

## NIMASA Elevates Nigeria's Maritime Profile With 2025 Milestones

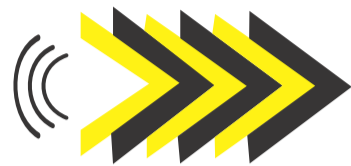
The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) has said that it closed 2025 with a string of landmark achievements that reinforced Nigeria's maritime credibility and elevated the country's influence in global maritime governance. Director-General of NIMASA, Dr. Dayo Mobereola said the agency earned widespread commendation from

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## Nigeria Ranks On Africa's Fifth-Largest Airline Market In December 2025

Nigeria ranked as Africa's fifth-largest airline market with a total of 1.16 million scheduled passenger seats in December 2025, covering both domestic and international flights. The capacity placed Nigeria behind Egypt, South Africa, Morocco, and Ethiopia during the period. The data was drawn from the OAG Monthly Airline Data Updates for the

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Mon, January 5th 2026

## Bakare-Oki Commends Media Support For LASTMA, Calls For Stronger P'ship In 2026

The General Manager of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), Mr. Olalekan Bakare-

Oki, has commended media practitioners for their sustained support and professionalism in projecting the agency's activities and mandate throughout 2025, describing the partnership as vital to improving public confidence and awareness of traffic management in Lagos State. Bakare-Oki gave the

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## Edo Gov Threatens To Revoke Contracts Over Road Project Delays

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## Lagos, Nasarawa Top States With Highest Bus Fares In October

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## Aviation Institute Graduates 650 Students In Lagos

P2



Olalekan Bakare-Oki - General Manager, Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA).

## NIWA Condoles Families Of Yobe, Lagos' Boat Accidents' Victims

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority has sanctioned 19 of its officers for various acts of misconduct recorded in 2025. The General Manager of LASTMA, Mr Olalekan Bakare-Oki, disclosed this on Thursday in Lagos, saying the sanctions followed disciplinary actions approved by the Lagos State Civil Service Commission. According to him, five officers were dismissed from service, nine were demoted, while the remaining personnel received severe warning letters.

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## Five Die, 13 Injured In Plateau Road Crash

P5

## Local Transport News

# Aviation Institute Graduates 650 Students In Lagos

### Culled

The Universal School of Aviation has graduated about 650 students at its 14th convocation and awards ceremony held at its headquarters in Lagos.

In a statement made available to Sunday PUNCH, the management of the institute said the graduands were trained across various aviation and tourism-related disciplines, including cabin crew operations and flight dispatch, among others.

Speaking at the programme held recently, the Director of Studies for the institute, Eedris Onifade, said the institution, established in 2008, had remained committed to structured aviation manpower development.

He explained that the school began with management-related programmes before expanding into licensed aviation courses, adding that it has since carved a strong niche within the industry.

According to him, graduates from the institute were currently employed across airlines, airports, and travel and tourism

organisations within and outside Nigeria.

He further disclosed that regulatory approvals secured in Sierra Leone and the Republic of Chad had expanded the institution's international footprint.

Onifade charged the graduands to uphold safety, professionalism and integrity, stressing that aviation is a responsibility-driven industry and urging them to remain worthy ambassadors of the school.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Universal school of Aviation

# Edo Gov Threatens To Revoke Contracts Over Road Projects Delays

### Culled

Edo State Governor, Monday Okpebholo, has issued a stern warning to road contractors in Edo South Senatorial District, threatening to revoke contracts of firms failing to meet project deadlines and specifications.

The governor made the remarks on Saturday during an inspection tour of ongoing road construction projects across the region.

The visit, part of the administration's drive to ensure timely delivery and value for public funds, saw Okpebholo assessing works at several key locations, including Church Road, Upper Ekenwan Road, Ogheghe Road, and Sapele Road Bypass. "We've gone round several places today. We were at Church Road, Upper Ekenwan Road, and we were not too happy with the contractors there," the governor said.

He stressed that defaulters would face consequences if improvements were not made. "We have made our observations known to the contractor on the need to meet specifications.

