

NDDC Assures On Completion Of 21km Imo, Abia, Rivers Link Road

The Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, Dr Samuel Ogbuku, has assured that the 21-kilometre Ehime-Nguru-Aba Branch-Mpam-Umuokirika-Ekwereazu Road, traversing the Ehime Mbano Local Government Area of Imo State, and Abia and Rivers States, will be completed in record time.

CONTINUES ON P3

C'River Youths Threaten Fresh Protest Over Ikom-Obudu Highway

Youths from five local government areas in northern Cross River State have concluded a one-week warning protest and blockade

of the dilapidated Ikom-Wula-Obudu federal highway over the weekend. They have vowed to resume the road blocks

if by this week the authorities do not intervene to fix the road. More than five thousand locals,

CONTINUES ON P2



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NPA Woos Investors, Others To New Export Channels

The Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Dr. Abubakar Dantsoho, has urged

traders, exporters and investors to leverage the newly simplified export channels

introduced to reposition Nigeria as a competitive global trading nation. Dantsoho, who spoke

during the NPA Special Day at the Kaduna International Trade Fair 2026, said the Authority

has rolled out tailor-made processes aimed at dismantling long-

CONTINUES ON P5

Nigerian Govt Inaugurates Emergency Road, Bridge Works In Gombe

P3

Plateau Govt Cries Out Over Imminent Collapse Of Five FG Bridges

P7

NEDC Begins Recons'ction Of Collapsed Namnai Bridge

P3



Dr. Abubakar Dantsoho - Managing Director, Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA)

Driver Stabs LASTMA Officer With Broken Bottle In Lagos

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority has condemned an attack on one of its officers who was

allegedly stabbed by a commercial bus driver at Ojota Interchange, Lagos.

The incident reportedly happened

over the weekend after officials intercepted a painted Caravelle GL Volkswagen bus with registration

number EKY 693 YK for driving along the Ojota-Ketu corridor with its passenger door open while carrying commuters.

According to a statement

CONTINUES ON P7

Coastguard Bill To Boost Waterway Security - Minister's Aide

P7

Local Transport News

FRSC Confirms 11 Persons Dead In Fatal Accident In Enugu

Culled

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has confirmed the death of 11 persons involved in a fatal road accident in Enugu-Port Harcourt Expressway.

The Sector Commander of FRSC Enugu State Command, Franklin Agbakoba, gave the confirmation to newsmen in Enugu on Saturday night after the fatal accident involving two vehicles.

Agbakoba said, "The accident happened at about 6:46 p.m. today, Saturday, at a location adjacent to the FRSC Ozalla Unit Command in the expressway."

He said that the 11 persons that lost their lives included 10 males and one female.

"A total of 36 persons, which included 27 males and nine female, got involved in the collision between a commercial Toyota Coaster Bus and an articulated Mercedes Benz trailer this evening in Enugu-Port Harcourt

Expressway.

"Apart from those that unfortunately lost their lives due to the accident; seven persons, which included three males and four female, were injured in the accident.

"The injured victims have been taken to the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH), Ituku-Ozalla for medical attention.

"The dead victims were taken to the UNTH Morgue," he said.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



FRSC

C'River Youths Threaten Fresh Protest Over Ikom-Obudu H'way

Culled

Youths from five local government areas in northern Cross River State have concluded a one-week warning protest and blockade of the dilapidated Ikom-Wula-Obudu federal highway over the weekend.

They have vowed to resume the road blocks if by this week the authorities do not intervene to fix the road.

More than five thousand locals, mostly youths from Obanliku, Etung, Obudu, Ikom and Boki LGAs trooped out everyday for one week, used palm trees to block the highway to draw state and federal government's attention to their plights, requesting the repair of a road has been unmotorable for about 40 years.

They warned that if they do not see any actions from the state or federal governments, they will resume their Plan B protest, stop revenue collections and make governance unpalatable.

The youths also warned that without interventions on the road which has claimed several lives, including that of last

week when a pregnant woman died with her baby in the full glare of the protesters because of the terrible road, no election can hold in the area next year.

One of the leaders of the No Road No Election protest, who is also the Abo Youths in Boki LGA, Dr Martins Assam said both the federal and state governments have neglected the region, which generates more than 70% state revenue from agriculture.

He said if machinery is not deployed by next week, they will not have any option than to embark on unpalatable and disastrous protest, and stop revenue collections in the area.

