revealed that the suspect, posing as a LASTMA operative, had accosted one Mr Stephen Ayano and demanded ₦80,000 from him for

allegedly making an unlawful turn at the junction.

"The suspect told his victim that the amount was the penalty for the traffic violation.

"Unable to meet the outrageous demand, the victim pleaded and eventually parted with the only cash (₦7,800) in his possession, which he handed over to the fake officer," Bakare-Oki said.

The LASTMA boss noted that shortly after the transaction, the victim became suspicious of the suspect's behaviour and promptly contacted the agency through its toll-free hotline (0800-00-LASTMA / 0800-005-27862) to verify the authenticity of the alleged officer.

He said that, acting on the distress report, LASTMA's Surveillance and Intelligence Unit was swiftly mobilised to the location.

Bakare-Oki explained that, on sighting the approaching enforcement team, the suspect attempted to flee but was pursued, apprehended, and immediately taken to the LASTMA

headquarters for interrogation.

"During interrogation, the suspect confessed to being a member of a three-man criminal syndicate that routinely parades itself as LASTMA personnel around the Itire axis.

"He also revealed that the gang operates across several road intersections and makes an average of ₦65,000 daily," Bakare-Oki stated.

The LASTMA boss commended the vigilance and prompt report made by the victim, describing it as an act of civic responsibility.

He reaffirmed the agency's unwavering commitment to integrity, professionalism, and transparency in traffic management operations across Lagos State.

Bakare-Oki further reiterated the agency's zero-tolerance policy towards impersonation and fraudulent practices, stressing that genuine LASTMA officers can be easily identified by their official uniforms, personalised name tags, and unique service identification numbers.

"I can assure the public that the suspect

will be arraigned before a Mobile Court.

"This is to serve as a deterrent to other unscrupulous elements who habitually disguise as LASTMA officials to extort innocent members of the public," he added.

In previous years, LASTMA had recorded several cases of impersonation, mostly involving individuals extorting motorists under the guise of being officials. On March 4, 2021, PUNCH reported the arrest of Shakiru Agbaje, a former LASTMA officer dismissed nine years earlier, for impersonating the agency and extorting motorists in Mushin.

Similarly, on October 24, 2024, a 45-year-old man, Adewunmi Taiwo, was caught on Oshodi Bridge posing as a LASTMA official while wearing an official uniform and operating a white Hiace Coaster bus. In June 2025, LASTMA announced plans to arraign a serial impersonator who reportedly collected about ₦250,000 weekly from impounded vehicle owners, while another fake officer confessed to earning ₦35,000 daily from extortion.

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...quality speaks



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## QUALITY EMULSION

...quality speaks



# Gov Sanwo-Olu Flags Off 4.2km Onosa Road Project In Ibeju-Lekki

## Culled

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has flagged off the construction of a 4.2-kilometre Onosa/Onosa Y Junction–Fokunmade/Onosa Road in Ibeju-Lekki Local Council Development Area (LCDA).

Represented by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Rural Development, Dr. Nurudeen Yekinni Agbaje, Sanwo-Olu said the road would run from Onosa Road through Onosa Y Junction to Fokunmade and connect to Onosa Road 4 leading to the Expressway.

He said the project, to be completed within 18 months, would feature modern infrastructure that ensures safety, efficient drainage, and illumination.

“The Onosa Road project is designed to deliver lasting infrastructural value to the people of Ibeju-Lekki,” he said.

According to him, the road will have a 7.3-metre-wide carriageway, a covered drainage system measuring 750 by 750



Governor Sanwo-Olu

millimetres, and solar-powered streetlights to enhance durability and security.

Agbaje noted that the project is part of ongoing efforts to open up rural communities and improve connectivity across Lagos. He urged residents to cooperate with the government and contractors to ensure smooth execution, stressing that development thrives where there is unity and political continuity.

