

Police Arrest Commercial Motorcyclists For Plying Abuja Highways, Major Roads

In continuation of its agencies, impounded against the plying of fight against crime, the t w e n t y - o n e major roads and FCT Police Command, c o m m e r c i a l highways within the on Thursday, in motorcycles and Federal Capital collaboration with arrested their riders in Territory. sister security enforcement of the ban A statement issued

CONTINUES ON P7

Naval Chief Pledges To Combat Maritime Crimes, Secure Nigeria's Waters

The Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Idi Abbas, has pledged to combat maritime crimes to ensure the safety and security of

the country's maritime environment. He disclosed this on Thursday during an operational visit to inspect facilities at the

Nigerian Navy Reference Hospital and other projects in Calabar, the capital of Cross River State, stressing that the

CONTINUES ON P2



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TRANSPORTATION

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Fri, January 9th 2026

NCAA Threatens Stiffer Sanctions On Airlines Over Flight Delays

The Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has threatened stiffer sanctions on airlines across the

country over unnecessary flight delays.

NCAA Director of Public

Affairs and Consumer Protection, Michael Achimugu, issued the

threat through a

statement posted on his official X handle on Thursday.

"We will be pushing for

stiffer penalties against domestic airlines for chronic delays. We

CONTINUES ON P3

NUPRC Fixes Jan 14 For Pre-Bid Conference On 2025 Oil Blocks

P2

Monarch Drives Eleme Community's Transfor'ation With Major Road Projects

P2

NCS Launches Temporary Vehicle Permit For Int'l Travelers

P5



Capt Chris Najomo - Director General Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA)

Dr. Segun Alabi Appointed Head Of Com'ications And Media For Omi Eko Project

The Omi Eko Project, a €410 million initiative aimed at transforming water transportation across Lagos State, has

appointed Dr. Segun Alabi as its new Head of Communications and Media.

The appointment was announced by the

Special Adviser on Blue Economy to the Governor of Lagos State and Project Coordinator, Mr. Oluwadamilola

Emmanuel, who expressed confidence in Dr. Alabi's ability to effectively lead the project's communications and media engagements.

CONTINUES ON P3

Air Peace Secures Additional B737-800 From KlasJet P5

Local Transport News

Jigawa Records 173 Deaths, 1,000 Injuries In 2025 - FRSC

Culled

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) reported that no fewer than 173 people died and 1,000 sustained various degrees of injuries in road traffic crashes across Jigawa State in 2025.

The Sector Commander of the FRSC in the state, Umar Masa'udu Matazu, stated this in an interview with newsmen.

He noted that over 85 per cent of the accidents were caused by human factors, describing the figures as tragic and avoidable.

According to him, the state recorded 315 road accidents in 2025, resulting in 1,000 people sustaining varying degrees of injuries.

"Human error accounted for about 85 per cent of the accidents, with over-speeding, overloading and the use of expired or worn-out tyres identified as the major causes," he said.

DAILY POST reported that over 40 people lost their lives within two weeks, many were injured and properties worth millions were lost due to a series of road

accidents across the state.

Matazu appealed to the Jigawa State government to strengthen road safety efforts through increased investment in modern equipment, logistics, and road infrastructure.

He also urged motorists and the general public to take personal responsibility for safety on the highways by obeying speed limits, avoiding reckless driving, and ensuring that vehicle tyres are in good condition.

Find Full Story In The Link



FRSC rescue team

Port Police Strengthen Security Of Maritime Infrastructure In Lagos

Culled

The Ports Authority Police, Western Command, Apapa, has set its operational priorities for the year, including enhanced security of port facilities and critical maritime infrastructure, strengthened crime prevention and intelligence gathering within port environments, as well as sustained collaboration with sister security agencies and port stakeholders. Others include prompt and professional responses to security threats and maritime-related crimes, respect for human rights, and improved personnel welfare, as well as training and capacity building.

The priorities were highlighted at the first Commissioner's Conference for the year, which brought together members of the Command's Management Team, the Area Commander, Divisional Police Officers, Heads of Departments and other senior officers across formations under the Command.

Commissioner of Police, Ports Authority Police, Western Command, Oluwatoyin

Agbaminjoja, stated that the conference marked the strategic commencement of policing activities in the maritime industry and provided operational direction for the Command in the new year.