By the time we return next time and nothing has happened the way we want it, we can revoke that job," Okpebholo warned.

While expressing dissatisfaction at some sites, the governor commended contractors delivering quality work. "We have gone to three other places, and I can see that everything is going well there. I am very happy with the contractor handling the job in Ogheghe; they are doing a very good job. I am also very happy with the contractor handling Sapele Road; they are doing a very good job," he noted.

Highlighting the urgency of the works, the governor linked timely road delivery to the approaching rainy season, which could hinder progress.

"We will continue to monitor these projects closely even at weekends. We won't waste time because there is no time. The rainy season is almost here, and if we are not working, that means nothing will be achieved," Okpebholo said.

He also tied the projects to the national agenda, saying road construction is a key method to restore public confidence.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# Nigeria Ranks On Africa's Fifth-Largest Airline Market In December 2025

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Nigeria ranked as Africa's fifth-largest airline market with a total of 1.16 million scheduled passenger seats in December 2025, covering both domestic and international flights.

The capacity placed Nigeria behind Egypt, South Africa, Morocco, and Ethiopia during the period.

The data was drawn from the OAG Monthly Airline Data Updates for the African Market.

OAG data indicated a 3.7% year-on-year decline in Nigeria's total airline seat capacity, down from approximately 1.20 million seats in December 2024 to 1.16 million.

This made Nigeria the only country among Africa's top 10 aviation markets to record a contraction during the period. Despite the decline, Nigeria maintained its fifth-place ranking, reflecting the relative size of its air travel market.

By contrast, several leading African aviation markets expanded their capacity in December 2025. Egypt, the



Airlines

continent's largest market, increased its seat capacity to around 2.98 million, followed by South Africa at 2.60 million. Morocco recorded one of the strongest expansions, growing capacity by over 13% to more than 2.03 million seats, while Ethiopia maintained steady growth at 1.38 million seats.

Other countries in the top 10, including Algeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Tunisia, and

Mauritius, also reported increases, highlighting broader growth in African aviation. Tanzania stood out, posting the fastest expansion at over 20% year-on-year.

The OAG Monthly Airline Data Updates for December 2025 provided insights into domestic airline capacity across Africa's leading aviation markets.

Nigeria ranked second, with total seats

falling to 850,420, down 7.5% year-on-year from 919,400 in December 2024.

This was one of the steepest declines among major African domestic markets.

South Africa remained the largest domestic market, rising from 1,686,956 seats to 1,803,097 seats. Kenya grew from 420,534 seats to 456,500 seats. Tanzania expanded from 326,990 seats to 415,130 seats.

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## Local Transport News

### NIWA Condolences Families Of Yobe, Lagos' Boat Accidents' Victims

#### Culled

The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) on Sunday, commiserated with the families of victims of boat accidents occurred in Yobe and Lagos states.

Expressing its sympathy, the authority underscored the need for safety across inland waterways in Nigeria.

The authority expressed its condolences in a statement in Lokoja, by the Assistant General Manager Corporate Affairs of NIWA, Suleiman Makama.

He said that NIWA noted with discomfort the unfortunate boat accidents in both states, after an extensive accident-free period on the inland waterways.

"The authority commiserates with the families of the departed on the unfortunate accidents. NIWA shares in their grief and remain committed to intensify our surveillance activities and safety campaigns for safer waterways," he said

He disclosed that in response to the accidents, the authority mobilised relevant facilities in conjunction with other relevant agencies towards a successful rescue efforts in Yobe State.

Consequently, Mr Makama urged waterways users to adhere strictly to safety guidelines at all times to avoid such unfortunate incidents.

"It is important to remind Nigerians that the ban on night sailing is still in force; no passenger boat is permitted to be on the inland waterways beyond 6.00 p.m.

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Niger Pond

### Lagos, Nasarawa Top States With Highest Bus Fares In October

#### Culled

Lagos and Nasarawa states have recorded the highest average prices for bus journeys within the city, per drop constant route in October 2025, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) transport fare watch.

