

## Wike Flags Off Rehabilitation Of Old Keffi Road

Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, has urged residents against returning politicians who failed to deliver during their time in office. Wike's appeal came on Tuesday while inaugurating the rehabilitation of the 15-kilometre Old Keffi Road from Kado Village to Dei-Dei, awarded to Lubrik Construction Company.

CONTINUES ON P7

## Ekiti Airport Gets Approval For Commercial Flights Operations

The Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has approved the commencement of commercial flight operations at the Ekiti Agro-Allied International Cargo Airport. The development followed the expiration of the airport's initial non-scheduled flight permit in December 2024 and the successful fulfillment of regulatory requirements.

CONTINUES ON P2



# GLOBAL

REPORTING GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION TRENDS

# TRANSPORTATION

thelandmarkinfo.com.ng | Global Transportation E-Reports | Global\_GTE Wed, October 8th 2025 E-NEWSPAPER

# Gov Abiodun Flags Off Flight Operations At Ogun's Gateway Int'l Airport

The newly built Gateway International Airport in Ogun State welcomed its first commercial flight on Tuesday morning, despite

challenging rainy conditions.

The event, captured live by TVC News, marked

the beginning of scheduled passenger services from the newly operational Ogun State-

owned airport.

Passengers were seen queuing for check-in at the airport's terminal,

braving the rain as they prepared for the inaugural flight

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## Nigerian Railway Revenue Hits N1.95bn In Q1 2025 - NBS

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## President Creating Jobs Through Road Projects In FCT - Wike Group Calls For Urgent Reforms In Maritime Industry

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Governor Dapo Abiodun at the Gateway International Airport

## FRSC To Launch Upgraded Driver's Licence, Number Plate System

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) said it will launch an enhanced and upgraded system for the processing of driver's licences and vehicle

number plates to ensure effective and efficient service delivery nationwide. The FRSC Corps Marshal, Malam

Shehu Mohammed, made this known on Tuesday in Abuja while addressing staff and stakeholders during

the 2025 Customer Service Week celebration of the Corps. Mohammed said that the new system would significantly reduce waiting time, ensure

CONTINUES ON P3

## FCT Farmers Decry Road Project Abandonment

P5

Local Transport News

# Calabar-Itu Road Project In Shambles, N'Assembly Laments

*Culled*

Members of the National Assembly Joint Committee on Works have decried the deplorable state and slow pace of work on the Calabar-Itu federal highway, describing the situation as a national emergency that demands urgent government attention.

The Calabar-Itu federal highway is one of the oldest and most strategic transport corridors in southern Nigeria, linking Cross River, Akwa Ibom, and Abia states, and serving as a major route for the movement of goods and agricultural produce between the South-South and South-East regions.

Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Works, Akinola Alabi, stated this on Monday during an inspection tour of the Cross River Section of the road project.

The visit was part of the committee's constitutional oversight to assess the level of work done by contractors handling the federal projects.

Alabi, who was accompanied by the Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Works, Usman Banye, Joint Committee Coordinator, Ashley Emenike, Senate Committee Chairman on NDDC and Senator representing Cross River South Senatorial district, Sen. Asuquo Ekpenyong and others, said the team was dissatisfied with the progress of the project and performance of some contractors on the route.

*Find Full Story In The Link*



National assembly

# Ekiti Airport Gets Approval For Commercial Flights Operations

*Culled*

The Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has approved the commencement of commercial flight operations at the Ekiti Agro-Allied International Cargo Airport.

The development followed the expiration of the airport's initial non-scheduled flight permit in December 2024 and the successful fulfillment of regulatory requirements.

The approval was disclosed in a letter dated October 3, 2025, addressed to Ekiti State Governor, Biodun Oyebanji, and signed by the Director of Aerodrome and Airspace Standards, Engineer Godwin Balang.

According to the letter with reference number NCAA/DAAS/TECH//043/Vol. 1/158, the new approval for scheduled commercial flights, which takes effect from October 2, 2025, is valid for an initial period of six months.

It added that the agency conducted a validation inspection of the airport between June 16 and 19, 2025, which confirmed that the facility had met the essential

operational requirements for scheduled flight services.