"Last week we had only a warning strike for one good week. We'll embark on a more elaborate, disastrous one-month blockade of this highway until they intervene. We call on our Governor and representatives in the National Assembly to act now by impressing on the federal government to immediately fix this road else.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

United Nigeria Airlines Records Fourth Bird Strike In 2026

Culled

United Nigeria Airlines has reported a fourth bird strike involving its Airbus A320 aircraft in less than two weeks, prompting the temporary withdrawal of two aircraft from service for comprehensive safety inspections.

The latest incident occurred on Sunday, during the take-off of Flight UN0519 from Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, to Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos.

The airline disclosed that the strike affected one of the engines, necessitating the grounding of the aircraft to uphold strict safety standards.

In a statement signed by the airline's Public Relations Office, it said, "In line with our strict and uncompromising safety standards, the affected aircraft has been withdrawn from service for comprehensive technical inspections before returning to operations.

"United Nigeria Airlines wishes to inform its valued passengers and the general public of a second bird strike in less than 24-hours, and the fourth since January



United Nigeria

2026, has occurred on one of the engines of another Airbus A320 aircraft during the take-off of Flight UN0519 scheduled for 12:00 hours from Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, to Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos, on Sunday, 15 February 2026

"This brings the total number of Airbus aircraft withdrawn from service in less

than 24 hours to two. As a result, some flights across our network will be disrupted and may not operate as earlier scheduled.

"This is indeed another bird Strike too many, however, we sincerely apologies for any inconveniences this unforeseen development may cause to your travel plans and kindly seek the understanding and patience of our valued passengers

and the general public", the statement partly read.

The airline apologised for the inconvenience caused to passengers, adding that its teams were working to minimise disruption and provide support to those affected.

This incident follows a previous bird strike on Saturday, 14 February, on Flight UN0523 from Asaba to Lagos.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Local Transport News

NEDC Begins Reconstruction Of Collapsed Namnai Bridge

Culled

Residents of Namnai community in Gassol local government council of Taraba and motorists plying the busy route linking the state to the southern part of Nigeria have heaved a sigh of relief as the North-East Development Commission (NEDC) commenced the reconstruction of the collapsed Namnai bridge.

It would be recalled that the bridge was washed away by floods in 2024, cutting off a major transport link and causing hardship for commuters, traders and residents. Since its collapse, travelers, as observed by The Guardian, have faced significant difficulties accessing parts of the state and beyond.

A delegation from the commission, who visited Taraba during the weekend to inspect and commission projects executed by the commission across the state, expressed happiness that construction work has finally begun on the bridge.

Led by the Minister of State for Regional Development, Alhaji Uba Maigeri Ahmadu, the delegation who personally visited the site of the bridge to assess progress confirmed that contractors have been mobilised to urgently carry out the reconstruction. The Guardian on-site checks revealed that the demolition of the weakened structure is underway, with workers using heavy equipment to dismantle damaged sections in preparation for a new and more resilient bridge.

Find Full Story In The Link



Namnai Bridge

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The Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, Dr Samuel Ogbuku, has assured that the 21-kilometre Ehime-Nguru-Aba Branch-Mpam-Umuokirika-Ekwereazu Road, traversing the Ehime Mbano Local Government Area of Imo State, and Abia and Rivers States, will be completed in record time.

Speaking during an inspection of a section of the road in Ahiauzu Mbaise, Imo State, Ogbuku expressed satisfaction with the pace of work on the project, noting that the second phase would soon be awarded.

The NDDC boss, who was accompanied by the Commission's Executive Director Projects, Dr Victor Antai, emphasised the importance of the road, noting that it was strategic as it would link three NDDC mandate states of Imo, Abia and Rivers while cutting across four Local Government Areas in Imo State; namely Ahiazu Mbaise, Aboh Mbaise, Ezinihitte Mbaise, and Ngor Okpala. The

Managing Director assured that the Ahiazu-Ngor Okpala axis of the road would also be awarded, as it would boost the local economy upon completion.

Ogbuku thanked the people of Ahiauzu Mbaise for the warm reception given to him and the NDDC team, declaring that the Commission was committed to completing the project as part of the dividends of the Federal Government's Renewed Hope Agenda.

Speaking on behalf of the Igwe in Council, the Ahiazu Mbaise and Ehime Mbano people, the traditional ruler of Ihitteforukwu Kingdom, Eze Dr O. Nwandu, expressed gratitude to the NDDC, stating that under the current Board and Management, the Niger Delta has experienced rapid development. He observed that the road had not been motorable for 15 years.

