

## Kaduna Road Projects Will Boost Industrial Activity, Businesses - Agency Boss

The Managing Director of the Kaduna Roads Agency, Abdullahi Baba-Ahmed, has expressed optimism that ongoing road rehabilitation and activities, reopening of the Kaduna Roads construction projects previously closed being executed by the administration of Governor Uba Sani will stimulate industrial and businesses and ease transportation across key corridors in the state.

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## Zulum Launches Annual Free Christmas Transport For Non-Indigenes

Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Zulum, has flagged off the 2025 Free Annual Transportation Programme

during the Christmas season, reaffirming his administration's commitment to compassion, inclusivity, and people-centred governance.

The programme, which commenced on Sunday, 21 December 2025, will facilitate safe

CONTINUES ON P2

# GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION

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## LASTMA Rolls Out Traffic Control Plan For 'Detty December' Festivities

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) has unveiled an extensive,

intelligence-driven traffic control strategy aimed at ensuring smooth vehicular

movement and public safety across the state. In a statement issued by LASTMA spokesman,

Adebayo Taofiq, the yuletide season typically witnesses a sharp increase in traffic

volume, fuelled by concerts, carnivals, end-of-year parties,

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## Dangote Petroleum Refinery Loads Over 2,000 Trucks Daily

## FCCPC Warns Road Transporters Against Arbitrary Fare Hike

## Nigeria To Roll Out Automotive Reforms In 2026



Rtn. Dr. Sunday Enimola receiving our 'Front Page Portrait of Honour' Plaque as the Most Outstanding Medical Director of a Private Hospital in Nigeria

## FRSC Deploys Officers, Tow Trucks To Ease Abuja-Lokoja Gridlock

The Federal Road Safety Corps has deployed additional officers and tow trucks along the Abuja-Lokoja Road to

address persistent traffic congestion on the corridor. In a statement issued on Sunday, the FRSC

spokesperson, Olusegun Ogungbemi, said the Corps Marshal, Shehu Mohammed,

ordered the deployment to ease the gridlock and ensure the swift removal of obstructions along the

CONTINUES ON P3

## Kogi Road Crash Claims 12 Lives, Two Injured - FRSC

**Local Transport News**

## Gridlock Stalls Holiday Travelers On Lokoja-Abuja Highway

### Culled

Motorists plying the Lokoja–Abuja highway have been left stranded by a severe gridlock, just days before Christmas.

The traffic congestion on the route has persisted for several hours, with commuters saying the gridlock is most severe around the Koton Karfe axis.

Reports indicate that the congestion was caused by two fallen trucks on the highway, while others say it's due to the pace of ongoing rehabilitation of the road.

Estimates put the pile-up of trucks and vehicles at between three and five miles.

Some commuters were forced to take extremely dusty off-road diversions to bypass the blockage.

Security operatives, including personnel of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), have been deployed to the area to ease the congestion.

TVC News had earlier reported that

the Kogi State Government had initiated interventions to prevent traffic congestion on the highway ahead of the Christmas and New Year festivities.

A team from the state government, led by the State Security Adviser, Jerry Omodara, had inspected critical sections of the highway and identified areas requiring immediate attention to ensure smooth vehicular movement during the peak travel period.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



The traffic gridlock

## Dangote Petroleum Refinery Loads Over 2,000 Trucks Daily

### Culled

The daily gantry loading of Dangote Petroleum Refinery has risen to more than 2,000-truck mark, up from over 1,000 trucks previously.

This significant leap in evacuations of the refinery was attributed to the migration of fuel marketers to the refinery following the recent reduction in its gantry prices.

Data obtained by Vanguard indicated that the Dangote Refinery's decision to cut the gantry price of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), also known as petrol, to ₦699 per litre significantly attracted patronage.

It was gathered that the refinery's reduction of the minimum purchase volume from two million litres to 250,000 litres also attracted the patronage of independent and regional marketers, who were previously priced out of direct refinery arrangements.

Commenting on the development, Chief Executive Officer of (link unavailable), Olatide Jeremiah, said: "Beyond pricing, Dangote Refinery has introduced a

10-day bank-guarantee framework, allowing marketers to load PMS while completing payment documentation. This has eased cash-flow pressure and reduced turnaround time at the gantry.

"The result is a sharp rise in truck traffic, with continuous loading now stretching deep into the night, according to logistics operators. The refinery has effectively become Nigeria's busiest fuel-distribution node, eclipsing traditional coastal depots."

Already, the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN) has urged its members nationwide to source PMS from Dangote Refinery, citing its competitive pricing and reliable availability.