The letter reads, "The outcome revealed that the basic operational requirements for scheduled flight operations to Ado-Ekiti Airport have been significantly complied with, and the instrument flight check validation report conducted by NAMA indicates satisfactory compliance with regulatory requirements.

"In view of the above and in line with the provisions of Nig CARs Part 12 Vol. 1, 2023, I have been directed to convey the Authority's Interim Operational Permit subject to the limitations of VFR or daylight (sunrise to sunset) operations.

"Furthermore, Your Excellency is respectfully invited to note that this interim Operational Permit is to enable Ekiti Agro-Allied International Cargo Airport to implement outstanding gaps and commence the certification process, which will allow for issuance of Aerodrome Operational Permit with a three-year validity in accordance with the Nig.CARS Part 12 Vol.1.

*Find Full Story In The Link*

# Gov Abiodun Flags Off Flight Operations At Ogun's Gateway Int'l Airport

*Culled*

The newly built Gateway International Airport in Ogun State welcomed its first commercial flight on Tuesday morning, despite challenging rainy conditions.

The event, captured live by TVC News, marked the beginning of scheduled passenger services from the newly operational Ogun State-owned airport.

Passengers were seen queuing for check-in at the airport's terminal, braving the rain as they prepared for the inaugural flight operated by ValueJet to Abuja.

The Special Adviser to Ogun State Governor on Media and Strategy Kayode Akinmade, had last month announced the sales of flight ticket to Abuja, scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"For the Return flight, Value Jet will depart the Nnamdi Azikiwe International, Abuja at 4pm every Tuesday and Thursday and arrive at GWI at 5:15 p.m.," he said.

Yesterday, Governor Dapo Abiodun said he received the Director General of the



Governor Abiodun

Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, Captain Chris Najomo, in Abeokuta to discuss ongoing reforms in the aviation sector and the role GWI will play in Ogun development.

"We reiterated our administration's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of safety, efficiency, and regulatory compliance as we prepare for full-scale commercial flight

operations at the airport," Abiodun said. PUNCH Online recalls that Abiodun, in August, announced that the NCAA granted GWI Aerodrome Operational Permits, marking the commencement of commercial operations in the airport.

Abiodun described the development as a historic milestone not only for the state but for Nigeria at large. He stated that this was the first time a

newly constructed airport in the country had received such certification under current regulatory standards.

The NCAA's approval reportedly followed a thorough technical inspection, on-site verification, and audit of the facility.

Abiodun added that the agency praised the airport as a model for future aviation infrastructure in Nigeria, citing its modern facilities and operational readiness.

*Find Full Story In The Link*



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20TH SEPTEMBER, 2025



# 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

# Nigeria Aims To Refine More Oil Locally - Lokpobiri

### Culled

Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), Heineken Lokpobiri, says the Federal Government is determined to ensure that every barrel of crude produced in Nigeria adds real value at home and abroad.

He said this while speaking at the 2025 Crude Oil Refinery-Owners Association of Nigeria (CORAN) Summit in Lagos on Tuesday, October 7.

Lokpobiri, who was represented by his technical adviser, Ndah Adaba, said improving local refining capacity and energy security remains central to Nigeria's development goals.

The theme of the summit is "Refinery – Key to Energy Security in Africa".

It brought together engineers, policymakers, and energy professionals from across the continent.

According to the minister, as part of a deliberate policy and broader strategy, the "Naira for Crude" sales agreement will continue to play a vital role in

reducing the cost of fuel production.

He added that it also helps in mitigating exchange rate volatility and supporting indigenous refining capacity.

Lokpobiri stated that, through the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA), the government had streamlined the licensing process, from the Licence to Establish, to Construct, and Operate.

This, he added, helps in ensuring that credible investors are supported rather

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Lokpobiri

# Edo Govt Shuts Fuel Station Over Expired Fire Extinguishers

### Culled

Edo State Petroleum Task Force in Ikpoba-Okha Local Government has sealed off NIPCO Filling Station on Upper Sakponba Road, for having expired fire extinguishers.

The filling station was shut about 9am yesterday.

Leader of the task force, Ehichoya Joshua, said all fire extinguishers at the station were found to have expired since 2024.