He said further: "This corridor is a vital economic and social lifeline, facilitating agricultural activities, trade, inter-community movement, and access to essential services, and this intervention

Find Full Story In The Link

Nigerian Govt Inaugurates Emergency Road, Bridge Works In Gombe

Culled

The Federal Ministry of Works has inaugurated completed emergency bridges and road intervention projects along the Gombe-Bauchi and Gombe-Yola highway in Gombe State, aimed at restoring damaged sections and improving the safe movement of motorists.

The Director of Information and Public Relations, Mohammed Ahmed Abdullahi, said the works included the reinstatement of failed shoulders and the repair of washouts on the Gombe-Bauchi Road, interventions at the Gombe Bypass covering shoulders and main drains, as well as the rehabilitation of three severely damaged bridges along the Gombe-Yola Road.

Mr. Abdullahi noted that the interventions were designed to ensure the free movement of people, goods and services.

He explained that infrastructure and transportation remained key pillars of the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, under the Renewed Hope Agenda.



Gombe State Government

According to him, "The government identified critical sections of federal highways for urgent attention to ease the flow of economic activities."

He said the government inherited 2,064 projects with liabilities exceeding ₦13 trillion, hence the need for targeted interventions to boost socio-economic growth.

Mr. Abdullahi further disclosed that the Akwanga-Jos-Bauchi-Gombe route,

linking Akwanga, Jos, Bauchi and Gombe, would be dualised as part of four legacy road projects spanning the six geopolitical zones of the country.

The inauguration, carried out on behalf of the Minister of Works, Senator David Umahi, by the Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, Mr. Farouk Mu'azu Gombe, commended President Tinubu for awarding the dual carriageway project from Akwanga through Jos and

Bauchi to Gombe.

Mr. Mu'azu also appreciated the Minister for entrusting him with the inauguration of the emergency rehabilitation works.

Meanwhile, the Federal Controller of Works in Gombe State, Mr. Mohammed Bappa Jaun, said the projects were awarded in January 2024, with a three-month completion period and were delivered on schedule.

He described them as rapid interventions involving overlay of the carriageway and reinstatement of shoulders to improve motorability and reduce accidents, particularly during peak travel periods.

Mr. Jaun added that proposals had been submitted for further rehabilitation on sections of the Gombe-Darazo Road, parts of the Bauchi-Gombe Road and the Gombe-Potiskum Road, pending approval.

He confirmed that one contract had already been awarded and stressed that work would continue pending the full dualisation of the Akwanga-Jos-Bauchi-Gombe corridor.

Find Full Story In The Link

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Local Transport News

Ogun Set To Commence Cargo Flight Operations At Gateway Airport

Culled

Dapo Abiodun, governor of Ogun state, has announced that the Gateway International Airport in Iperu is set to begin commercial cargo flight operations, marking another major milestone in the country's aviation and economic development drive.

This was stated on his official X handle on Friday, when he noted that the development follows the successful commencement of passenger flights on October 7, 2025, and reinforces the state's commitment to making the airport fully functional and economically impactful.

Abiodun stated that the launch of cargo services in partnership with Allied Air and SAHCOL is aimed at positioning the airport as a strategic logistics hub that will strengthen trade, regional connectivity, and supply chains within Nigeria and beyond.

"The quality of infrastructure has attracted strong interest from aviation and logistics leaders, including Sifax

Group, who have described the facility as exceptional for cargo operations and a catalyst for boosting agricultural exports from Ogun State and the wider Southwest.

"We are encouraged by the confidence expressed by operators and investors who see Ogun State as ahead of the curve due to its proximity to Lagos, business-friendly environment, and focus on functionality," he said.

Abiodun also stated that the commencement of cargo operations is



Governor Abiodun

Culled

The Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Dr. Abubakar Dantsoho, has urged traders, exporters and investors to leverage the newly simplified export channels introduced to reposition Nigeria as a competitive global trading nation.

Dantsoho, who spoke during the NPA Special Day at the Kaduna International Trade Fair 2026, said the Authority has rolled out tailor-made processes aimed at dismantling long-standing bureaucratic bottlenecks that previously discouraged participation in the export value chain.

He said: "Let me seize the occasion of this 'NPA Special Day' to invite the entire trading and investing public to explore the tailor-made simplified export processes and other vistas of opportunity present at the Nigerian Ports Authority."