IPMAN National President, Abubakar Maigandi Shettima, said the association controls over 80 % of Nigeria's retail fuel outlets, assuring consumers that supply gaps and scarcity risks have been eliminated, adding that free delivery is expected to commence in January 2026, further undercutting private depot costs.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# Zulum Launches Annual Free Christmas Transport For Non-Indigenes

### Culled

Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Zulum, has flagged off the 2025 Free Annual Transportation Programme during the Christmas season, reaffirming his administration's commitment to compassion, inclusivity, and people-centred governance.

The programme, which commenced on Sunday, 21 December 2025, will facilitate safe interstate travel during the festive season, irrespective of ethnicity, religion, or social background.

Speaking at the flag-off ceremony on behalf of Governor Zulum, the Chairman of the Implementation Committee, Chief Ugochukwu Egwudike, stated that the initiative was designed to alleviate the hardship faced by low-income earners and vulnerable groups, especially during the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Egwudike noted that beyond transportation, the programme aims to



Governor Umara Zulum

promote social cohesion and national unity by reconnecting families separated by economic and security challenges.

Egwudike, who is also the Coordinator of the Ohanaeze APC Support Group, recalled that over the years, the scheme has reunited families who had been unable to travel home for three to five years, enabling

them to celebrate Christmas with their loved ones.

He added that during the previous exercise, beneficiaries also received ₦30,000 each, paid directly into their bank accounts to cushion financial pressures and ensure transparency in disbursement.

According to him, the 2025 exercise covers all six geopolitical zones of the

country, saying that a total of 320 passengers will be transported safely on day one, 280 on day two, and 150 on day three, with all passengers conveyed safely to their destinations.

"The fourth day of the programme will be devoted to the distribution of palliatives and social support to 300 widows, orphans, and other vulnerable persons," Egwudike said.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

## Local Transport News

# FRSC Deploys Officers, Tow Trucks To Ease Abuja-Lokoja Gridlock

### Culled

The Federal Road Safety Corps has deployed additional officers and tow trucks along the Abuja-Lokoja Road to address persistent traffic congestion on the corridor.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the FRSC spokesperson, Olusegun Ogungbemide, said the Corps Marshal, Shehu Mohammed, ordered the deployment to ease the gridlock and ensure the swift removal of obstructions along the highway.

"The FRSC Corps Marshal has ordered the deployment of additional officers and tow trucks along the Abuja-Lokoja Road to ease the ongoing traffic gridlock and ensure swift removal of obstructions," Ogungbemide said.

According to the FRSC, the congestion has been caused by a combination of factors, including increased vehicular movement during the festive season, ongoing construction at several points along the road and poor driving behaviour by some motorists.

"The congestion is largely due to increased vehicular movement, ongoing construction points, as well as undisciplined and impatient drivers driving against traffic," the spokesperson explained.

The FRSC urged motorists to cooperate with officers on duty and adhere strictly to traffic rules to improve traffic flow and ensure safety.

"Motorists travelling along the corridor are advised to cooperate with personnel on duty for smooth traffic flow,"

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



FRSC

# NIWA Pledges Tougher Safety Rules, Zero Tolerance For Waterway Accidents

### Culled

The Chairman of the Board of the National Inland Waterways Authority, Alhaji Muktar Shagari, has pledged to strengthen the enforcement of safety regulations and improve monitoring systems to curb the loss of lives on Nigeria's inland waterways.

Shagari made the pledge on Thursday while addressing the management and staff of the Authority as he formally resumed office at NIWA's headquarters in Lokoja.

He said the mandate of the Board aligns with President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, which challenges federal institutions to raise standards, promote transparency, and deliver measurable outcomes for Nigerians.

"The Renewed Hope Agenda challenges every federal institution to raise its standards, strengthen transparency, and deliver tangible results that improve the lives of Nigerians.

"For NIWA, this agenda aligns perfectly with our mandate to transform Nigeria's

inland waterways into safe, efficient, and economically vibrant corridors of national development," he said.

Shagari outlined three key priorities that would guide the Board's engagement with the Authority.

"Going forward, we will strengthen the enforcement of safety regulations, improve monitoring systems, and promote a culture of professionalism across all NIWA operations," he stated.

He stressed that safety on the nation's waterways would remain non-negotiable under his leadership, noting that preventable accidents must be decisively addressed.

"Every life lost on our waterways is one too many. Under this Board, safety is not negotiable," Shagari added.

Shagari was recently appointed Chairman of the NIWA Board by President Bola Tinubu as part of efforts to reposition the Authority and enhance the regulation and development of inland waterways transport across the country.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# Kaduna Road Projects Will Boost Industrial Activity, Businesses - Agency Boss

### Culled

The Managing Director of the Kaduna Roads Agency, Abdullahi Baba-Ahmed, has expressed optimism that ongoing road rehabilitation and construction projects being executed by the administration of Governor Uba Sani will stimulate industrial activities, reopen previously closed businesses and ease transportation across key corridors in the state.