The report showed that Lagos recorded the highest fare with N1,405.85 per bus journey within the city, followed by Nasarawa state with N1,326.77 and Kwara state with N1,300.01.

Ifeanyi, a bus driver in Lagos, recently told BusinessDay that the rising transport fares are driven not just by fuel costs but by the sharp increase in vehicle parts, maintenance, daily extortion payments, and union levies.

He said that the heavy financial burden of daily payments to touts, unions, and multiple security checkpoints along the road contributes to the surge in fares.

The report also showed that Abia state, Adamawa state, and Kano state had the lowest average price with N548.44, N631.44, and N810.03, respectively.

The NBS transport fare watch report covered bus journeys within the city per drop constant route, bus journey intercity (state route) charge per person, air fare charge for specified routes single journey, journey by motorcycle (Okada) per drop, and waterway passenger transport.

"The average fare paid by commuters for bus journeys within the city per drop increased to 0.90 percent from N1,049.17 in September 2025 to N1,058.64 in October 2025. On a year-on-year basis, it increased by 16.57 percent from N908.15 in October 2024," the report stated.

In another category, the average fare paid by commuters for an intercity bus journey per drop was N8,170.21 in October 2025, indicating an increase of 1.55 percent on a month-on-month basis compared to N8,045.59 in September 2025. On a year-on-year basis, the fare increased by 13.67 percent from N7,197.62 in October 2024.

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## Nigeria Railway Corporation Resumes Normal Fare Operations

#### Culled

The Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has assured passengers of sustained efforts to enhance efficiency, comfort, and safety on all train services nationwide as normal fare operations resumed across all corridors on Sunday January 4, 2026.

The Corporation has successfully concluded the Federal Government approved 50 percent fare reduction on passenger train services nationwide, bringing the special yuletide operation to a close on a positive and commendable note.

The Managing Director, NRC, Kayode Opeifa said the discounted train service, which ran throughout the festive period, recorded impressive passenger patronage across all operational corridors, as thousands of Nigerians took advantage of the initiative to travel safely, affordably, and comfortably to their destinations.

He said that the passengers widely applauded the intervention as a timely relief that eased the financial burden of



Dr. Opeifa

festive travel while further promoting rail transportation as a preferred mode of mobility.

According to the Managing Director, stations experienced steady passenger turnout, orderly boarding processes, and smooth train departures across standard gauge corridors of Lagos-Ibadan, Abuja-Kaduna, and Warri-Itakpe, as well as the narrow

gauge Mass Transit Train (MTT) services, throughout the period.

Overall, train service performance remained strong, with services largely operating as scheduled and passengers adequately accommodated across corridors.

"The Corporation notes that the festive operation was largely hitch-free, with NRC staff demonstrating

professionalism, commitment, and dedication to duty. Ticketing processes, both online and onsite were effectively managed, while customer service personnel provided necessary support to passengers, particularly first-time rail users. Security agencies and other relevant stakeholders also played key roles in ensuring safety and seamless operations at stations and onboard trains." The NRC MD stated. Management further acknowledges the cooperation and patience of passengers, and the invaluable support of the media, whose coverage enhanced public awareness of the initiative and projected the positive image of rail transportation during the festive season.

The NRC managing director reiterated its commitment to improved service delivery, expanded access to rail transportation, and the continued support of the Federal Government's Renewed Hope Agenda through people-focused initiatives that directly impact the lives of Nigerians.

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

## Local Transport News

# Private Depots Raise Petrol To N800 Per Litre In Lagos

### Culled

Private petroleum depots across Lagos and other key fuel trading hubs have raised the ex-depot price of Premium Motor Spirit (petrol) to as high as N800 per litre, Sunday PUNCH has observed. Data obtained from petroleumprice.ng on Friday showed that the average cost of petrol at private depots increased sharply within 48 hours, tightening margins for marketers and raising fresh concerns over an imminent spike in retail pump prices nationwide.

In Lagos, Dangote depot, which consistently offers the lowest petrol price, sold PMS at N703 per litre on Friday, up from N702.50 on Wednesday, December 31, 2025. While the increase at Dangote was marginal, other private depots recorded steeper adjustments.