The NPA chief explained that the reforms are designed to boost non-oil exports, improve Nigeria's balance of trade and integrate producers from the hinterland into global supply chains.

According to him, a key pillar of the

NPA Woos Investors, Others To New Export Channels

reform is the establishment of Export Process Terminals (EPTs), structured as one-stop hubs for cargo consolidation, stuffing, packaging, documentation, certification and electronic shipment scheduling.

He added: "The Export Process Terminals were conceptualised to simplify what used to be a burdensome export process. Today, exporters can complete documentation, packaging and shipment coordination in a seamless and efficient manner."

According to him, the EPTs are electronically integrated with port operations through the call-up system to ensure faster cargo evacuation, reduced congestion and improved turnaround time.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Coastguard Bill To Boost Waterway Security - Minister's Aide



Oyetola

The Special Adviser to the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Bolaji Akinola, has disclosed that a bill seeking to establish a Nigerian Coast Guard is currently before the National Assembly as part of efforts to strengthen safety and security across the country's waterways.

Speaking with Sunday PUNCH, he said, "There is a bill before the National Assembly seeking the creation of a Nigerian Coast Guard. This bill is designed to provide a clear legal framework, define the mandate, avoid overlap with existing security agencies, and ensure sustainable funding and accountability for the proposed coast guard."

He explained that "Once established, the coast guard will play a critical role in enhancing safety and security on the waterways. Its benefits include improved enforcement of safety regulations, coordinated search and rescue operations, protection of inland and coastal waters, prevention of illegal activities, and rapid emergency response. Overall, a Coast Guard would significantly strengthen enforcement capacity and improve confidence in water transportation across the country."

The move comes amid renewed enforcement of safety regulations on the nation's waterways, particularly the restriction on night travel.

Akinola said, "There is a restriction on night journeys on the nation's waterways. This restriction is in place due to serious safety concerns, including poor visibility, limited navigational aids, and the increased risk of accidents after dark. The regulation was introduced to prevent avoidable loss of lives and property."

According to him, "To ensure

compliance, the Police and other relevant enforcement agencies have been arresting and prosecuting violators found operating outside approved hours. Enforcement, however, is a shared responsibility that also requires the cooperation of operators and passengers."

He added that "The Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, through its agency, the National Inland Waterways Authority, remains firmly committed to maintaining a safe, efficient, and properly regulated water transport system across the country. Continuous engagement with stakeholders, monitoring, and enforcement actions are ongoing to strengthen compliance." He further urged operators and passengers to comply strictly with safety measures, stating, "Boat operators and waterway users are therefore urged to take collective responsibility for safety by ensuring that all journeys are completed before sunset, strictly adhering to approved operating times, enforcing the use of life jackets for all passengers, and observing all

prescribed safety protocols on the waterways."

Meanwhile, the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, has called on state governments to prohibit the use of wooden boats and adopt safer alternatives.

He called on state governments to ban the use of wooden boats within their respective states and to invest in modern fibre boats as safer alternatives, stressing that wooden boats are inherently dangerous due to their structural weakness, susceptibility to water damage, poor stability, and limited buoyancy, all of which significantly increase the risk of accidents.

In contrast, fibre boats are more durable, stable, and safer, offering better buoyancy, resistance to water absorption, and improved performance in challenging conditions, according to the minister.

The renewed push for stronger regulation follows a series of boat mishaps reported across states such as Niger, Kwara, Kebbi, Lagos, and Anambra in recent years.

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QUALITY EMULSION

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Plateau Govt Cries Out Over Imminent Collapse Of Five FG Bridges

Culled

The Plateau State Government has raised the alarm over what it described as the imminent collapse of five Federal Government bridges located in the southern part of the state.

Commissioner for Works, Joshua Ubandoma Laven, who raised the concern during an inspection tour of the affected bridges alongside other top government officials on Saturday, said the deteriorating condition of the facilities has put residents of the affected communities at risk.

He said there is a potential for the southern zone to be cut off from other areas.

The affected bridges include the Longvel Bridge along the Shendam -Yelwa Ibi Road in Shendam Local Government Area; Kufai Yelwa Bridge on the Yelwa-Garkawa Road in Shendam LGA, Bakwai Bridge along the Langtang-Zamko-Garkawa Road in Langtang North LGA, and the Bailey



Governor Mutwang

While calling on the Federal Government to carry out urgent emergency intervention on the bridges, Laven explained that the Longvel Bridge which was constructed several decades ago, suffered extensive structural damage due to repeated flooding over the years. The works commissioner recalled that in 2012, severe flooding undermined the bridge's foundation and

approach, prompting the federal government to construct a relief culvert to address the damage.