In a statement issued by KADRA on Sunday, it was stated that Baba-Ahmed gave the assurance during routine inspections of road projects in the Kakuri Industrial Layout, Barnawa, Pan Drive-Television Road and the Raba-Rigasa Train Station dual carriageway on Saturday.

He said many of the projects were inherited from the previous administration but had been stalled due to unpaid certificates, outstanding compensations and the need to relocate water and electricity infrastructure.

According to him, the Sani administration revived the projects and cleared substantial financial liabilities to



The Kaduna Road Agency

ensure steady progress.

"We inherited the Kakuri-Nasarawa-Flour Mills road at about 25 per cent completion. Only drainage work had been partly done—there was no stone base, binder or asphalt. Today, the project has reached about 65 per cent, with the binder course already laid," he said.

Baba-Ahmed noted that the road traverses a major industrial area where

many businesses had shut down due to poor access, adding that the ongoing works are already helping to restore industrial activities.

He also disclosed that the governor approved the release of nearly N1 billion in compensation to about 120 households affected by the Raba-Rigasa road project.

Describing the Raba-Rigasa Train Station road as one of the most critical

projects under construction, the KADRA boss said it links Arewa House through Mahuta to the Rigasa Train Station.

He explained that the project was inherited at about 30 per cent completion but has since advanced significantly following the execution of major drainage works and the laying of binder layers.

"This dual carriageway will ease movement to the Rigasa station and surrounding areas. The governor has directed that it must be completed before the next rainy season.

"These are not just roads of asphalt and concrete; they are roads to progress that will reopen closed businesses," he added.

On the Kabala-Aliyu Makama-Barnawa dual carriageway, Baba-Ahmed said asphalt has already been laid, while bridge construction has commenced.

The Project Manager of CCECC Kaduna Office, Henry Zhang, confirmed the progress, stating that more than 30 per cent of the Raba Road project has been completed.

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## Local Transport News

# Nigeria To Roll Out Automotive Reforms In 2026

### Culled

The Nigerian government is set to roll out automotive reforms in 2026, including an end-of-life vehicle policy, stricter standards for imported used vehicles, and expanded electric vehicle capacity.

The Director-General of the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC), Mr Joseph Osanipin, who disclosed this during a media parley in Abuja, stressed that the success of the reforms depends heavily on public awareness and media support.

He explained that the proposed end-of-life vehicle policy, which has already received approval and is ready for implementation, would ensure the responsible disposal and recycling of vehicles once they are no longer roadworthy.

"In developed countries, immediately you buy a new vehicle, during registration you make a payment towards the disposal of that vehicle when it gets to the end of life; somebody has to be responsible for the disposal," Osanipin said.

According to him, over 85 per cent of parts

from end-of-life vehicles can still be recycled, creating jobs, supporting second-hand parts markets, and generating significant revenue.

The NADDC boss also announced plans to enforce mandatory inspection and certification of used vehicles before they are imported into Nigeria, a practice already common in other African countries.

"We've seen situations where vehicles that are already at end of life in Dubai are being brought into Nigeria.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



NADDC

### Culled

The Federal Road Safety Corps has confirmed that 12 people died and two others were injured in a road crash on Friday along the Ejule–Enugu highway in Kogi State.

Mr Tenimu Etuku, FRSC Sector Commander in Kogi, disclosed this while speaking with newsmen in Lokoja on Saturday.

Etuku described the accident as "fatal and very unfortunate," adding that one of the victims was a child.

According to him, the crash occurred at about 11:30 pm in the Iboko community of Idah Local Government Area and involved an 18-seater Toyota Hiace bus belonging to Romchi Mass Transit. "The ill-fated bus was travelling from Abuja to the eastern part of the country when it rammed into a parked, faulty articulated vehicle due to over-speeding," Etuku said.

He added that his personnel, who carried out the rescue operation, rushed the injured to Mercy of Jesus Hospital, Ejule, for medical attention, while the bodies of the deceased were

# Kogi Road Crash Claims 12 Lives, Two Injured - FRSC

deposited in the morgue.

Etuku expressed his condolences to the families of the victims and reiterated the dangers of excessive speed and reckless overtaking.

"At this yuletide, motorists must be careful and adhere strictly to traffic rules and regulations to avoid such accidents and the wastage of precious lives. I believe this is one way to help the FRSC and the Federal Government reduce the alarming rate of road traffic crashes and fatalities in the country.

"I hereby urge drivers to exercise patience and maintain safe driving practices, especially during long-distance journeys this yuletide," he advised.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# FCCPC Warns Road Transporters Against Arbitrary Fare Hike

before travel. Any fare adjustment must therefore be transparently communicated and applied fairly," the statement read in part.

The FCCPC also noted that these complaints are arising at a time when there are reports of reductions in the pump price of premium motor spirit (PMS), commonly known as fuel across the nation.

Speaking further, Ijagwu said while fuel cost is only one of several inputs that may influence transport fares, increases that are not properly explained or disclosed raise valid consumer protection concerns.