In a statement signed by the Ports Authority Police (Western) Command, Isaac Hundeyin, the Commissioner of Police, emphasised the importance of professionalism, discipline, intelligence-led policing, and inter-agency collaboration in safeguarding the country's maritime domain.

She charged officers to rededicate themselves to their constitutional responsibilities, stressing zero tolerance for corruption, misconduct, or abuse of office.

The Commissioner reaffirmed the Command's commitment to maintaining peace, safety and security across all western ports and maritime corridors, assuring port users, stakeholders, and the general public of the Nigeria Police Force's readiness to support economic activities and national development.

Find Full Story In The Link

Maritime Stakeholders Must Recommit To Sector Impact - MARAN

Culled

The Maritime Reporters Association of Nigeria, MARAN has charged maritime stakeholders to recommit themselves to greater impact in the marine and blue economy as the nation steps into the year 2026.

In a New Year message to members and stakeholders, the Chairman of MARAN, Mr. Tunde Ayodele described 2026 as a "year of greater impact," stressing the need for improved service delivery and more robust maritime reportage to support national development.

According to him, the collective efforts of stakeholders in the outgoing year contributed positively to the growth of the maritime sector, urging all parties to sustain the spirit of unity and collaboration in the new year.

"United, we can make Nigeria proud by contributing our quota to national development, each from our own little corner," the MARAN chairman said.

Ayodele reaffirmed MARAN's readiness to collaborate with organisations and institutions across the maritime value



Maritime

chain, noting that such partnerships are crucial to making Nigeria's maritime space one that is admired and celebrated.

He expressed appreciation for the cooperation and support extended to the association throughout 2025 and called for renewed commitment in the year ahead.

"Thank you for your cooperation and

support in 2025. Let us do it again in 2026," he added.

Ayodele concluded by wishing members and stakeholders a happy new year and welcoming them to what he described as a year of greater impact for the maritime industry and the nation at large.

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Local Transport News

A'ibom Gov Tasks Airport Committee On April 1 Take-Off Date

Culled

Akwa Ibom State Governor, Umo Eno, has tasked the inter-ministerial committee on the international airport status of the Victor Attah Airport to ensure that all required benchmarks are met ahead of the facility's operational take-off in April this year.

The Federal Government last year upgraded the Victor Attah Airport to international status, clearing the way for the facility to begin processing international passengers this year.

The governor also charged the committee on the Treasury Single Account to ensure the full implementation of the TSA for Internally Generated Revenue in the state.

Governor Eno gave the charge while inaugurating the committees shortly after signing into law the ₦1.585 trillion 2026 budget during an enlarged State Executive Council meeting on Monday.

A statement by the Commissioner for Information, Mr Aniekan Umanah, on

Tuesday said the inauguration of the committees marked another strategic step in the administration's drive to strengthen governance systems while fast-tracking the completion of major development projects across the state.

According to the statement, members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on International Airport Status Implementation include Prince Enobong Uwah, Secretary to the State Government, as chairman; Hon. Emem Bob, Commissioner for Finance and

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Governor Eno

Lagos Approves Discount For Faded Number Plate Replacement

Culled

The Lagos State Government has approved a three-month discount window for motorists to replace faded and unreadable vehicle number plates, as part of efforts to improve road safety and strengthen security across the state.

The announcement was made in a statement posted on the official Facebook page of the Lagos State Government on Wednesday.

The approval was granted by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and disclosed by the Permanent Secretary of the Motor Vehicles Administration Agency, Mr. Rasheed Muri-Okunola.

He described the initiative as a citizen-friendly intervention aimed at encouraging voluntary compliance among motorists.

According to the state government, clear and legible number plates are essential for effective traffic management, vehicle identification, and public safety.

It noted that faded or unreadable plates pose challenges to law enforcement

agencies and undermine crime detection efforts.

"The Lagos State Government has approved a three-month rebate window for motorists to replace faded and unreadable vehicle number plates, as part of renewed efforts to enhance road safety, improve vehicle identification, and strengthen security across the state," the statement said.

Muri-Okunola explained that the discount was introduced to reduce the financial burden on vehicle owners and provide sufficient time for motorists to replace worn-out plates.

However, the government did not disclose the percentage of the discount to be offered.

The rebate applies strictly to vehicles with faded, worn, or unclear number plates and does not cover new vehicle registrations.