He however lamented that subsequent flooding between 2014 and 2018 further weakened the structure, leading to the failure of the retaining wall and approach embankment which had undermined the foundation of a second relief box culvert, causing it to sink and resulting in noticeable subsidence at the bridge approach.

"The bridge has outlived its serviceable age and the best solution is complete demolition and reconstruction to guarantee safe connectivity," Laven told journalists.

He said the collapse of the Longvel Bridge, which is a strategic route linking Plateau with Nasarawa, Taraba, and other neighboring states, would severely disrupt interstate movement and economic activities.

"We are appealing to the Federal Government to act swiftly to rescue the people of southern Plateau and other Nigerians who rely on these routes. This is beyond the capacity of the state government.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Driver Stabs LASTMA Officer With Broken Bottle In Lagos



The driver who stabbed an officer

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority has condemned an attack on one of its officers who was allegedly stabbed by a commercial bus driver at Ojota Interchange, Lagos.

The incident reportedly happened over the weekend after officials intercepted a painted Caravelle GL Volkswagen bus with registration number EKY 693 YK for driving along the Ojota-Ketu corridor with its passenger door open while carrying commuters.

According to a statement issued by the agency's Director of Public Affairs, Adebayo Taofiq and shared on X on Sunday, the driver resisted arrest and attempted to flee by mounting the road median before the vehicle was forced to a halt.

Authorities said the suspect then grabbed a broken bottle from inside the bus and stabbed an officer in the fingers before escaping.

The statement said, "The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) over the weekend registers its strongest condemnation of a heinous and premeditated assault perpetrated against one of its officers by a defiant commercial bus driver at Ojota Interchange in Lagos.

"The violent involved a painted Caravelle GL Volkswagen commercial bus EKY 693 YK. The vehicle was lawfully intercepted for a flagrant contravention of extant traffic regulations, having been operated along the Ojota-Ketu corridor with its passenger door recklessly left ajar while fully laden with commuters an egregious infraction that gravely endangered passengers and other road users alike.

"The driver reportedly resisted arrest and attempted to flee by mounting the road median, but the escape was cut

short when the vehicle was forced to stop.

"The statement added that the suspect then turned violent, grabbed a broken bottle from inside the bus and attacked enforcement officers, stabbing one of them in the fingers.

"Upon interception on the main carriageway, the driver responded with brazen insubordination, strenuously resisting lawful arrest and attempting a hazardous escape by mounting the median in a desperate bid to abscond. His attempted flight was, however, abruptly curtailed when the vehicle became mechanically immobilised. Frustrated by the collapse of his escape plan, the suspect descended into unrestrained violence.

"In a shocking display of brutality, he seized a jagged broken bottle from within the bus and lunged menacingly at the enforcement officers, stabbing one officer in the fingers of his right hand. The vicious attack resulted in severe fractures and significant blood loss before the assailant fled the scene

in a cowardly retreat.

"LASTMA added that the injured officer sustained severe fractures and significant blood loss and was rushed to a medical facility, where he underwent emergency surgery. Two fingers required operative reconstruction, and he remains under close medical observation.

"Notwithstanding his escape, the offending vehicle was immediately impounded in strict compliance with statutory provisions. The injured officer was promptly evacuated to a medical facility, where he underwent emergency surgical intervention. Due to the gravity of the fractures sustained, two fingers required immediate operative reconstruction. He remains under close medical observation and is receiving comprehensive care.

The General Manager of LASTMA, Olalekan Bakare-Oki, condemned the attack and said investigations were ongoing to ensure the suspect is apprehended and prosecuted.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Ethiopian Airlines Begins Construction Of 110-Million Passenger Bishoftu Airport

Culled
Africa's biggest airline, Ethiopian Airlines, on January 10, 2026, commenced construction of the Bishoftu International Airport, designed to handle up to 110 million passengers annually.

The disclosure was made by the Office of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia on Saturday via X, noting that the airport is slated to become Africa's largest once completed.

The project is expected to play a central role in sustaining Ethiopia's aviation growth, easing capacity pressure at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, and supporting the expansion of Ethiopian Airlines' global network.