Commenting on the development, the Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the commission, Tunji Bello, said the FCCPC is closely monitoring market conduct throughout the festive season.

To this end, Bello added that the commission has intensified engagement with transport unions, park managers and operators nationwide.

According to him, these engagements are preventive in nature and are aimed at encouraging responsible pricing practices, voluntary compliance and orderly market behaviour.

Bello further clarified that price increases are not, in themselves, unlawful, however, conduct that exploits consumers or takes unfair advantage of heightened seasonal demand may attract regulatory attention under the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act (FCCPA) 2018.

He further noted that practices such as inadequate fare disclosure, coercive conduct, or coordinated pricing arrangements among operators to the detriment of consumers will be subject to strict regulatory scrutiny.

Where cases of violation are established, the FCCPC boss warned that culprits will face stiff penalties from the commission.

As such, consumers have been advised to confirm fares before travel, retain evidence of payment, and report any suspected unfair practices

to the FCCPC through its complaint portal at [complaints.fccpc.gov.ng](http://complaints.fccpc.gov.ng) or via the hotlines 0805 600 3030 and 0805 600 2020.

Also, ahead of the Yuletide, The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has ordered the immediate deployment of additional officers and tow trucks along the Abuja–Lokoja Road.

The deployment is to ease the persistent traffic gridlock and ensure the prompt removal of obstructions.

FRSC Corps Marshal, Shehu Mohammed, issued the directive, according to a statement by the Corps Public Education Officer (CPEO), Assistant Corps Marshal (ACM), Olusegun Ogungbemi, on Sunday in Abuja.

Mohammed said the directive was part of ongoing efforts by the Corps to improve traffic management and guarantee the safety of road users.

This, he said, was especially during the current period of increased vehicular movement.

He explained that the congestion on

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



FCCPC

The Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) has warned inter-city road transport operators against arbitrary and unexplained fare hikes during the ongoing yuletide travel period.

The FCCPC issued the warning on Sunday in a statement signed by the Director, Corporate Affairs, Ondaje Ijagwu, following an increase in consumer complaints across Nigeria.

Ijagwu explained that the FCCPC recognises that seasonal demand, operational pressures and other legitimate cost factors may affect transport pricing.

"However, consumers are entitled to clear, accurate, and timely information on fares



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- Wear a respirator or paint mask
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**QUALITY EMULSION**

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# LASTMA Rolls Out Traffic Control Plan For 'Detty December' Festivities

## Culled

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) has unveiled an extensive, intelligence-driven traffic control strategy aimed at ensuring smooth vehicular movement and public safety across the state.

In a statement issued by LASTMA spokesman, Adebayo Taofiq, the yuletide season typically witnesses a sharp increase in traffic volume, fuelled by concerts, carnivals, end-of-year parties, religious gatherings and other recreational activities.

To address the expected pressure on the road network, LASTMA has intensified its operational readiness through the deployment of experienced traffic officers, enhanced surveillance systems and round-the-clock monitoring of key traffic corridors, event locations, commercial hubs and major arterial roads.

Speaking on the initiative, the General Manager of LASTMA, Mr. Olalekan Bakare-Oki, warned operators of event



Bakare-Oki

centres, clubs, lounges and other entertainment facilities to put in place effective internal traffic arrangements capable of accommodating their patrons within their premises. He stressed that any spillover of vehicles onto public roads that results in obstruction or gridlock would attract strict enforcement measures, describing such practices as a violation of the collective right of Lagos residents to safe and unhindered movement. Bakare-Oki also urged market leaders, traders' associations and other commercial stakeholders to prevent their members from displaying goods on roadways,

walkways and pedestrian paths.

According to him, the encroachment of public spaces forces pedestrians onto the road, increasing the risk of accidents and worsening traffic congestion.

The traffic authority further cautioned motorists to ensure their vehicles are in good mechanical condition before embarking on journeys during the festive period. Drivers were also warned against driving under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating substances and reminded to comply strictly with government-approved speed limits.

LASTMA reassured the public that its enforcement teams would remain vigilant and uncompromising in enforcing traffic regulations, including those against illegal parking, road obstruction, speeding and impaired driving throughout the Detty December period and beyond.

The agency appealed to all road users to cooperate with traffic officers, obey traffic laws and exercise patience and civic responsibility to ensure a safe and enjoyable festive season for residents and visitors.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

## Lagos Clears Roadside Markets Along Ikotun-Igando Road



Wahab

The Lagos State Government on Saturday cleared roadside markets along the Ikotun-Igando Road in Alimosho Local Government Area (LGA).

Lagos State Commissioner for Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab, reported this in a post on his official X account, accompanying it with a video showing enforcement raid clearing trader encroachments and waste from Ikotun and Igando markets to reclaim roads and enforce sanitation laws via Project WISE and PSP teams.