Motorists were advised to visit the MVAA One-Stop Centre in Oshodi or any MVAA office across the state to access the service.

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Oyetola Dismantles Obstacles Hindering Maritime Growth In 2025

Culled

The Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, implemented significant reforms throughout 2025, which assisted the country in removing long-standing obstacles to maritime growth and development.

According to the Minister's Special Adviser, Dr Bolaji Akinola, the marine and blue economy sector has been decisively unlocked for genuine growth and development under Oyetola's leadership, with several long-standing jinxes — once thought permanent — successfully broken

Nigeria's maritime sector, Akinola said, has entered a decisive phase of renewal following a series of far-reaching interventions by Oyetola.

Akinola said the Minister's actions since assuming office in August 2023, and most notably throughout 2025, have dismantled obstacles that constrained the sector for decades. These reforms, he noted, have restored confidence, improved



Oyetola

performance and repositioned the marine and blue economy as a critical pillar of Nigeria's economic diversification agenda.

Foremost among these achievements, he said, was the resolution of the notorious Apapa gridlock, which for over 20 years paralysed the Lagos port corridor and severely disrupted trade. By early 2024, sustained policy

coordination, operational discipline, and infrastructure optimisation delivered lasting relief to Apapa and its environs.

He said the clearing of the gridlock significantly reduced cargo dwell time, lowered logistics costs, enhanced port efficiency, and removed a major disincentive to investment, effectively restoring the Lagos ports as functional gateways for national and regional

commerce.

Another long-standing setback, according to the Special Adviser, was Nigeria's prolonged absence from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council.

He noted that Nigeria's return to the IMO Council in 2025, after 14 years outside the global maritime decision-making body, followed a keenly contested election and marked a major restoration of the country's international maritime standing.

Achieved under Minister Oyetola's focused leadership, the feat strengthened Nigeria's influence in shaping global maritime regulations, reinforced its leadership role in Africa, and reaffirmed international confidence in its maritime governance.

Akinola added that the Minister also secured approval in 2025 for Nigeria's first comprehensive port upgrade and modernisation in over 50 years, breaking another jinx that left the nation's ports operating on obsolete infrastructure.

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Local Transport News

AA Rano Unveils Unmanned Fuel Stations

Culled

AA Rano Nigeria, one of the country's leading downstream petroleum marketing companies, has unveiled Nigeria's first fully automated and unmanned fuel stations, marking a major step in the digital transformation of the fuel retail sector.

The initiative follows a business partnership between AA Rano and Petrosoft Limited, a Nigerian technology firm specialising in downstream oil and gas business management systems. Under the partnership, Petrosoft will deploy its automated fuel station technology across AA Rano's retail network nationwide.

According to a statement on Tuesday, the unmanned stations are scheduled to go live in January 2026 and will offer 24-hour self-service fuelling, contactless payments and real-time monitoring, eliminating the need for on-site attendants.

AA Rano said the stations are designed

to improve transparency, reduce operational inefficiencies and give customers confidence that they receive the exact quantity of fuel paid for.

Speaking on the development, General Manager, Retail, AA Rano Nigeria, Mohammed Sule, said the move reflects the company's focus on innovation and service delivery in a highly competitive downstream market.

"Our commitment to excellence and innovation led us to Petrosoft.



AA Rano

Culled

Local refinery operators, under the Crude Oil Refineries Association of Nigeria, have challenged fuel importers and have clashed with marketers over the continued importation of refined petroleum products.

While local refiners called on the Federal Government to restrict fuel imports and prioritise domestic refining, retailers under the aegis of the Petroleum Products Retail Outlet Owners Association of Nigeria differed, saying the importation window should remain open for the whole of 2026.

CORAN had held that imports should only serve as a balancing mechanism, but PETROAN argued that willing traders should be allowed to import fuel to prevent shortages.

In a position paper titled 'True Faith in Nigeria's Downstream: Why Local Refinery Companies Built While Importers Traded', and made available to The PUNCH by the CORAN Publicity Secretary, Eche Idoko, yesterday, the association said commitment to the sector should be measured by capital invested and long-term risk exposure, not trading

Local Refiners, Marketers Clash Over Fuel Imports

activity.

"Who has truly demonstrated faith in Nigeria's downstream sector—local refinery companies or petroleum importers? The answer is not ideological. It is grounded in evidence, capital behaviour, and long-term commitment," CORAN stated.