According to the Office of the Prime Minister, Bishoftu International Airport is being developed as a new mega hub, as Addis Ababa Bole International Airport nears its



expanded annual capacity of 25 million passengers.

Located about 40 km southeast of the capital at an elevation of 1,910 meters, Bishoftu offers

suitable conditions for efficient aircraft operations and passenger handling.

Its proximity allows easy integration with the existing aviation network.

The airport's first phase will serve 60 million passengers annually, with the full plan reaching 110 million, making it one of Africa's largest aviation hubs.

"To sustain Ethiopia's rapid aviation growth and Ethiopian Airlines' expanding global network, a new mega hub is being developed alongside Addis Ababa

Bole International Airport, which is nearing its expanded capacity of 25 million passengers annually. This multi-airport strategy aims to future-proof Ethiopia's role as Africa's leading air transport gateway.

"Bishoftu International Airport (BIA) will be the largest aviation infrastructure project in Africa's history," the statement read in part.

It added, "The first phase of the airport will handle 60 million passengers per year, with an ultimate master plan capacity of 110 million passengers annually, placing Ethiopia among the world's top aviation hubs."

The multi-airport strategy aims to future-proof Ethiopia's aviation sector, boost Ethiopian Airlines' regional position, and support economic reforms, industrialisation, and AfCFTA connectivity.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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

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

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

Budget Office Uncovers 10-year Capital Funding Gap In Nigeria's Health Sector

Culled:

The Budget Office of the Federation has released data showing how the country has grossly underfunded the health sector in the past 10 years and how it has consistently short-changed the future of its citizens through abysmal release of budgetary allocations despite having one of the worst health indices in the world and constant disease outbreaks.

Nigeria's allocations to the health sector over the years have been below the recommended 15 per cent benchmark stipulated in the 2001 Abuja Declaration, which Nigeria was a signatory to

Titled "10-year capital funding gap in Nigeria's health sector", the data showed a wide gap between capital appropriation and the actual release/utilisation from 2016 to 2025.

According to the data obtained by The Guardian, which specifically captured capital allocations and actual releases for 10 years, which was about N218.0 bn appropriated for capital projects in 2025, only N36 million was actually released to the sector.

It further showed that in 2024, the sum of N434.8bn was allocated



Prof. Pate

to the sector, while only N65.4bn, representing 15.06% of the allocation, was released.

Further breakdown of the budgetary allocations and releases revealed that in 2023, N134 billion was allocated, with N40.4bn released representing 30%, 2022 had N134.7bn allocated, and N87.3bn released 45%, 2021 had N194bn allocated, with N93.8bn representing 70% of the total capital budget

released.

In addition, N46.5bn was allocated for capital projects in 2019, while N25.5bn was released.

2018 had N71.1bn with N42.6bn release, N51.3bn in 2017 with N33.3bn released and N28.7bn in 2016 with only N15.2bn released.

Minister of Health and Social Welfare. Prof Ali Pate, on Monday, during the Ministry's 2026 budget defence before the House of Representatives Committee

on Healthcare Service, revealed that only N36 million out of the N218 billion appropriated for its 2025 capital expenditure was released.

He told lawmakers that the implementation of the 2025 capital budget was stalled by circumstances beyond the Ministry's control, adding that the meagre release made it practically impossible for the Ministry to execute its capital projects for the year.

Find Full Story In The Link

DELSU Matriculates 9,498 For 2025/26 Academic Session

Culled:

Delta University (DELSU), Abraka has matriculated a total of 9,498 students in its 2025/2026 academic session

The matriculation oath was administered on the new student's weekend in Abraka, Ethiope East Local Government Area of Delta State.

Administering the matriculation oath on the freshers, Prof. Samuel Asagba, Vice Chancellor, Delta State University (DELSU), Abraka disclosed that the students were among the tens of thousands of candidates who had applied for admission into the university.

According to Prof. Asaba, "I congratulate you for not only attaining another milestone in your academic pursuit, but for successfully scaling through the difficult hurdles of the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination and Post University Matriculation Screening exercise."

It could be recalled that this is the second matriculation exercise that Prof. Asagba is presiding over since his assumption of office on Dec. 2, 2024 as the 8th substantive Vice Chancellor of the university.

Prof. Asagba said that the university had distinguished itself as one of the centers of academic excellence, adding that it has become an attraction for candidates seeking admission into tertiary institutions.