Eterna and Integrated depots raised petrol prices to N800 per litre on Friday, compared with N726 per litre at Shellplux and AIPEC earlier in the week, indicating a jump of N74 per litre within two days.

Similarly, Aiteo and Lister depots sold

petrol at N780 per litre, up from the N750–N760 band recorded on Wednesday. The impact was even more pronounced in Warri, one of Nigeria's key petroleum logistics hubs.

While Matrix Energy and other major depots sold petrol at N800 per litre on Wednesday, prices climbed to as high as N805 per litre by Friday, according to the report.

The Warri market reacted faster due to tighter supply lines and higher transportation costs, especially as



Fuel dispenser

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

### Culled

A road crash in Langtang North Local Government Area of Plateau State has claimed the lives of five persons, while 13 others sustained injuries.

PUNCH Online learnt that the crash, which occurred at Zangzat Roundabout, Langtang, at about 3 a.m. on Sunday, involved a trailer conveying marketers from Shendam to Jos, the state capital.

The Chairman of Langtang North Local Government Area, Pirfa Tyem, confirmed the accident in a statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Precious Yakubu.

He said preliminary reports indicated that the accident involved a Plateau State-registered vehicle with plate number JJN 383 YZ and was caused by overspeeding and overloading.

He said, "Preliminary reports indicate that the accident involved a Plateau State-registered vehicle with plate number JJN 383 YZ."

"Upon receiving the report, the Executive Chairman immediately directed a team from the Local Government Council to visit the scene of the accident and the hospital to assess the situation,

# Five Die, 13 Injured In Plateau Road Crash

sympathise with the victims, and ascertain their immediate needs.

"The incident led to the tragic loss of five lives, while about thirteen persons sustained varying degrees of injuries.

"The injured victims are currently receiving medical attention at the General Hospital, Langtang."

The chairman expressed deep condolences to the families of the deceased and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

"This unfortunate incident highlights the dangers associated with reckless driving and disregard for road safety regulations," he noted, calling on the Federal Road Safety Corps to intensify road safety sensitisation and enforcement.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# NIMASA Elevates Nigeria's Maritime Profile With 2025 Milestones



Dr. Mobereola

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) has said that it closed 2025 with a string of landmark achievements that reinforced Nigeria's maritime credibility and elevated the country's influence in global maritime governance.

Director-General of NIMASA, Dr. Dayo Mobereola said the agency earned widespread commendation from the presidency, industry stakeholders, labour unions and international maritime institutions. Dr. Mobereola said that NIMASA, operating under the federal ministry of Marine and Blue Economy pursued a reform-driven agenda centred on maritime safety and security,

capacity development, regulatory efficiency, labour harmony and international engagement.

He stated that those efforts culminated in Nigeria's historic return to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council after 14 years, one of the most significant milestones in the nation's maritime history.

According to him, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu formally commended NIMASA and the Ministry following Nigeria's election into Category C of the IMO Council for the 2026–2027 biennium, describing the feat as a strong affirmation of Nigeria's growing stature in global maritime governance. He noted that the victory reflected international confidence in Nigeria's commitment to maritime safety, security and environmental stewardship, while aligning with the administration's broader blue economy agenda.

"The election, secured on 28 November 2025 at the IMO General

Assembly in London, was led by the Honourable Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Dr. Adegboyega Oyetola Mobereola attributed the success to sustained diplomatic engagement, institutional reforms and notable improvements in maritime security, particularly in the Gulf of Guinea, which helped restore global confidence in Nigeria," he stated.

Further reinforcing Nigeria's renewed relevance, the Director General stated that, NIMASA in 2025 successfully hosted the Secretary-General of the IMO, Mr. Arsenio Dominguez.

The visit, widely regarded as historic, underscored international recognition of Nigeria's maritime reforms, with the IMO chief openly commending the country's security framework after witnessing a live demonstration of the Deep Blue Project.

Through effective collaboration with national and international security partners, he added that NIMASA sustained zero piracy incidents in Nigerian waters during the year, a feat that strengthened investor confidence

and positioned Nigeria as a reference point for maritime security best practices.