The Executive Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki LCDA, Hon. Sesan Olowa, commended Governor Sanwo-Olu for the state's continued infrastructural drive, revealing that about ten major road projects are currently ongoing within the council area.

“The Lagos State Government, under the leadership of Governor Sanwo-Olu, has remained consistent in bringing development closer to the people. This 4.2km Onosa Road will ease movement, improve access, and attract more economic opportunities to our communities,” he said.

Olowa further noted that the project is another proof of the administration's commitment to equitable development, adding that it would significantly enhance the area's socio-economic landscape.

He said the project, to be completed within 18 months, would feature modern infrastructure that ensures safety, efficient drainage, and illumination.

“The Onosa Road project is designed to deliver lasting infrastructural value to the people of Ibeju-Lekki,” he said.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

## FERMA Launches Operation Safeguard The Road In Oyo



Engr Agbasi

The Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), Oyo State Field Office, has launched Operation Safeguard the Road (OSGR), a nationwide initiative aimed at protecting Nigeria's federal road infrastructure and enhancing safety for all road users.

The programme, according to the agency, aligns with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda for safer, more durable, and sustainable road networks across the country.

Speaking at the event held at the Lagos–Ibadan Toll Gate, the Federal Roads Maintenance Engineer (FRME) for Oyo State, Engr. Babatunde Adepoju, described the

initiative—conceived under the leadership of FERMA Managing Director, Engr. Emeka Agbasi—as a milestone in the agency's mission to safeguard national road assets.

“We are committed to making our roads safer and more motorable by ensuring clear visibility for motorists, free-flowing drainage systems, and proper maintenance of road furniture,” Adepoju stated.

He explained that the operation would include clearing roadside vegetation, desilting blocked drains and hydraulic structures, improving traffic management, and patching potholes along key corridors in the state.

“Our roads are vital to Nigeria's economy—they connect communities, power business activities, and serve as lifelines for social and economic development. Protecting them is a collective responsibility we owe to ourselves and the next generation,” he added.

Adepoju also revealed that the

programme would provide short-term employment for over 50 local youths working along the 43-kilometre stretch currently under the project. “Their engagement has been properly documented to ensure transparency and accountability,” he said.

He thanked FERMA's Managing Director, represented by the South West I Zonal Director, Engr. B.O. Aina, alongside representatives of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), and the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), for their support.

Acknowledging the challenges of maintaining Nigeria's vast federal road network amid limited resources and rising costs, Adepoju appealed for public understanding and cooperation.

“The government is doing everything possible to improve our roads, but development takes time. Economic

realities and the high cost of materials have made maintenance more difficult, yet FERMA remains committed to delivering results,” he said.

He also condemned acts of vandalism by individuals who damage newly repaired roads, particularly traders who dig potholes to slow vehicles for commercial gain.

“These roads are funded by taxpayers. Damaging them wastes public money. Protecting our infrastructure is a shared duty,” he warned.

In his remarks, Zonal Director Aina urged Nigerians to adopt a stronger maintenance culture to preserve public infrastructure.

Other stakeholders—including representatives of the Police, FRSC, NSCDC, and the Oyo State Park Management System (PMS)—commended FERMA for the initiative, describing it as “timely and proactive.”

They linked many road crashes to

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# Landslide Kills At Least 15 Bus Passengers In India

*Culled*

At least 15 people were killed Tuesday when a landslide triggered by torrential rains hit a passenger bus in northern India's Himachal Pradesh state, authorities said.

The rescue workers and local villagers at the accident site were digging for survivors from under heavy boulders and mounds of earth.

The incident happened at night in Bilaspur, about 60 miles (100 kilometres) from Shimla, the capital of the picturesque Himalayan state.

"15 deaths have been confirmed so far," the local government said in a statement.

State Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu "expressed deep sorrow and anguish over the tragic bus mishap," the statement added.

"Three children have been



rescued alive and were being treated" at a local hospital, and the rescue operations were ongoing.