"Earlier today, 20th December 2025, our joint enforcement team conducted an operation

across Ikotun Main Market, Igando Market, and other roadside markets along the Ikotun-Igando Road," Wahab said.

"The exercise involved dislodging recalcitrant traders who had encroached on road setbacks and walkways, and addressing improper waste disposal and other nuisance activities in violation of Lagos State sanitation laws."

Wahab added that the operation was jointly executed by Project WISE (led by Mr. Bayo Oladeji) and PSP Services (led by Mr. Tunde Sulaiman).

Meanwhile, the Lagos State Government recently urged all residents to participate in the state's waste-to-wealth initiative to promote a circular economy. This initiative aims to reduce the amount of waste ending up in landfills, encourage the reuse of waste and promote recycling of waste for a sustainable environment.

Making the call during a television

talk show, Wahab emphasised the importance of building a waste management culture that all residents must adopt for proper environmental sanitation.

Officials are visiting various areas across the state every Thursday, including Ikeja, Badagry, Ikorodu, Lagos Island and Epe for the Trash for Cash initiatives, which involves giving cash to residents for their waste or collecting waste directly.

The government plans to establish permanent collecting points where residents can exchange their trash for a reasonable amount of cash, to discourage illicit waste disposal on roads, setbacks, medians, open spaces and canals.

The commissioner explained that the government was transitioning from the linear waste system of pick and drop, which is unsustainable and environmentally unfriendly, to a system where waste is viewed as a resource that can be converted into energy.

According to him, over the past two years, the government has been actively promoting partnership with local and global stakeholders to convert waste into compost fertiliser or recycled plastics.

"Companies such as Lafarge are already using waste to generate power, and the state is exploring other innovative ways to repurpose waste materials," he added.

Wahab said the government signed a concession agreement with a company called Zoom Lion to convert 4,000 tonnes of daily waste into wealth, with 55 per cent of waste to compost fertiliser and recyclables.

The efforts have significantly reduced the amount of waste ending up in landfills, leading to the decommissioning of certain landfills like Olososun, Ikeja and Soluos 3, Igando.

He reiterated that the government banned cart-pushers across the state and introduced the waste-to-wealth initiative in their place.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# Turkish Airlines Open Its First European Lounge In Edinburgh

*Culled*

Turkish Airlines has opened its first-ever European lounge at Edinburgh Airport, aside from the world-famous one at its Istanbul hub, bringing another dimension of its world-renowned hospitality to travellers in Scotland.

The new lounge further elevates Edinburgh's premium travel offering while reinforcing airport's growing role as an international gateway.

Türkiye's flag carrier, which flies to more countries than any other, according to a statement, hosted a celebratory event at Edinburgh International Airport on 10 December to mark the opening of its eighth lounge outside of Türkiye. "Turkish Airlines continues to bring scaled down slices of its five-star Lounge in İstanbul to its international gateways to maintain a seamless and



luxurious experience" "Spanning 673m<sup>2</sup> and accommodating 149 guests, the lounge, the statement offers a premium experience with facilities including

an open buffet featuring a Turkish pied service at lunch and dinner; a luxury relaxation area with TVs and Wi-Fi; and two prayer rooms. The lounge also includes an

accessible restroom for the guests with reduced mobility, a baby care room and flight information screens". Turkish Airlines Chief Operations Officer, M.

Akif Konar said in the statement: "The opening of our new Turkish Airlines Lounge at Edinburgh Airport marks an important milestone for our airline. As our first

abroad lounge in Europe and our eighth outside of Türkiye, this investment demonstrates our deep commitment to our European operations where we already possess a strong presence as the best airline of the continent. Looking ahead, we will continue to build on our presence in the region and bringing our award-winning hospitality closer to travellers here."

Edinburgh International Airport Chief Commercial Officer Stephanie Wear, in the statement said: "The opening of the new Turkish Airlines Lounge marks an exciting chapter for both us and the airline as they launch their first lounge in the Europe abroad at Edinburgh Airport. It demonstrates Turkish Airlines' commitment to the airport and to enhancing the travel experience for passengers.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

*Culled*

Morocco is preparing a major shift in how people move across its cities and regions. The government has committed USD 7.8 B to build a cleaner, more connected public transport system by 2029, marking one of the country's biggest mobility investments to date.

The announcement came during a COP30 side event in Belém, where Abdellatif Maâzouz, president of the Casablanca-Settat regional council, detailed the scale and structure of the national plan.

Officials said the goal is to push public transport to the center of

## Morocco Commits USD 7.8bn Plan To Green Its Public Transport By 2029

daily travel and cut reliance on private cars. The strategy puts heavy emphasis on cleaner technologies, modern infrastructure, and stronger coordination between regions.