In human capital development, the NIMASA head stressed that the Agency made notable strides by addressing long-standing seafarer challenges under the Nigerian Seafarers Development Programme (NSDP) and deepening support for maritime education.

In a historic first, Dr. Mobereola attended the graduation ceremony of the Maritime Academy of Nigeria, Oron, an action widely praised by the Academy's management as a strong signal of renewed institutional commitment to seafarer development. Labour relations also witnessed remarkable stability. The Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) commended NIMASA for constructive engagement that led to the successful unionisation and signing of a Collective Bargaining Agreement with shipping companies, a development described as a milestone in industrial harmony.

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20 LITERS

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- Ensure surface to be painted is free from dirt, grease & oil
- Rub down old gloss painted surfaces with abrasive paper.
- Stir content very well
- Add little quantity of thinner if necessary
- Apply with brush or roller
- Close firmly when not in use.

### DIRECTION FOR USE:

- Mix paints in well-ventilated areas
- Spray paint outdoors or in special booths
- Never smoke or have any source of fire in the vicinity
- Wear a respirator or paint mask
- Avoid electrocution!



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20 LITERS

# STANDARD QUALITY EMULSION

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**QUALITY EMULSION**

...quality speaks

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**QUALITY EMULSION**

...quality speaks

# Bakare-Oki Commends Media Support For LASTMA, Calls For Stronger P'ship In 2026

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The General Manager of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), Mr. Olalekan Bakare-Oki, has commended media practitioners for their sustained support and professionalism in projecting the agency's activities and mandate throughout 2025, describing the partnership as vital to improving public confidence and awareness of traffic management in Lagos State.

Bakare-Oki gave the commendation over the weekend during a review of LASTMA's engagement with the media, noting that journalists across print, broadcast and digital platforms demonstrated consistency, objectivity and civic responsibility in their coverage of the agency's operations, policies and interventions.

He said feedback received through the media—reflecting public opinion, expert analysis and stakeholder perspectives—had been largely



Bakare-Oki

constructive and media has remained a constructive criticism insightful, contributing critical partner in have positively to policy refinement, LASTMA's public influenced institutional strengthened enlightenment and thinking and reform operational strategies behavioural change processes.

and evidence-based mandate, adding that Bakare-Oki also "Detty December" period. He said the round-the-clock deployment helped to ease the agency. dissemination, analytical the 'LASTMA Media congestion on major routes and improve road

According to him, the reporting and Mayors' initiative, under safety during the peak period.

which selected journalists were integrated into traffic management activities across the state. He described the programme as a forward-looking engagement model that has improved transparency, enhanced public trust and enriched media reporting with firsthand operational insight.

As the agency prepares for a new operational year, the LASTMA boss stressed the need for a more robust and strategic collaboration with the media to address the growing challenges of urban mobility in Lagos, particularly in promoting voluntary compliance with traffic regulations and ensuring timely dissemination of traffic information to road users.

He further disclosed that during the 2025 festive season, more than 1,800 LASTMA personnel were deployed under the 'LASTMA 24-Hour Night Gangs' initiative to manage traffic flow and curb infractions during the "Detty December" period. He said the round-the-clock deployment helped to ease congestion on major routes and improve road safety during the peak period.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

## Commuters Decry Rickety Buses, Chaos On Ikorodu BRT Corridor



BRT Bus space

When the Lagos State government promised to bring more BRT buses to Ikorodu Road, residents were hopeful. The announcement came with assurances of shorter waiting hours, smoother boarding and a better commuting experience.

Many residents within Ikorodu and its environs rely on BRT to beat traffic, so the news sounded like relief was finally on the way. But months after the new buses and bus stops were introduced, commuters say the situation has not improved. They even said it has become worse.

Instead of shorter queues and faster movement, commuters now face disorderly

terminals, frequent bus breakdowns and rising tension between passengers, drivers and coordinators.

The BRT system that was once praised as a model for public transport in Lagos has become a daily test of patience for many commuters along the Ikorodu corridor.