It is the latest such incident in the world's

most populous country, where flash floods and landslides have already claimed dozens of casualties this monsoon season.

Monsoon rains, usually

from June to September, bring respite after peak summer months and are also essential for the region's agrarian economy.

But they also bring widespread death and destruction, particularly in ecologically fragile Himalayan states, where experts warn that the number of

extreme events has increased in recent years.

Torrential rains last week also triggered deadly landslides and floods in northeastern India's Darjeeling, destroying swathes of premier tea estates in the Himalayan region.

The deluge, which killed at least 36 people in the region, wiped out around five percent of Darjeeling's renowned tea gardens, delivering a heavy blow in a district that has become synonymous with the leaf itself.

The disaster also washed away many roads and destroyed more than 500 houses.

Hundreds of locals and tourists also moved to safe shelters, waiting for rescue or waters to recede from key arterial roads.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

*Culled*

Despite ongoing reforms and efforts to construct new ports and rehabilitate existing ones, world powers, including the United States and Russia, are actively seeking to secure access to the Port of Lomé in Togo which has emerged as a key maritime hub in West Africa.

The increase in volume of trade between Asia and West Africa has seen Lomé port transform into a key regional container port.

Major ocean carriers, specifically MSC, have responded by redeploying ultra-large container vessels

## US, Russia Ditch Nigerian Ports, Seeks Access To Togo Ports

(ULCVs) to the route.

This has come as a major boost for liner connectivity of West African ports including Lomé.

In view of these trade advantages, the U.S has pledged to expand its African market access through Lomé port.

Last week, the U.S Embassy in Lomé, led by the Chargé d'Affaires, Richard C. Michaels, conducted a tour of the port facility.

The delegation also held a meeting with the management of Lomé Container Terminal, LCT, to explore commercial opportunities for U.S businesses.

"With advanced deep-water capabilities, cutting-edge equipment, and an annual throughput exceeding 30 million tons, Lomé offers U.S businesses unmatched access to African markets.

"Ongoing infrastructure expansion, including a dry-port and industrial zone, further enhances the port's role as a growing gateway," commented U.S Embassy in Togo.

The port tour followed shortly after U.S President, Donald Trump, met five African

leaders in Washington.

The African leaders were largely from countries in West Africa, including Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania and Senegal.

The meeting with Trump concentrated on trade opportunities for both sides, at a time the U.S government is cutting aid in Africa and other regions.

Meanwhile, Russia has ratified its military cooperation agreement with Togo, which was initially signed early this year.

As per the agreement, Russia and Togo will jointly hold military exercises, training exchanges and weapons and military equipment support.

Notably, the agreement also covers support in hydrography, navigation and combating piracy.

According to some observers, the agreement will give Russia unfettered access to Togo's strategic seaport of Lomé. Visit by Russian military ships to ports in Togo is covered by the cooperation.

"Togo is considered the most organised and equipped in Tropical Africa. For example, the busiest seaport in West Africa is located on its territory," said Vladimir Gruzdev, a member of the Russian Government Commission on Legislative Activity, which drafted the ratification law of the defence.

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## General News

# Nigeria, Qatar Deepens Ties To Combat Drug Trafficking

*Culled:*

The NDLEA Chairman, retired Brig. Gen. Buba Marwa with the Ambassador of Qatar to Nigeria, Ali Bin Ghanem Al-Hajri.

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and Qatar have strengthened their partnership in combating illicit drug trafficking with the symbolic exchange of ratification instruments between the two countries.

The exchange was conducted on Tuesday in Abuja by the NDLEA Chairman, retired Brig.-Gen. Buba Marwa, and the Ambassador of Qatar to Nigeria, Ali Bin Ghanem Al-Hajri.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the development followed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on March 3, 2024, in Doha, between President Bola Tinubu and the Emir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani.

The agreement focused on cooperation in combating illicit trade in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and their precursors.