A large share of the funding, roughly USD 1.1 B, will support the purchase of 3,750 new buses designed to meet modern efficiency and environmental standards. The rest, about USD 6.7 B, will go into long-term infrastructure, including new tram corridors, regional express trains, and expanded rail links that connect fast-growing cities.

The Ministry of Interior and regional councils describe the initiative as a "clean, multimodal system" intended to ease movement across Morocco while cutting transport emissions, one of the country's most persistent environmental challenges.

Casablanca-Settat has stepped in as the main driver of the transition. The region has committed USD 2.5 B, nearly 40% of its updated development plan, to modernizing mobility across both urban centers and rural zones.

Its model relies on a non-polluting train-tramway backbone, expanded with a fully modernized

bus network. A new digital multimodal platform will tie the system together, offering real-time passenger information, smarter traffic management, and simpler transfers between transport modes.

Officials say the platform could become one of the most advanced in Africa, designed to reduce congestion and make public transport more predictable for commuters.

Several parts of the country have already seen early changes. Road expansions in and around major cities have eased traffic pressure, and monitoring stations have recorded better air quality between 2023 and 2025. Local councils attribute these improvements to a steady shift toward shared transport, helped by more reliable services and better regional planning.

Speaking at COP30, Maâzouz stressed that Morocco's ecological transition is being driven by the country's advanced regionalization policy. Regions now design and execute their own mobility strategies while aligning with national climate targets.

He said this regional approach has accelerated the rollout of major projects, improved coordination between institutions, and encouraged innovation in both planning and service delivery.

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**General News**

# US, Nigeria Sign \$2.1bn Deal To Strengthen Health Care

**Culled:** Washington announced Saturday that it has signed a deal to strengthen Nigeria's health system, a sign of improving ties with Africa's most populous nation after President Donald Trump denounced attacks against Christians there.

Under a five-year bilateral deal, Washington will contribute nearly \$2.1 billion to help prevent HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, and polio, and to protect maternal and child health, a US State Department spokesman said.

Nigeria has committed to increasing its national health spending by nearly \$3 billion over the five-year period, the spokesman said, adding that the bilateral deal contains "a strong emphasis on promoting Christian faith-based health care providers."

Trump last month stunned many by posting on social media that the United States was ready to take military action in Nigeria to counter the killing of Christians.

The US leader has said Christianity faces an "existential threat" in Nigeria and "numerous other countries," spotlighting what his administration says is global



Nigeria signs a \$2.1bn deal with US to strengthen the Health Care system

persecution of Christians. Washington has placed Nigeria back on the list of countries of "particular concern" regarding religious freedom, and has restricted the issuance of visas to Nigerians.

The deal signed Saturday "was negotiated in connection with reforms the Nigerian government has made to prioritize protecting Christian populations from violence," the State Department spokesman said.

Nigeria is divided roughly equally between the predominantly Christian south and the predominantly Muslim north.

Abuja maintains that it does not tolerate any religious persecution.

It has been battling a jihadist insurgency since 2009 and the conflict has killed at least 40,000 — both Christians and Muslims — and displaced around two million, according to the UN.

The United States in early December signed a \$2.5 billion health aid deal with Kenya, the first such bilateral agreement since Trump tore down USAID and sidelined NGOs.

Since returning to power, Donald Trump has closed the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the world's largest aid agency, and ordered an overhaul of American foreign aid under the banner of "America First."

*Find Full Story In The Link*

# Anambra Vows To Recover Stolen Lands

**Culled:** The Anambra State Government intends to form a committee for the recovery of Government lands in the hands of individuals.

The decision was taken at the 25 Anambra State Executive Meeting, which heard reports of people "blatantly intruding on government lands and building on them without permission".

"The council resolved to form a committee to reclaim these government lands in and around Anambra State, according to a statement signed by Dr. Law Mefor, the Commissioner of Information.

The Executive Council also decided to set up a task force on erosion, warning that erosion is an existential issue in Anambra State, and blamed it on the careless actions of communities and regulatory bodies that disregarded environmental regulations.

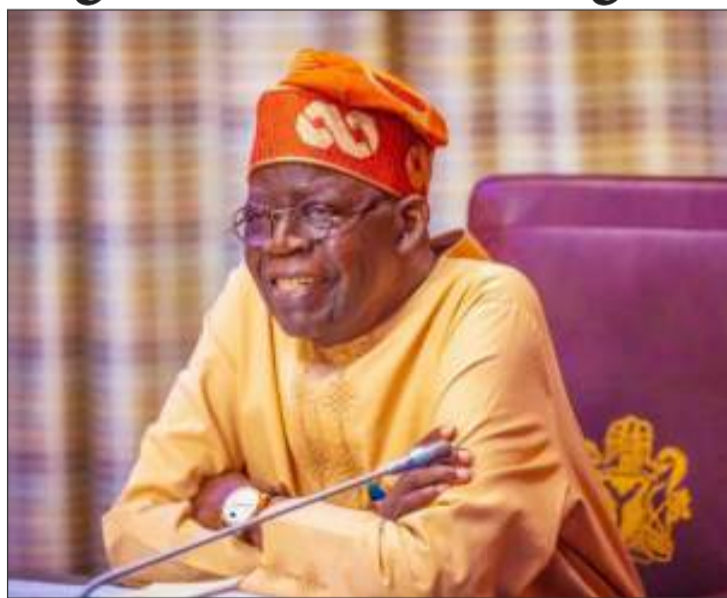
It said some residents direct stormwater from their homes onto the roads, where it accumulates in different ways and contributes to the erosion crisis currently affecting Anambra State.