Temitope Kabiru is not a regular BRT user. She said she only uses the service occasionally because she does not really go out. But an experience she had at the Ikeja terminal was enough to leave a lasting impression. "I stood in the queue for good two hours that day. Buses were parked right there in the terminal, but they refused to pick up passengers," she said.

According to her, the frustration at the terminal quickly escalated because passengers who had been waiting for hours could see buses available, yet none moved. When people questioned the delay, the situation escalated.

"The coordinator started shouting at passengers, and when people reacted, he vowed not to let some of them enter the bus," Kabiru said. She added that when buses eventually moved forward, they were already almost full.

"Once in about one hour, they would bring a bus forward. But before it reached where people were standing on the queue, some persons who were never in the queue were already seated in the bus," she said. "That escalated the tension and reaction from the commuters in the queue."

What made the experience worse for her was the reaction of officials at the terminal. "Instead of calming the situation, the coordinator promised not to let one of the protesting passengers enter the bus," she said. People she spoke to in the queue told her that this behaviour was normal at the Ikeja terminal. "They said that's how it has always been," she added.

For Sofiya Owolabi, the BRT still has its advantages. She chooses it

because it is economical and moves on a dedicated lane, which helps her beat traffic during peak hours.

"BRT is convenient and faster, especially during rush hour. That's why I still opt for it." However, those benefits often disappear during festive periods or peak periods. "There have been times when we queued, and there was no BRT in sight. This mostly happens when I close from the office or during festive seasons."

On such days, she said she has no choice but to abandon the queue and board other public buses. "I've had to take the red bus because time was slipping by," she said.

Owolabi has also witnessed confrontations between drivers and passengers. "I've seen BRT drivers exchange words with passengers, and it was really extreme," she said. Despite waiting for long hours, she said passengers are not always guaranteed a seat or even a place inside the bus.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# China Extends Railway Network To Record Of 165,000km In 2025



network will reach about 180,000 kilometers, including 60,000 kilometers of high-speed rail, with the double-track rate reaching 64 percent and the electrification rate reaching 78 percent.

Strategic backbone corridors will be comprehensively strengthened, with a national high-speed rail artery network consisting of eight vertical lines and eight horizontal lines. Regional interconnectivity will be significantly enhanced, freight network capacity will be substantially strengthened, and a world-class modern railway network will be basically built. The strategic support capacity of railways in serving major national strategies, promoting economic and social development, and safeguarding national security will be comprehensively enhanced.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

national strategies, China Railway stepped up implementation efforts. The construction of a total of eight projects including the Changsha-Ganzhou High-Speed

Railway commenced, while 25 projects including the Shenyang-Baihe High-Speed Railway began to operate.

During the 14th Five-Year

Plan period, high-speed rail increased from 37,900 kilometers to 50,400 kilometers, up 32.98 percent, the

Xinhua News Agency reported on Sunday.

During the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-30), China Railway will strive to achieve a world-class railway network in terms of scale and quality. By 2030, the national railway

*Culled*

China's railway network reached a record of 165,000 kilometers as of the end of the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25), with the high-speed rail system surpassing 50,000 kilometers. China has built the world's largest and most advanced high-speed railway network, according to data from China Railway Group Co on Sunday.

In 2025, China's railway sector reported 901.5 billion yuan (\$128.9 billion) of investment, up 6 percent year-on-year. According to a company conference held Sunday in Beijing, 3,109 kilometers of new rail lines opened last year, with the bulk of 2,862 kilometers being high-speed rail, further demonstrating the driving force of such investment.

With a focus on the 102 major railway projects as well as projects and programs aligned with major

*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

# Mama Cass' Rebrand Signals A New Phase For Nigeria's QSR

**Culled:** Mama Cass, one of Nigeria's food-service brands, has announced its return following a comprehensive brand refresh, marking a significant moment for the country's quick-service restaurant (QSR) industry.

Founded in 1983 on Allen Avenue, Ikeja, Mama Cass is widely regarded as a pioneer of Nigeria's early QSR culture, long before the term became mainstream.