Marwa, in his remarks, commended the existing partnership between both nations, describing it as a joint commitment to tackling a major



Nigeria, Qatar

global threat to public health and security.

He assured that the NDLEA would continue to collaborate closely with its Qatari counterpart to protect the people and countries from the threat of substance abuse and illicit drug trafficking.

According to him, the agency in the past four years has intercepted over 1,000 kg of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, cannabis, and other illicit

substances destined for Qatar.

Marwa also lauded the government of Qatar for its peace-building efforts and humanitarian interventions worldwide through the Qatar Foundation.

He appealed to the Foundation to support Nigeria in the provision of rehabilitation facilities for the treatment of persons struggling with drug addiction.

Responding, Amb. Al-Hajri

pledged to convey Marwa's request to the Qatar Foundation.

He commended the growing cooperation between the two nations and noted that the partnership had led to an increase in travel and exchanges between Nigeria and Qatar.

He reaffirmed Qatar's readiness to continue working with Nigeria in areas that promote security, stability, and mutual prosperity.

*Find Full Story In The Link*

# Malawi's President Begins Forming New Government

*Culled:*

Malawi's president, Arthur Peter Mutharika, who won the September 16 presidential election and took office on Saturday, has begun assembling his administration.

He is naming a partial cabinet that brings back experienced figures to tackle the nation's economic challenges.

A statement from the president's office confirmed several critical posts. Economist and former banker Joseph Mwanamvekha has been reappointed as Finance Minister, a role he held from 2016 to 2020.

In a move signalling continuity in foreign policy, George Chaponda returns as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mutharika also solidified his electoral alliance by appointing Enock Chihana of the Alliance for Democracy as the Second Vice President.

Further reinforcing his security team, Lt. Gen. George Jafu was named head of the Malawi Defence Force, and Richard Luhanga was the new police chief.

The appointments come with immediate pressure to address Malawi's deepening economic crisis.

The new Finance Minister, Mwanamvekha, inherits a daunting list of problems, including critical foreign exchange shortages, rampant fuel scarcity, and a currency in freefall.

These issues have led to soaring living costs and a constrained business environment, presenting the most urgent test for Mutharika's administration as it works to stabilise the economy.

The swift cabinet formation follows Mutharika's landslide electoral victory last month, which marked a dramatic political comeback after he lost the presidency in 2020.

While he is credited with lowering inflation and improving infrastructure during his first term from 2014 to 2020, his previous administration was also clouded by allegations of cronyism.

The return of several former ministers is likely to draw scrutiny from

*Find Full Story In The Link*

# Over 6.8m Nigerians Complete Voter Registration



PVCs

*Culled:*

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) says a total of 6.85 million Nigerians have registered in the pre-online registration in the ongoing nationwide

Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) as at Oct. 5.

The commission stated this in its week six update cited on INEC website Tuesday by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).

The commission stated

that 3.58 million of the figure, representing 52.23 per cent, was female, while 3.27 million, representing 47.77, was male. They explained that tab 4,689,637 of the pre-online registrations were youths between age 18 and 34, adding that 1,728,384 were students, while 154,479 were Persons Living with Disabilities (PWDs). On the physical registration, INEC disclosed that a total of 1,216,048 Nigerians had completed their registration as at Oct. 5.

The commission said that the completed registrations figure includes 658,766 individuals who completed their process after initial online pre-registration and 557,282 who registered solely through the

physical process.

The data shows that of the total figure, 675,222 were females, representing 55.53 per cent, while 540,826 were males, accounting for 44.47 per cent.

INEC also stated that youth participation remained dominant, with youths aged 18 to 34 accounting for 897,676 of the completed registrations.

Further breakdown on occupation of the persons shows that Students made up a significant portion, with 424,126 completed registrations in Week 6.

The commission confirmed that 17,450 PWDs completed their registration during the period under review.