The Vice Chancellor attributed the rush for admission into the university to the institution's track records of maintaining smooth and uninterrupted academic calendar over the years.

Prof. Asagba disclosed that the university currently had 17 Faculties with 109 academic programmes, in addition to one Institute of Education and Business School.

The Vice Chancellor said that the institution's management was setting machinery in motion to introduce more robust programmes to cater for the academic needs of this generation.

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Nigeria, Angola Signs Visa Exemption Agreement



Nigeria signs an agreement with Angola

Culled:

Nigeria and Angola have formalised a visa exemption agreement for holders of Diplomatic and Official/Service Passports, marking a significant step in deepening bilateral relations between the two

countries.

The draft agreement was signed on 15th February 2026, on the sidelines of the 39th Ordinary Session of the African Union Heads of State and Government in AddisAbaba.

Nigeria's delegation was led by the Minister of Foreign

Affairs, Ambassador Yusuf Maitama Tuggar, while Angola was represented by its Minister of International Relations, Ambassador Tete Antonio, according to a statement from the Ministry's spokesperson, Kimiebi Ebiensa.

Speaking on the signing, Tuggar described the agreement as long overdue and timely, highlighting its importance in strengthening diplomatic and official engagement between Nigeria and Angola.

He emphasized that the Agreement would significantly enhance diplomatic and official relations between the two brotherly countries by easing travel procedures for holders of diplomatic and official/service passports.

According to him, "the visa exemption arrangement will facilitate smoother official exchanges, deepen institutional cooperation, and create broader opportunities for joint initiatives, dialogue, and partnership by enabling authorized government officials from both sides to move more freely and efficiently without administrative hindrances.

He further informed the gathering that relations between Nigeria and Angola are rooted in a long and shared history, dating back to the period of ideological conflict between the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) in Angola.

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National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

Nigeria's Capital Importation Rises To \$11bn In Q2 - Q3 2025 - NBS

Culled: Nigeria attracted a total of US\$11.13 billion in capital inflows in the second and third quarters (Q2 and Q3) of 2025, reflecting strong inflows of foreign funds into the economy, according to the latest data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Contained in the Nigeria Capital Importation reports, the figure combines US\$5.12 billion recorded in Q2 and US\$6.01 billion in Q3, 2025, showing a marked improvement from the same period in 2024. The Bureau said the surge was largely driven by portfolio investments, which accounted for more than 80 percent of

total inflows across both quarters. The banking and financing sectors remained the primary recipients of foreign funds, while capital originated mostly from the United Kingdom, the United States, and South Africa. The National Bureau of Statistics report highlighted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as the smallest component of capital inflows, suggesting continued reliance on portfolio and other forms of investment for foreign funding. In Q2 2025, total capital importation into Nigeria stood at \$5,120.50 million, up from \$2,604.50 million in Q2 2024, an increase of 96.60 percent year-on-year (YoY). Quarter-on-quarter (QoQ),

capital importation decreased by 9.24 percent from \$5,642.07 million in Q1 2025. "Portfolio Investment ranked top with US\$4,200.03 million, accounting for 82.02 percent, followed by Other Investment with \$777.80 million, accounting for 15.19 percent. Foreign Direct Investment recorded the least with \$142.67 million (2.79 percent) of total capital importation in Q2 2025," the NBS said. "The Banking sector recorded the highest inflow with US\$3,407.97 million, representing 66.56% of total capital imported in Q2 2025, followed by the Financing sector, valued at

US\$873.32 million (17.06%), and Electrical sector with US\$456.37 million (8.91%)," the Bureau further stated, disclosing that capital largely originated from key global economies supporting Nigeria's financial markets. "Capital Importation during the reference period originated largely from the United Kingdom with US\$1,860.03 million, representing 36.33 percent of the total capital imported. This was followed by the Republic of South Africa with US\$1,013.71 million (19.80 percent) and the United States with US\$909.84 million (17.77 percent)," the NBS added.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Nigeria Banks Enter Final Stretch Of Recapitalisation Drive

Nigeria's banking sector is entering the final stretch of its recapitalisation drive, with lenders stepping up capital actions ahead of the Central Bank of Nigeria's March 31, 2026, deadline. Analysts at Proshare say industry activity was subdued in the week ended February 12, as attention shifted from fundraising announcements to regulatory validation and capital confirmation processes. Capital actions across leading banks.