In a statement, the management disclosed that the brand helped formalise Nigerian cuisine within structured dining, offering consistent, home-style meals such as jollof rice, pounded yam, ofada rice, beans, and traditional soups to generations of Nigerians.

The relaunch comes after a period of strategic restructuring and operational realignment. Management said the company is reopening with a renewed corporate identity, upgraded outlets, improved production systems, refined menus, and a redesigned customer experience aimed at blending nostalgia with modern efficiency.

Our relaunch represents both continuity and transformation, the management said. "Mama Cass has always stood for care, comfort, and



Mama Cass

culture. This new chapter honours the legacy of our founder while strengthening the organisation for the future."

The return of Mama Cass comes at a time when Nigeria's QSR market is increasingly competitive, shaped by rapid urbanisation, a growing youth population, and the expansion of foreign and pan-African food chains.

While the sector has grown steadily, much of that growth has been driven by non-

Nigerian menus, including burgers, fried chicken, and pizza. Mama Cass' rebranding signals renewed confidence in the commercial potential of Nigerian cuisine at scale.

'The Home for Food Lovers': a refreshed identity

As part of the refresh, the brand has adopted a new positioning, "The Home for Food Lovers," which it says reflects its evolution without abandoning its roots.

According to the company,

the refreshed identity is designed to appeal both to long-time customers who grew up with the brand and to younger, urban consumers seeking authentic Nigerian food in a modern setting

The relaunch includes newly refreshed outlet designs inspired by warmth and heritage, upgraded service processes, menu refinements centred on the brand's most popular recipes, and stronger quality-control systems to support future expansion

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# NIPR, Nasarawa Govt Flag Off Leadership University

**Culled:**

The Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) and Nasarawa State Government have flagged off the commencement of construction work at the University of Public Relations and Leadership (UPRL) site located at Gudi, Nasarawa State.

In a statement signed by the Director, Public Relations, Stanley Ogadigo, the flag-off ceremony signifies a landmark in the life of the project, giving a strong indication that the university will commence academic activities in record time with required facilities before the World Public Relations Forum (WPRF) scheduled to hold in Nigeria next year.

Speaking during the flag off ceremony, the President, Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, (NIPR), Dr. Ike Neliaku said through the university project, Nigeria will emerge as a new global centre of leadership and excellence in communication, adding that the migration of the project from idea to reality is a demonstration of Governor Abdullahi Sule's commitment to raising a new generation of leaders.

"Your Excellency, with what we are doing here today, you are sending a message not just to Nigeria but to the world that Nasarawa is at the centre of history. With hosting of this first of its kind university, Nasarawa under your leadership has demonstrated responsible use of influence", he stated.

Also speaking at the event, Nasarawa State Governor, Abdullahi Sule expressed appreciation to the Global Alliance and the NIPR for approving Nasarawa as the host state for the project which comes with huge developmental value in terms of education, capacity building and employment opportunities.

"As a government, we are committed to ensuring the completion of this project through the provision of necessary support. We want to assure you that by November 2026, the matriculation of first set of your students will take place in this facility", he stated.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# Onyedika Hits Brace As Nigeria Defeat Uganda



Super Eagles

**Culled:** The Super Eagles cruised to a comfortable 3-1 victory over Uganda Cranes in their final Group C match at the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2025 in Morocco on Tuesday.

Nigeria showcased their

squad depth as Paul Onuachu scored the first-half opener, while Raphael Onyedika struck twice in the second half to sink the Cranes.

Head coach Eric Chelle made eight changes to the side that defeated Tunisia, with Francis Uzoho in goal,

both Onyedika and Fisayo Dele-Bashiru deployed in midfield, and Onuachu leading the attack alongside stand-in captain Victor Osimhen.

Uganda started the brighter side and put Nigeria under early pressure, but the defence stood firm against Uche Ikpeazu, the Ugandan striker of Nigerian heritage, whose header sailed well wide.