*Find Full Story In The Link*



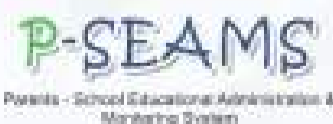
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# AgriTech, Open Data, Critical To Nigeria's Digital Economy - S'holders

*Culled:*

Stakeholders in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector have identified agricultural technology (AgriTech) and open data platforms as essential tools for advancing Nigeria's digital economy, particularly in promoting inclusion and improving rural development.

Speaking at the session titled "Design Workshops Building Productive Sectors: Investing in the Digital Economy" during the 31st Nigerian Economic Summit (NESG) in Abuja, Toluwaleke Adenmosun, senior partner at Verraki, said agriculture offers an opportunity for digital

transformation.

"Some groups proposed open data platforms to improve the sourcing of agricultural commodities, while others emphasized the use of AgriTech to simplify and formalize the agricultural value chain," she said.

Adenmosun also raised concerns about the lack of transparency in tax and levy structures affecting businesses. She called for digital tools to streamline compliance.

"Industry players face challenges not only with formal taxes but also with various levies and charges. A simple platform that outlines required payments and confirms when they are

made can be implemented quickly and would address this," she said.

She added that successful implementation requires clear leadership, whether from the public or private sector.

"It's not solely a government responsibility. Someone must take ownership, drive execution, and raise awareness among farmers and stakeholders," she said.

Participants also noted the need for awareness campaigns, as many farmers remain unaware of digital tools that can boost productivity and improve market access.

Olabode Ojo, vice president of Global

Independent Connect Limited (GICL), a subsidiary of IHS Towers Nigeria, reaffirmed the company's commitment to expanding digital infrastructure in underserved areas.

"At GICL and IHS, our goal is to provide the infrastructure to support Nigeria's digital economy," said Ojo.

He noted that the company has deployed over 600 rural connectivity sites across 26 states and installed more than 16,000 kilometers of fiber optic cables, supporting mobile technologies such as 2G, 3G, and 4G.

"People in these areas now have access to education, healthcare, and digital financial services," he said.

*Find Full Story In The Link*

## 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 *Find Full Story In The Link*

# DRIVING SCHOOLS AND SAFETY ALLIANCE AFRICA - DSSAA

## DSSAA INITIATIVES AND CAUSES

1. African Institute of Driving Instructors and Road Safety professionals (ADRIP) - This will be an online Academy for the training of Driving School Instructors and Road Safety professionals.
2. Africa Road Transport Safety Summit and Exhibition (ARTSS EXPO) - The largest gathering of Researchers and Industry Leaders in Road Transport Safety featuring exhibitions of technology devices and Innovations.
3. Africa Safe School Volunteer Project (ASSVP) - A social responsibility project that members of DSSAA will get directly involved in their various countries which includes volunteering to control traffic and help Children cross the Road during school hours in schools, funding installation of STOP Road signs and marking of zebra crossings at school Intersections, as well as carrying out the training of children on Road Safety practices in schools.
4. Africa Road Safety Partnerships and Research board (ARSPARB)- A hub for the advancement of partnerships with development agencies, National Governments and corporations as well as a Research Faculty for Road Safety Research Projects.

## About DSSAA

Driving Schools and Safety Alliance Africa - DSSAA is Africa's premier Professional Association of Driving School Owners, Instructors, Driver Assessors and Road Safety professionals.

It is registered in the Gambia and UK with National offices in all the Capital cities in Africa.

DSSAA aims to bring all the critical stakeholders together to build the capacity of Driving School operators and support Road Safety through advocacy, public education, lobbying, fund raising, training and certification.

We are the promoters of various Road Transport Safety initiatives and programmes among which are the African Institute of Driving Instructors and Road Safety professionals (ADRIP), Africa Road Transport Safety Exhibition (ARTSS EXPO), Africa Safe school volunteer project (ASSVP) and the Africa Road Safety Partnership and Research board (ARSPARB) domiciled in our Overseas Office in Bournemouth United Kingdom.