He said management of the fuel station had been warned several times to replace them, but they were adamant.

He said: "We came here this morning and found out that the fire extinguishers at this station have expired since 2024.

"They have been begging and we have cautioned them on the need to replace them.

"It is disastrous not to have fire extinguishers in this facility that shares proximity with residential buildings. We are sealing off the station until the right thing is done."

Management of the station declined comments.

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# FRSC To Launch Upgraded Driver's Licence, Number Plate System

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The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) said it will launch an enhanced and upgraded system for the processing of driver's licences and vehicle number plates to ensure effective and efficient service delivery nationwide.

The FRSC Corps Marshal, Malam Shehu Mohammed, made this known on Tuesday in Abuja while addressing staff and stakeholders during the 2025 Customer Service Week celebration of the Corps.

Mohammed said that the new system would significantly reduce waiting time, ensure faster processing, and improve data integrity, adding that the initiative was part of broader efforts to modernise FRSC operations through technology.

He said that the FRSC recognised the invaluable trust and loyalty of its customers, describing them as critical partners in the Corps' collective achievements in road safety administration across the country.

"For every challenge solved, opportunities seized and milestones recorded, it's made possible by the trust



Shehu Mohammed

and loyalty of our customers," the Corps Marshal said.

Mohammed appreciated both FRSC personnel and customers for their cooperation and commitment.

He assured them that the Corps would continue to advocate for effective legislation, policy implementation and sustained enforcement.

This, he said, would be to reduce road crashes, fatalities and injuries nationwide.

processing and obtaining a driver's licence and number plate.

"I want to assure them that we are upscaling and upgrading the technology and system infrastructure of these two products.

"By the grace of God, within this month, we are launching an enhanced system to improve service delivery and efficiency," he added.

The Corps Marshal further appealed to motorists and all road users to continue to obey traffic rules and regulations, emphasising that adherence remains the foundation of safety on the roads.

"We want to tell our teaming motorists and road users that they should continue to abide by road traffic rules and regulations so that we have safety first, safety always, and safety forever," Mohammed said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the Customer Service Week is celebrated annually to recognise the importance of customer satisfaction and honour the contributions of service providers and consumers across sectors.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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## Local Transport News

# Nigerian Railway Revenue Hits N1.95bn In Q1 2025 - NBS

### Culled

The Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) recorded revenue of N1.95 billion from passenger transport in the first quarter of 2025, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The figures, published in the Rail Transportation Data Q1 2025 report on 5 October and announced via the NBS X handle on Tuesday, show that a total of 929,553 passengers used the rail system during the period, up from 675,293 in the same quarter of 2024. This represents a growth rate of 37.65 per cent.

The report also highlighted the volume of goods transported through the railway system, which reached 181,520 tons in Q1 2025, compared to 160,650 tons in the corresponding period of 2024.

Revenue from goods and cargoes amounted to N657.03 million, reflecting an increase of 8.19 per cent from N607.32 million recorded in the first quarter of the previous year.

Other receipts, including fees and miscellaneous charges, rose sharply to

N115.68 million in Q1 2025, marking a 355.39 per cent increase from the N25.40 million reported in Q1 2024.

The NBS attributed the growth in both passenger and cargo revenue to ongoing infrastructure investments in the rail sector. Among these is the operational Lagos-Ibadan rail line, which has contributed significantly to sector expansion since its launch in 2021.

The report further indicated that the railway sector's contribution to Nigeria's gross domestic product (GDP) increased.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Dr. Opeifa

### Culled

Residents of Ebaji community in the Abaji Area Council of the FCT said it has been extremely difficult to move their farm produce to the nearest market as a result of abandoned road project in the area.

The agrarian community is therefore appealing to the FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike, to intervene on the dilapidated road that links Ebaji-Rimba to the neighboring Pandagi village in the council.

Some residents who spoke when Abuja Metro visited the community on Saturday, said the deplorable road continues to cause them significant hardship, especially during the annual rainy season.

They noted that the road is one of the rural routes that was awarded by the FCT Administration through the Satellite Town Development Department (STDD), connecting Pandagi to Ebaji village.