The association said local refinery companies had demonstrated belief in Nigeria by committing capital to fixed industrial assets located within the country. "Local refinery companies—spanning large-scale, mid-scale, and modular refineries—have demonstrated belief in Nigeria's downstream sector by committing capital to fixed industrial assets located within the country," it said.

Find Full Story In The Link

Domestic Air Traffic Plunges As Int'l Passengers Swell



Airlines

The Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria has revealed a widening imbalance in the nation's aviation sector, as domestic air travel continues to decline while international passenger traffic records sustained growth.

According to the figures, released by FAAN on Tuesday, passenger movements within Nigeria have fallen to their lowest level in three years, underscoring the mounting challenges facing local airlines.

For local operators, multiple taxes led the list of their complaints throughout 2024 and 2025, a development that has led to an astronomical increase in domestic flight costs.

While local operators continue to lament, international operators are witnessing rising throughput, buoyed by strong demand for overseas travel. Considering Nigeria's lack of capacity, international airlines fly into the country and keep benefiting from the demand for international travel.

FAAN statistics show that domestic passenger traffic declined to 12.54 million in 2024, down from 14.52 million recorded in 2022. This represents a sharp contraction in a market once regarded as the backbone of Nigeria's aviation industry.

The downturn has been gradual but persistent. Between 2022 and 2023, domestic passenger numbers dropped from 14,519,565 to 13,409,701, a decrease of 7.6 per cent. The decline continued into 2024, with traffic falling further to 12,543,153, meaning a 6.4 per cent year-on-year reduction. The domestic aviation market has shrunk by 13.6 per cent since 2022, losing nearly two

million passengers within three years. While domestic travel struggles, international passenger traffic tells a different story. FAAN data indicates that international movements rose from 3,752,746 passengers in 2022 to 4,070,833 in 2023, representing an 8.4 per cent increase.

The upward trend continued in 2024, with international traffic climbing to 4,334,665 passengers, an additional 6.4 per cent growth.

Between 2022 and 2024, international air travel has expanded by 15.5 per cent, adding more than 580,000 passengers annually.

Observers link this growth to a combination of factors, including sustained demand from high-income travellers, increased migration, expanding cross-border trade and Nigeria's deeper integration into global travel networks.

The contrasting trends present mixed implications for the aviation sector. While rising international traffic offers some relief for airport revenues and enhances global connectivity, the

shrinking domestic market poses serious concerns for local airlines, many of which rely heavily on intra-national routes for survival.

Aviation stakeholders warn that unless policy and cost pressures are addressed, Nigerian passengers may continue to travel via roads.

A retired pilot, Mohammed Badamosi, said the decline may persist if domestic operators refuse to treat their passengers better than they currently do.

Badamosi also questioned why Nigerians would want to travel via air when they could avoid the incessant flight cancellations by opting for road travel.

He explained that people are discouraged by high fares, noting that he recently travelled by road from Benin to Agbo and found the cost nearly the same as a Lagos-Benin road trip.

According to him, it makes little sense for travellers to pay very high airfares only to still cover long distances by road at additional cost.

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- Wear a respirator or paint mask
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...quality speaks



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QUALITY EMULSION

...quality speaks



Umuahia Central Bus Terminal To Become One-Stop Transport Hub - Otti

Culled

The Governor of Abia State, Dr Alex Otti, has expressed satisfaction with the progress of work on the Umuahia Central Bus Terminal, a project aimed at creating a one-stop transport hub for commuters.

He expressed his satisfaction with the progress of the work on Wednesday during an inspection visit to the site.

Dr. Otti stated that the project is on track, citing the example of London's Paddington Terminal, which integrates various modes of transportation and amenities.

"This is not new, it has been done elsewhere. When you go to the UK, Paddington Terminal ensures convergence of the railway, the other means of transportation and of course you have a shopping plaza, cinema, hotel, everything.

"So we thought we should concentrate all those transport terminals in this place, instead of having different



Gov Otti inspecting the ongoing construction of the Umuahia central bus terminal

terminals at different multimodal transport places in the town," hub. He expressed confidence that the terminal will be a game changer for transportation in Umuahia, providing convenience and ease for commuters.

Otti said. Dr. Otti assured that the project will be completed soon, saying, "I'm happy with the progress of work, it's better done right first for commuters. The terminal, designed to centralize transport activities, will house a bus station, railway station, and parking facilities, making it a time."