FCMB Group is undergoing capital verification by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to confirm whether it has met the new minimum capital threshold of N500 billion for international banks, according to Proshare analysts. The group previously secured its national banking licence in 2024 following an oversubscribed public offer and completed another ₦160 billion public offer last year as part of its push toward retaining its international

banking licence. The current verification process is therefore seen as the final regulatory confirmation of compliance. A successful outcome would likely lead to a formal announcement of its continued international operations. The update places FCMB at the final regulatory checkpoint as the sector prepares for tighter capital standards. Elsewhere, Sterling Bank has yet to disclose its recapitalisation plan, though

analysts expect a rights issue or private placement to close a gap between its current capital of about ₦167 billion and the ₦200 billion requirement. GTCO Plc completed a ₦10 billion private placement earlier, issuing 125 million shares at ₦80 each to a single investor. Proshare analysts described the move as a proactive step to strengthen capital buffers and support medium-term growth rather than a regulatory necessity. [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.

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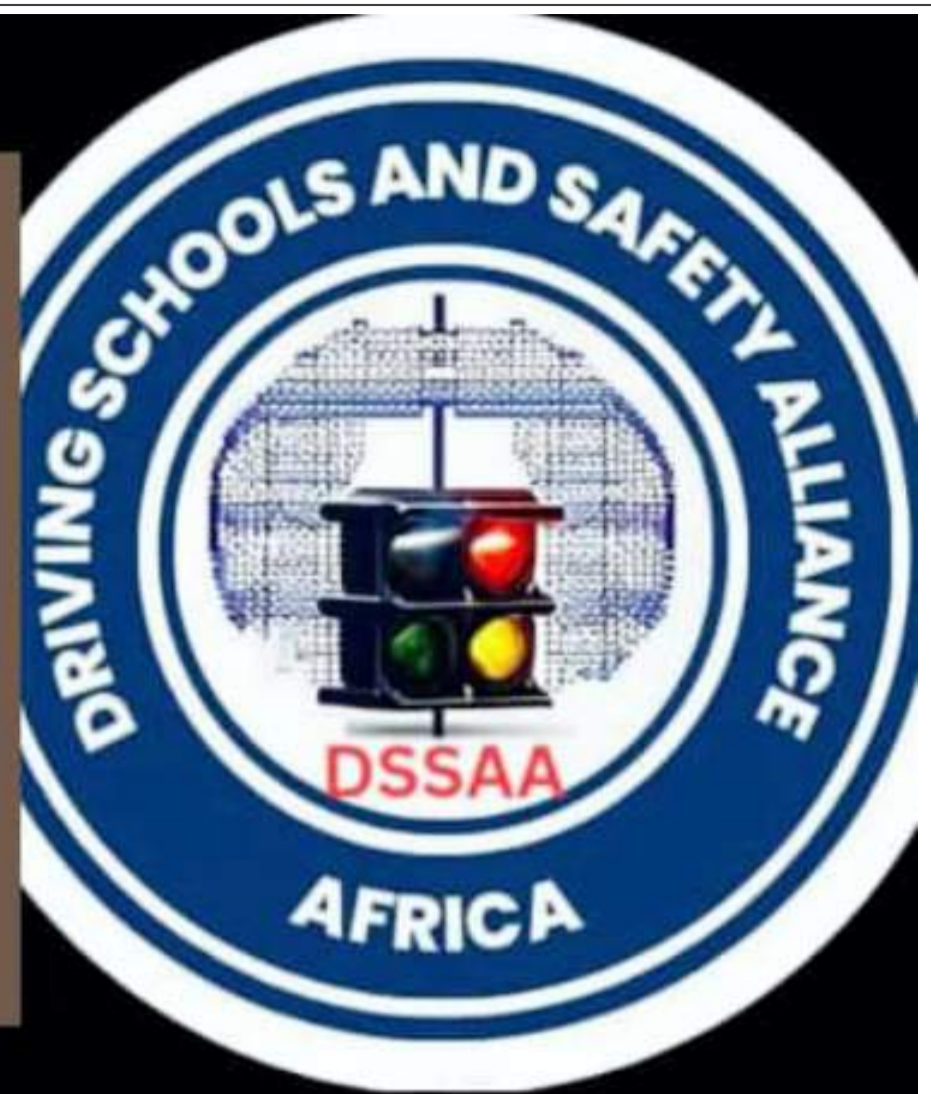


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