Aliyu Ndatsu, an Ebaji resident, told our reporter that the deplorable state of the road has become a nightmare not only for villagers but also for farmers who find it difficult to transport their crops to the

# FCT Farmers Decry Road Project Abandonment

Abaji market.

He explained that farmers often mobilise to fix some bad portions of the road before their harvested produce can be transported to the market.

"I don't know if you noticed some of the bad portions of the road that were repaired on your way here. Just on Friday, we mobilized ourselves to fix some dilapidated sections so that vehicles can enter. Abaji market is on Sunday, and we needed to make sure our crops are taken to the market," he said.

Another villager, Yunusa Ibrahim, said residents are always cut off from accessing neighboring villages during the rainy season due to the road's condition.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# Group Calls For Urgent Reforms On Maritime Industry



Maritime

Sea Empowerment and Research Center (SEREC) has warned that the country's maritime sector could mirror the "mistakes" of its oil industry if urgent reforms are not implemented to strengthen governance, industrial capacity, and trade competitiveness. Head of Research at SEREC, Forwarder Eugene Nweke, stated that while the sector holds immense potential for job creation, industrialisation, and regional dominance, it remains weighed down by structural weaknesses that limit its ability to drive national development.

"Nigeria's maritime sector holds the promise of jobs, industrialisation, and regional leadership.

But unless structural reforms are accelerated, we risk repeating the oil paradox: rising revenues, rising costs, and vanishing welfare," Nweke cautioned.

According to him, despite commendable milestones such as reduced piracy incidents, expanded seafarer training, and the creation of the Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, the country's maritime story remains one of unrealised potential rather than tangible transformation.

He noted that over 80 per cent of the nation's trade passes through its seaports, yet the sector continues to suffer from systemic bottlenecks that hamper its competitiveness and economic contribution.

SEREC acknowledged recent gains, including multinational patrols that have curbed piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, the growth of seafarer training pipelines enabling hundreds of Nigerian cadets to complete mandatory sea-time, and modest progress in establishing inland container depots to decongest Lagos

ports. It also commended the renewed effort to rebuild a national shipping identity through a re-emerging national container operator and the formal recognition of the Blue Economy as a policy focus.

However, the group identified critical structural weaknesses that continue to undermine the sector's growth. It warned that Nigeria's dormant steel industry remains the greatest obstacle to a viable shipbuilding and repair ecosystem, making the nation dependent on imported materials and uncompetitive in global maritime trade.

"Without a functioning steel industry, Nigeria's shipyards will remain import-dependent, uncompetitive, and unable to support large-scale ship repair or newbuilding," Nweke said.

The maritime think tank also highlighted challenges including poor multimodal integration, underdeveloped rail and inland waterways, environmental sustainability gaps in port operations, and persistent trade imbalances worsened by heavy import dependence and weak non-oil exports.

It urged policymakers to anchor maritime development on industrialisation, with the revival of steel — even through modular mini-mills — forming the foundation for a credible shipbuilding and repair industry. It also called for practical implementation of the Blue Economy policy, emphasising the need to harness fisheries, aquaculture, ocean energy, and seabed mining under transparent, research-driven frameworks.

Additionally, the centre stressed the importance of multimodal transport integration, urging that "rail, barge, and inland port connectivity must become functional to ease pressure on Lagos ports."

Revenue agencies, SEREC added, must move beyond "record collections" to demonstrating tangible trade impact reducing port costs, improving cargo flow, and enhancing Nigeria's global competitiveness.

Nweke concluded that Nigeria's maritime potential can only be fully realised through disciplined execution and sustained reform.

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**20 LITERS**

**QUALITY EMULSION**

...quality speaks

# President Creating Jobs Through Road Projects In FCT - Wike

*Culled*

Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister Nyesom Wike has said President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is creating jobs through the construction of roads in the nation's capital.

Wike reiterated the need for the residents to pay their taxes, saying the money is used to provide modern roads and social amenities.

The minister said this while officially flagging off the construction of the Mohammed Isa Road extension within the Asokoro District in Abuja.

He emphasised that the ambitious infrastructure drive undertaken by the FCT Administration was heavily dependent on the availability of resources.