Transportation, Dr. Isaac Ukeagbu, explained that all parks in Umuahia will be centralized at the terminal, with a similar project underway in Aba, expected to be completed by May.

"We just wanted to centralize all transport activities and that was why His Excellency in his wisdom decided to build up a central bus terminal.

To stand as a one stop transport hub for all commuters and passengers or travelers. It's a point that whatever mode of transport you want to use to travel, once you come into the central bus terminal, you'll be able to get it," Ukeagbu said.

The railway station is being relocated to the terminal, with designs almost complete, following agreements with the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

We've had series and series of meetings with Engineer Kayode Opeifa who is the Managing Director of Nigerian Railway Corporation. They've given us the nod to go ahead and move the train station into the central bus terminal," Ukeagbu revealed.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Residents Seek Intervention Over Deplorable Lagos Comm'ty Road



The deplorable road

Residents of Puposhola in the New Oko-Oba area of Lagos State have appealed to the state government to fix the dilapidated road in their community.

The residents claimed that the bad road had subjected them to untold hardship and unnecessary spending.

They appealed in separate interviews with a PUNCH Metro correspondent who visited the area on Monday.

Our correspondent observed that the long stretch of the road was riddled with potholes and posed serious driving challenges, as motorists struggled to navigate the failed portions.

A resident who identified himself as Amechi disclosed that he had continued to spend money repairing his vehicles due to the damage caused by the bad road.

He also blamed the increase in transportation costs within the area on the poor condition of the road.

"The bad road has affected me in several ways, especially when you have a car. Even for those who don't have cars, it affects them because the price of transportation around here is on the high side.

"Common means of transportation like buses don't come to this area often because of the bad road. You end up visiting mechanic workshops every week. There must be one problem or another with your car."

While stressing that the government had neglected their plight, Amechi appealed for intervention to fix the road.

"They should fix it. Are they not collecting taxes from us? Are they not collecting land use charges? We pay

all the charges that are required, as normal citizens should pay.

"We do everything, yet they don't do anything for us. If they want to start collecting money, they will remember this place. But when it comes to fixing the roads, they will not," he added.

Another resident, Adetoye Adewale, corroborated the claim that the bad road had caused hardship for motorists in the area.

Adewale said the situation was usually worse during the rainy season.

He noted, "The road is bad, and it causes a lot of problems. It has affected many cars and tricycles. Even people who are walking cannot walk comfortably because they have to be watchful.

"You have to look behind you because sometimes you don't know when a commercial motorcycle is close to you.

"When it rains, you will not be able to move freely. The government has been promising us several times that

the road will be fixed, but up till now, we haven't seen any sign that they are ready to fix the road.

"I have a shop along this road, so I know the situation very well. I have been on this road for more than 10 years, and it has been affecting us for a long time.

"People complain a lot, especially motorcycle riders and maruwa operators. They often contribute money among themselves.

"They go to mechanics several times, even when they don't expect to, and they have to spend the money they make to repair their tricycle, especially the wheels."

A trader in the area, David Adeshola, lamented that his business often suffered during the rainy season due to low patronage caused by the bad road.

"I have been a shop owner in this area for about two years. The road affects my business a lot, especially when it rains. Patronage becomes low, and it affects business growth. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Airlines Rebuild Caribbean Schedules After US action In Venezuela

Culled

Flights to and from the Eastern Caribbean are being restored after U.S. aviation authorities lifted temporary airspace restrictions imposed following U.S. military action in Venezuela.

The restrictions, put in place by the FAA, followed U.S. strikes in Venezuela and the subsequent capture of President Nicolás Maduro, prompting the restriction of commercial flight operations in portions of Caribbean airspace as a precaution.

The curbs expired at midnight eastern time early on Jan. 4, allowing airlines to resume flights and begin the task of restoring disrupted schedules. U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy confirmed the reopening in a post on X, saying: "The original restrictions around the Caribbean airspace are expiring at 12:00 a.m. ET and flights can resume. Airlines



are informed, and will update their schedules quickly."

The closure triggered hundreds of cancellations across the region on Saturday, as airlines were

forced to suspend flights during an already capacity-constrained New Year holiday travel period. Airports across Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and several

Eastern Caribbean nations were hit by widespread cancellations. American Airlines says it has moved quickly to add capacity, resuming scheduled service on Jan.