The Super Eagles, however, grew into the game and began creating chances in quick succession. Onuachu capitalised to give Nigeria the lead, with the Trabzonspor striker slotting home Dele-Bashiru's low cross in the 37th minute for a 1-0 advantage. It was the 31-year-old's fourth international goal and his first for Nigeria since March 2021.

Uganda were reduced to 10 men when substitute goalkeeper Salim Magoola, who replaced Onyango at halftime, handled the ball outside the box while attempting to stop Osimhen's lobbed effort. Nigeria took full advantage of the numerical superiority.

The 24-year-old Club Brugge midfielder, Onyedika, made his late runs into the penalty area count, scoring two near-identical goals with composed finishes in the 62nd and 67th minutes to extend Nigeria's lead to 3-0.

Rogers Mato pulled one back for Uganda with a well-placed shot 15 minutes from time, but Nigeria comfortably saw out the game to claim all three points and finish top of Group C with a perfect nine points.

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Bank

# Nigeria Banks Bad Loans Hit 7% After Forbearance Ends

*Culled:* Nigeria's banking sector has recorded a rise in non-performing loans (NPLs) to an estimated 7.00 percent, breaching the prudential limit of 5.00 percent, following the withdrawal of regulatory forbearance measures introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has said.

The apex bank disclosed this in its 2026 Macroeconomic Outlook for Nigeria published on its website on Tuesday, noting that the increase in NPLs reflects the impact of tighter regulatory conditions as banks adjust to the post-forbearance environment.

The CBN warned that rising NPLs pose a direct threat to banks' profitability, credit availability, and overall risk-bearing capacity, underscoring the need to sustain measures that prevent further deterioration in asset quality. It said a worsening NPL profile could weaken banks' balance sheets, impair asset quality, and potentially trigger systemic contagion across the financial system. Although recent improvements in capital adequacy and liquidity ratios provide some buffers, the bank cautioned that these indicators remain vulnerable to unforeseen macroeconomic shocks.

According to the apex bank, an

increase in credit losses or foreign exchange illiquidity could erode capital buffers, lead to breaches of prudential thresholds, and place pressure on banks' liquidity coverage positions. Such developments, it said, could disrupt financial intermediation, reduce market confidence, and amplify vulnerabilities across the banking sector.

The CBN noted that a sharp depreciation of the naira, although considered unlikely, could negatively affect banks' balance sheet and liquidity positions. This, it said, could result in an expansion of monetary aggregates and heightened inflationary

pressures. The bank also cautioned that despite the ongoing bullish momentum in the capital market, higher concentration risk could emerge from the banking sector, as the current recapitalisation exercise may lead to investor fatigue and crowd out funding for other issuers.

In addition, the high level of interconnectedness within the financial system was flagged as a source of systemic risk. The apex bank warned that cyberattacks on financial institutions could propagate data breaches, compromise sensitive information, and erode public confidence in the financial system.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

## President Tinubu Seeks Backing For New Tax Laws

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has urged stakeholders to support the implementation of the new tax laws scheduled to commence on January 1, 2026, reaffirming his administration's commitment to due process and the integrity of duly enacted legislation.

The President made the call on Tuesday in a personally signed message to Nigerians on the implementation of the tax reforms.

Describing the reforms as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build a fair, competitive and resilient fiscal foundation for Nigeria, President Tinubu clarified that the tax laws are not intended to increase taxes, but to deliver a structural reset of the tax system, promote harmonisation, protect dignity and strengthen the social contract between government and citizens.

"These reforms are a once-in-a-

generation opportunity to build a fair, competitive, and robust fiscal foundation for our country.

"The tax laws are not designed to raise taxes, but rather to support a structural reset, drive harmonisation, and protect dignity while strengthening the social contract." President added.

The Nigerian Leader affirmed that the new tax laws, including those that took effect on June 26, 2025, and the remaining acts scheduled to

commence on January 1, 2026, will continue as planned.

"I urge all stakeholders to support the implementation phase, which is now firmly in the delivery stage.

"Our administration is aware of the public discourse surrounding alleged changes to some provisions of the recently enacted tax laws.

"No substantial issue has been established that warrants a disruption of the reform process.

[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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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.

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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.

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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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