Wike urged the residents to pay their taxes and continue to support President Tinubu's administration to enable it to deliver programmes that would make their lives better.

The minister likened the provision of good



Nyesom Wike

infrastructure to making sweet, na money kill am m o n e y , a l l t h e a "good soup," which (A sweet soup is a medemede (ingredients) cannot be provided product of good money). will be there. Even if you without resources. If you don't have the are not hungry, but He said: "The President money to buy the various because the soup is providing jobs through items when you are attracts you, you will be the construction of cooking the soup, it will forced to be hungry... roads in the FCT. Pay us look like ordinary water. "So, all these good roads, what you owe us. If soup But when you have good drainage systems

won't be possible if you don't pay your taxes. So, try to pay your taxes so that we can provide more of these roads."

Wike noted that prominent critics of President Tinubu's administration have begun to acknowledge its successful performance, particularly in infrastructure development.

The minister said the new road project was initiated following a direct appeal from a major critic of the present administration, calling for infrastructure provision, specifically roads, drainage, and streetlights in the Asokoro extension, similar to the work being done in other districts of the FCT.

Recalling their exchange, he said: "I remember very well that one of the major critics of the present government of Asiwaju Ahmed Tinubu – I will not call his name – he came to me and said: 'Look, you have been providing infrastructure in terms of roads in all these other districts. What about us in the Asokoro extension?'"

Wike described himself as one of the agents of President Tinubu, whose task is to translate the President's vision into action.

*Find Full Story In The Link*

## Wike Flags Off Rehabilitation Of Old Keffi Road



Wike

Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, has urged residents against returning politicians who failed to deliver during their time in office.

Wike's appeal came on Tuesday while inaugurating the rehabilitation of the 15-kilometre Old Keffi Road from Kado Village to Dei-Dei, awarded to Lubrik Construction Company.

"Do not pay attention to those who had opportunities to contribute to Abuja's development in the past but failed to deliver. We gave them a first chance, they failed. We gave them a second chance, they failed again. If we make the mistake of giving them a third

chance, they will destroy everything," he warned.

The minister disclosed that more projects would be launched in the coming days as part of the FCT's aggressive infrastructure renewal programme.

"In the coming days, we will continue with more project kick-offs. Tomorrow, we'll begin another one; on Thursday, another. In total, we have 27 lined up — something that has never happened before in Abuja. This is the first time, and it's happening under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration," Wike said.

He urged the construction company to employ local residents to ensure that the community benefits economically from the project.

"I also urge the construction company to employ local youths, men, and women from this community, either through direct employment or subcontracts, so they can support their families," he said.

"To the glory of God, we begin the rehabilitation of this 15-kilometer road from Kado Village to Dei-Dei," the minister added.

Wike said commencement of Old Keffi Road rehabilitation was in fulfilment of a promise made by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to residents and traders in the area.

Quoting him, "Today we are here to begin the rehabilitation of the Old Keffi Road from Kado Village to Dei-Dei. When Mr. President assumed office in 2023 and appointed his ministers, one of the emergency road projects he immediately approved was the Saburi 1 and Saburi 2 roads." He explained that the completion of the Saburi roads had set the stage for the rehabilitation of the Old Keffi corridor, which he had earlier promised residents during the commissioning of the Saburi projects.

"You will recall that when we commissioned those roads, I said they could only be complete if this

Old Keffi Road from Kado Village to Dei-Dei was also rehabilitated. Today, to the glory of God, we are here to fulfil that promise made by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu," Wike said.

The minister commended Lubrik Construction for its previous quality work and capacity, which earned it the contract for this new project.

He also praised the Chairman of the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Hon. Christopher Maikalangu, for his active representation of his people.

"When we commissioned the Saburi Road, I called on Chairman Maikalangu to tell us what his people still needed from the government," Wike recalled, adding that "He mentioned this same Old Keffi Road, as well as the Ketti-Kabusa and Kabusa-Takushara roads. That is what true representation means, choosing people who understand your needs and are committed to pursuing them."

*Find Full Story In The Link*

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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 widespread death and 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.

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NESG Abuja Summit

# 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



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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.

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### NETWORKING

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### 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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