4 and offering nearly 5,000 additional seats through extra flights and the use of larger aircraft. By Jan. 5, the carrier says it has expanded that to nearly 7,000 extra seats

supported by 43 additional flights, including limited interisland service in the Eastern Caribbean to move passengers into San Juan for onward connections to the mainland U.S.

Delta Air Lines has also added more than 2,600 seats through supplemental Caribbean flights on Jan. 5 and aimed to reaccommodate affected customers by Jan. 6. However, the airline cautions that physical space limitations at many Caribbean airports could result in some delays.

Other carriers have also resumed operations. United Airlines has restored its Caribbean schedule and added additional flights to assist displaced travelers, while JetBlue Airways says it has rebooked passengers and added flights where possible after canceling more than 200 flights during the closure. [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. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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General News

Ministry Says Nigeria Is Ready, Equipped To Trade In AfCFTA Market

Culled:
The Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI) has declared that Nigeria is now substantively ready, equipped, and positioned to compete within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Following a year of reinvigorated implementation in 2025, the government has fulfilled legal obligations and launched some infrastructure it says will empower local businesses in the continental market.

Nigeria has achieved several "firsts" in its journey toward continental integration, becoming the first State Party to conclude a mandated five-year implementation review and the first to ratify the AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade.

Also, to ensure businesses can benefit from preferential treatment, the Ministry has gazetted key legal instruments across three primary domains.

In April 2025, Nigeria gazetted its Provisional Schedule of Tariff Concessions, allowing for reduced or eliminated tariffs on goods originating within Africa.

The government also submitted a Schedule of Specific Commitments to



AfCFTA

the ECOWAS Commission in October 2025, covering over 90 services across priority sectors such as financial services, transport, and tourism.

Additionally, with the ratification of the Digital Trade Protocol in November 2025, Nigerian digital products now enjoy enhanced regulatory protections and preferential access across the continent. The Ministry has introduced practical tools to lower the barriers to entry for Nigerian

exporters. One of such is a dedicated exports air cargo corridor to East and Southern Africa that was launched in partnership with Uganda Airlines and the UNDP.

This corridor offers cargo rates that are 50 percent to 75 percent cheaper than standard market rates. A new market intelligence tool, developed with the UNDP, provides data-driven insights for firms trading cosmetics, textiles, and agro-processed products in 13 key

African markets.

On digital mapping, the Ministry completed the first-ever national mapping of digital services, creating a directory of over 200 firms ready to expand into priority markets like Egypt, Kenya, and South Africa.

To sustain this momentum, Jumoke Oduwole, the minister of Industry, Trade and Investment inaugurated the AfCFTA Central Coordination Committee (CCC) in March 2025.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Health Minister Confirms Mass Measles, Yellow Fever Vaccination

Culled:

The Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Professor Muhammad Pate, says the Nigerian Government has administered more than 25 million doses of measles vaccine and 22 million doses of yellow fever vaccine nationwide.

Pate highlighted significant gains in immunisation coverage and preventive healthcare delivery across the country. He said, "Under this administration, over 25 million measles doses and 22 million yellow fever vaccinations have been administered, alongside Africa's first Mpox vaccine rollout."

The Minister explained that beyond measles and yellow fever, five million children had received the pentavalent vaccine, and 10 million Nigerians were vaccinated with the tetanus-diphtheria vaccine through the nationwide diphtheria response.

According to the Minister, more than one million vaccine doses from the Gavi-funded global stockpile were also deployed to support meningitis outbreak control in northern regions.

"As the country bearing the world's highest malaria burden, accounting for approximately 39.3 per cent of malaria-related deaths among children under five, deployment of the R21 Matrix-M vaccine marks a major public health milestone," he said.

He explained that the malaria vaccine rollout commenced in Bayelsa and Kebbi states, with Kebbi alone targeting 179,542 children of age five to 15 months.

"Nigeria received one million doses of the malaria vaccine, including 846,200 doses from Gavi and 153,800 doses financed by the Federal Government, with plans underway for further scale-up," he said.

The Minister stated that in 2025, the Federal Government committed 54 million dollars in domestic resources to the global fight against tuberculosis and emerged as the largest African contributor to the Global Fund, as announced at the most recent G20 meeting in Johannesburg.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

2026 Budget To Consolidate Tinubu's Reform Gains



Mohammed Idris

Culled:
The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, has said the 2026 Federal Government budget is designed to consolidate the gains of President Bola Ahmed

Tinubu's reform agenda,

which he said is already yielding positive results.