An "enforcement to force people to build and manage storm waters from their houses and for communities to follow specific guidelines, like building erosion barriers and excavating sand only in locations that have been allowed" will be inaugurated, it said.

Among other issues, the Exco for the provision of water supply to the Ekwulobia Flyover Bridge Fountain and the ornamental garden; for landscaping the car park for the Trauma Centre at Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital (COOUTH), Amaku, Awka; installation of a 3-way traffic light, including pedestrian lights, at the Ifite-Amenyi intersection within Awka metropolis; installation of two 10 kVA inverters with 15 kW lithium batteries at the Anambra State Civil Service Commission Building in Awka, and for the supply and installation of transformer substations at two locations (Nnewi & Umueze-Anam communities.

*Find Full Story In The Link*

# Nigerians In US Pledge Stronger Collaboration With FG



President Bola Tinubu

**Culled:** The Federal Government has commended Nigerians in the United States for their resilience and patriotism, urging them to strengthen collaboration with the government in addressing national challenges and

promoting Nigeria's development.

In a press statement signed by the Director of Media, Public Relations and Protocols of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, Mr Abdur Rahman Balogun, on Sunday, the commendation was made at a joint virtual

meeting organised by NiDCOM and the Nigerian Centre, Washington.

Speaking at the forum, the Chief of Staff to the President, Mr Femi Gbajabiamila, said that although Nigeria is facing serious security challenges in some areas, cooperation and unity, rather than blame, are required to stem the tide.

He urged Nigerians to remain united across ethnic and religious lines.

Also speaking, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Yusuf Tuggar, dismissed claims of genocide as misleading, noting that Nigeria's challenges are rooted in regional conflicts and that misdiagnosing the issues would lead to ineffective solutions.

He reaffirmed the commitment of the Tinubu administration to the 4D agenda of democracy, development, demography and diaspora.

Chairman and Chief Executive of NiDCOM, Mrs Abike Dabiri Erewa, said sustained engagement with Nigerians abroad was essential, adding that outcomes of the discussions would be compiled and forwarded to the President through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Representatives of various diaspora groups pledged their readiness to support Nigeria when called upon, while stakeholders called for the continuation of the forum and more strategic Nigeria-focused engagement mechanisms.

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World Bank

# W' Bank Approves \$500m MSME Finance Package For Nigeria

*Culled:*

The World Bank has approved a \$500 million financing package to expand access to finance for micro, small, and medium enterprises in Nigeria under the Fostering Inclusive Finance for MSMEs in Nigeria project.

In a press release issued by the World Bank in Nigeria on Saturday, the global lender announced that the approval encompasses a \$400 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and a \$100 million credit from the International Development Association to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The statement noted that the project,

known as FINCLUDE, will be implemented by the Development Bank of Nigeria, with credit guarantees to be delivered through its subsidiary, Impact Credit Guarantee Limited.

“The World Bank today approved the Fostering Inclusive Finance for MSMEs in Nigeria project, a \$500m financing package to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

“The operation comprises a \$400m International Bank for Reconstruction and Development loan and a \$100m International Development Association credit and will be implemented by the Development Bank of Nigeria, with credit guarantees delivered through

DBN's subsidiary, Impact Credit Guarantee Limited,” the statement read.

According to the World Bank, Nigeria's MSMEs account for most businesses in the country, contribute nearly half of gross domestic product, and provide a large share of jobs, but continue to face persistent barriers in accessing formal finance.

The institution said fewer than one in twenty MSMEs have access to bank credit, while available loans are often short-term, expensive, and dependent on collateral requirements that exclude many viable firms.

It added that women-led enterprises,

which make up a substantial portion of MSMEs, are disproportionately affected by higher rejection rates and limited access to tailored financial products.

Agribusinesses, described as central to food security and rural livelihoods, were also said to face difficulties in securing longer-tenor financing for equipment, processing, storage, and logistics.

The press release stated that FINCLUDE is designed to address these challenges by expanding affordable, longer-term finance and tailored solutions for segments with the greatest development impact, particularly women-led businesses and agribusinesses.