Membership is open to Road Safety advocates all over the world.

# DSSAA

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



### GRANTS

There are available grants from National Governments, multinational corporations and NGOS.

The leadership of DSSAA is committed to pursuing these grants at the African Union Secretariat, Ecowas NGO Roundtable and other multilateral Initiatives and making them available to Members only.

### CAPACITY DEV.

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

### NETWORKING

Your participation in our community platforms opens up new business relationship opportunities with operators, Regulators, Vendors, Researchers and Investors across the globe as membership is open worldwide.

### GOOD BUSINESS

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

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

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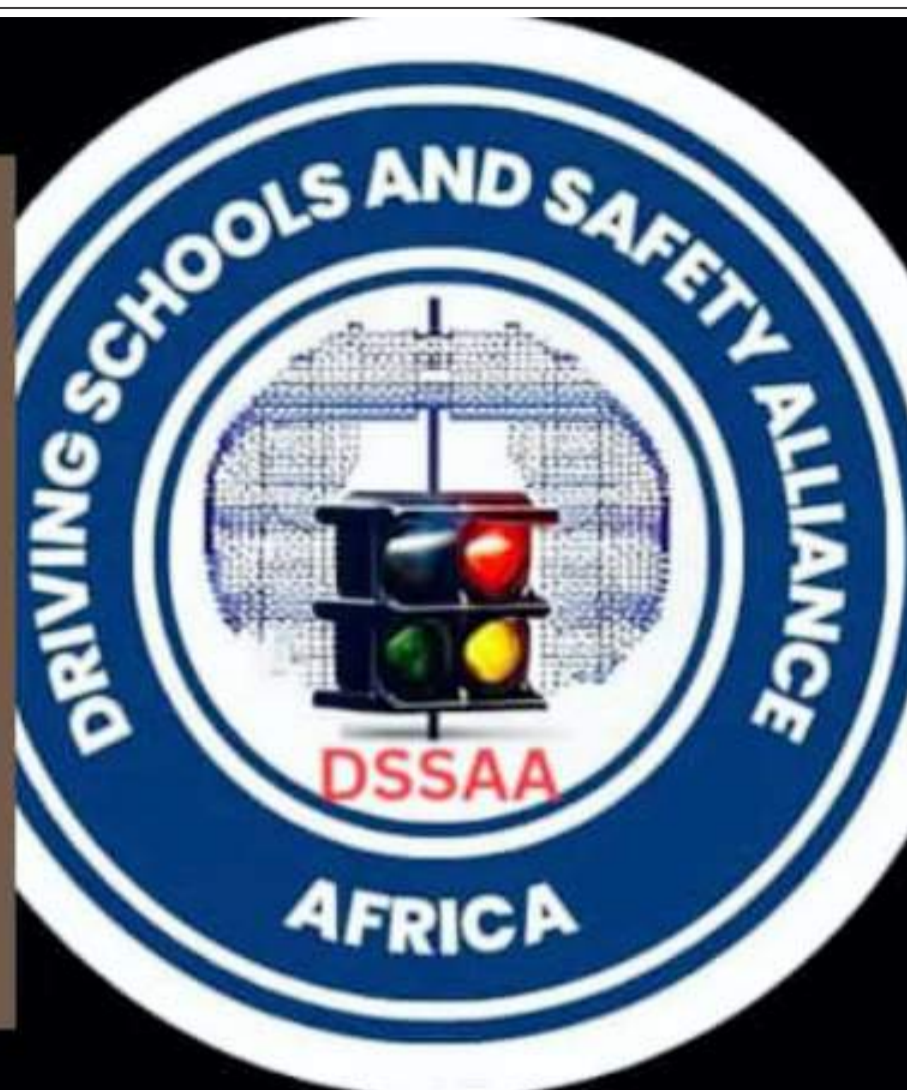


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