Idris made this known in an op-ed titled "A Defining Moment for Nigeria: Why Staying the Course Matters," published in national newspapers on Monday.

The op-ed was cited in a

statement signed by Rabiu Ibrahim, Special Assistant (Media) to the Honourable Minister of Information and National Orientation.

Describing the 2026 appropriation proposal as strategic, the minister said, "Our 'Budget of Consolidation, Renewed Resilience and Shared Prosperity' is critical. It is a commitment to double down on what is working, to solidify gains, and to ensure that the shared prosperity we speak of becomes a lived reality for more Nigerians, faster."

He noted that the last 31 months under the Tinubu administration had involved difficult but necessary reforms aimed at ending long-standing economic stagnation and laying the

foundation for sustainable growth.

According to him, early indicators of progress are emerging, including expansion in business activity, improved investor confidence, easing inflation and strengthening external reserves.

"These are not just numbers. They are the foundation for lasting improvement in the daily lives of Nigerians," he said.

Beyond economic indicators, Idris emphasised the importance of trust and transparent communication between the government and citizens, reaffirming his commitment to keeping Nigerians informed about policies, challenges and progress.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



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Education first

Nigeria Emerges Fifth-best English Speaking Country In Africa

Culled: Nigeria has emerged as the fifth-best English-speaking country in Africa, according to the 2025 Education First English Proficiency Index cited by PUNCH Online on EF's website on Monday.

The report, compiled by global education leader EF, assessed English skills across 123 countries and regions, using data from 2.2 million test takers. This year's edition also included, for the first time, speaking and writing skills, measured using artificial intelligence technology developed by EF's education technology arm.

English, Nigeria's official language, remains central to education, governance, media, and business, helping the country maintain strong proficiency levels. On the African continent, Nigeria trails South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Zambia, which lead in English proficiency. The rankings underscore the growing importance of English as a bridge for international communication, education, and commerce.

Top 10 English-Speaking Countries in Africa (EF EPI 2025):

South Africa – Widespread use in government, education, media, and business.

Zimbabwe – English is the primary language of instruction and administration.

Kenya – Official language alongside Swahili, widely used in urban and professional settings.

Zambia – English is the official and main medium of instruction.

Nigeria – Official language, central to national communication and commerce.

Ghana – English is used from basic to tertiary education and in public administration.

Uganda – Official language; key role in trade, diplomacy, and professional environments.

Ethiopia – Widely used in education and international affairs, though not official.

Tunisia – Growing adoption among youth and professionals in education, tech, and tourism.

Morocco – Increasing popularity in schools and business for global trade and relations.

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[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Gombe Bans Activities Of Scrap Scavengers

The Gombe State Government has banned the activities of scavengers of scrap materials popularly known as 'Bola-jari' in an effort aimed at addressing emerging security challenges in the state

The ban which got the approval of the State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, was disclosed to Journalists shortly after an Expanded State Security Council Meeting convened to review emerging security challenges

and recent incidents in the state Both dealers and scavengers of scrap materials in Gombe have constituted themselves into nuisance and causing serious security problems.

There has been an outcry of vandalization of Government and other public facilities as well as private homes by suspected scavengers who in turn, sell to dealers of such materials.

The council observed that operators in

the scrap business lack a coordinated structure, recognised leadership and effective regulatory framework, making their activities difficult to monitor and control.

Even though the operators of the business try to make it a legitimate one, it has caused serious security breach which Government in turn, tried to regulate, in an effort to check criminal elements in the entire activities.

Briefing newsmen shortly after the Expanded State Security Council Meeting, the State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Zubairu Mohammed Umar, in company of the State Commissioner of Police, Umar A Chuso and the Emir of Yamaltu, Alhaji Abubakar Aliyu, Journalists were told that the ban became inevitable following the inability of various segments of the business to come up with a unified leadership.
[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

DIGITAL MARKETING

DSSAA will promote your business from time to time on our growing social media handles.

JOB FAIR

Your Road Safety organization or Driving School qualifies as a Job Fair Agent. You earn money from this.

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You earn money from time to time facilitating Road Safety Courses and Seminars online and physically in different Countries.

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