*Find Full Story In The Link*

# Senate Considers Review Of 2025 Budget To N43.5trn

The National Senate Wednesday passed for second reading 'a Bill for an Act to Repeal and Re-Enact the 2024/2025 Appropriations Act,' which when enacted, would bring down the spending plan to a total sum of N43.56 trillion.

The proposed expenditure framework, according to the Senate, comprises N1.74 trillion for statutory transfers; N8.27 trillion for debt service; N11.27 trillion for recurrent

(non-debt) expenditure and N22.28 trillion for capital expenditure and development fund contribution, as provided in the bill.

Consequently, the upper chamber disclosed that it had directed the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr. Olawale Edun; Minister of Budget and National Planning, Senator Atiku Bagudu and Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service, Dr. Zacch Adedeji, among

others, to appear before the Senate Committee on Appropriations today to provide further clarification on the proposed expenditure plan.

Leading the debate on the amendment on Wednesday, Leader of the Senate, Senator Opeyemi Bamidele, explained the essence of this proposal, which according to him, was not merely procedural; it is structural and reform-driven.

He, further, argued that the bill sought

“to repeal and re-enact the existing appropriation framework in order to bring an end to the unhealthy practice of running multiple budget cycles concurrently.”

He pointed out diverse explanations, which established that such a practice had historically undermined budget clarity, weakened fiscal discipline, and blurred accountability across ministries, departments and agencies.

*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

#### PROFILE/LEVERAGE

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.

### OTHER BENEFITS

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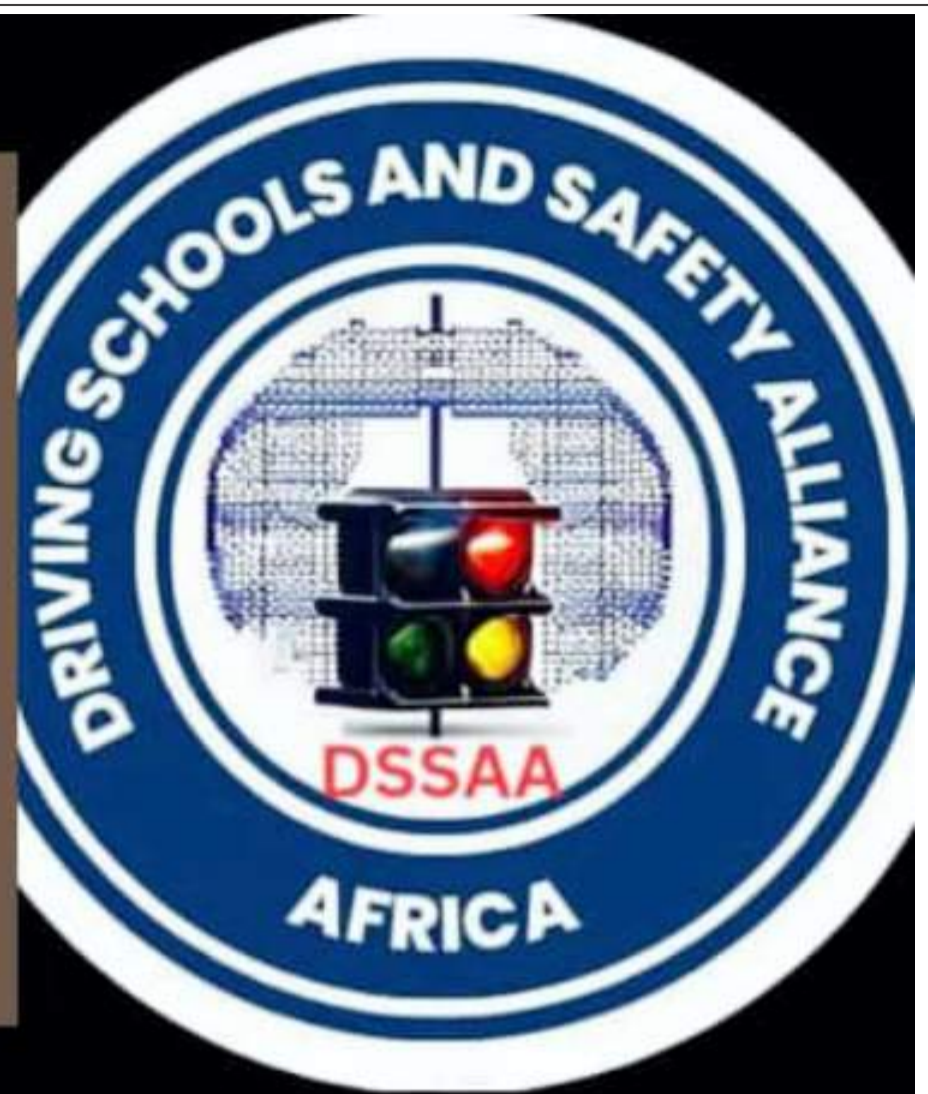


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