

## FAAN MD Projects Strong Air Export Growth As Nigeria-UK Trade Hits 8.1bn Euros

Nigeria's export (FAAN) highlighted hosted by the potential to the United rising trade volumes Nigerian-British Kingdom is set for and new market Chamber of significant growth as opportunities within the Commerce, Olubunmi Kuku, the Managing Director/Chief Authority of Nigeria Speaking at a forum

CONTINUES ON P3

## Nigeria Achieves Record 91.45% Aviation Safety Rating As Tinubu Applauds Milestone

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Thursday hailed Nigeria's attainment of a 91.45 percent aviation safety rating by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), describing it as a significant milestone that reinforces the country's credibility in global air transport. The President said the rating, the highest ever recorded by Nigeria under ICAO's

CONTINUES ON P2



# GLOBAL REPORTING GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION TRENDS TRANSPORTATION

thelandmarkinfo.com.ng | Global Transportation E- Reports | Global\_GTE Fri, April 24th 2026 E - NEWSPAPER

## Tinubu Seeks \$516.33m Loan To Construct Sokoto-Badagary Super Highway

President Bola Tinubu has sought the approval of the Senate to access a loan facility of \$516.33 million to

fund the construction of the Sokoto-Badagary Super Highway. The syndicated

financing facility is being arranged through Deutsche Bank, according to a letter of

request the President sent to the Senate on Thursday. He wrote:

"The proposed financing arrangement comprises a syndicated

CONTINUES ON P2

## Kebbi Rolls Out 50 New Commercial Buses To Ease Transpo'tion P3

## NRC Declares Stark Prohibition Of Illegal Structures Along R'way Corridors P5

## FRSC, NSCDC Pledge Stronger P'ship In Sokoto P2



Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR - President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

## NNPC, Sonatrach Sign MoU To Deepen Research Innovation In Oil, Gas Sector

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

with Sonatrach, innovation across Algeria's national oil the oil and gas company, to sector. strengthen coopera- NNPC disclosed in a tion in research, statement on development and Wednesday that the

agreement was executed through its Research, Technology and Innovation (RTI) Division in collaboration with the Petroleum Technology

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## Nigeria Handles 25% Of Regional Cargo Traffic P5

## Local Transport News

### Tinubu Seeks \$516.33m Loan To Construct Sokoto-Badagary Super H'way

#### Culled

President Bola Tinubu has sought the approval of the Senate to access a loan facility of \$516.33 million to fund the construction of the Sokoto-Badagary Super Highway.

The syndicated financing facility is being arranged through Deutsche Bank, according to a letter of request the President sent to the Senate on Thursday.

He wrote:

"The proposed financing arrangement comprises a syndicated loan to be secured through Deutsche Bank AG, supported by a partial risk guarantee from the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), the insurance arm of the Islamic Development Bank.

"The Federal Government will provide counterpart funding in the sum of ₦265,542,689,569, covering land acquisition, compensation, and ancillary infrastructure.

"The loan has a tenure of nine years, including a grace period of up to three years, with an interest rate not exceeding the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) SOFR plus 5.3 percent per annum.

"The Federal Executive Council has approved the financing arrangement and its terms."

The President outlined the scope of the project and its expected benefits to the nation.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



President Bola Tinubu

### FRSC, NSCDC Pledge Stronger Partnership In Sokoto

#### Culled

The Federal Road Safety Corps and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps have pledged to deepen collaboration to improve safety, security, and service delivery across Sokoto and the North-West.

The commitment was made on Thursday when the Zonal Commanding Officer of FRSC Zone RS10, Assistant Corps Marshal Shoba B. Akande, paid a strategic courtesy visit to the NSCDC Zonal Commander, Assistant Commandant General Bello A. Argungu, at the Zone 10 Headquarters in Sokoto.

Addressing the gathering, Akande described the visit as both symbolic and strategic, aimed at reinforcing the long-standing partnership between the two agencies while charting a path for more robust cooperation.

"This visit is not just ceremonial; it is a deliberate step to strengthen an already existing relationship and to open new frontiers of collaboration between the FRSC and NSCDC," he said.

He emphasised that effective service delivery, particularly in today's evolving security landscape, requires strong institutional synergy.

"We recognise that no single agency can achieve optimal results in isolation. That is why we are committed to building stronger partnerships that will enhance our collective efficiency," Akande added.

The FRSC chief also conveyed the goodwill message of the Corps Marshal, Mallam Shehu Mohammed, noting that the Corps has designated 2026 as a year focused on professionalism, discipline, and improved public service.

"The Corps Marshal has set a clear agenda for 2026—professionalism, discipline, and enhanced service delivery. These goals can only be realised through collaboration and mutual support among sister agencies," he said.

Responding, Argungu lauded the FRSC leadership for the initiative, describing the visit as timely and necessary in strengthening operational synergy.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Thursday hailed Nigeria's attainment of a 91.45 percent aviation safety rating by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), describing it as a significant milestone that reinforces the country's credibility in global air transport.

The President said the rating, the highest ever recorded by Nigeria under ICAO's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP), reflects the country's strong compliance with international aviation safety standards and best practices.

According to a statement issued by his Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, the ICAO audit team announced the score during a debriefing session at the Abuja headquarters of the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA).

The Effective Implementation (EI) score of 91.45 per cent places Nigeria significantly above both the West African regional average of 61.1 per cent and



President Bola Tinubu

the global average of 70.4 per cent, a development the President said would enhance investor confidence and strengthen the nation's standing in international aviation.

ICAO, a United Nations agency responsible for coordinating global air navigation standards, conducts regular audits of member states under the USOAP framework to assess their

capacity to manage aviation safety risks. Nigeria, as a member state, must implement critical safety oversight systems and align with international benchmarks.

Since the programme began in 1999, the country has undergone four separate audits.

President Tinubu noted that the latest rating aligns with his administration's

broader objective of positioning the aviation sector as a key driver of economic growth through improved infrastructure, safety, and efficiency.

He recalled that upon assuming office, his administration prioritized transportation and infrastructure development, focusing on transforming Nigeria into a regional aviation hub that meets and exceeds global standards.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

## Local Transport News

### FAAN MD Projects Strong Air Export Growth As Nigeria-UK Trade Hits 8.1bn Euros

#### Culled

Nigeria's export potential to the United Kingdom is set for significant growth as the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) highlighted rising trade volumes and new market opportunities within the aviation sector.

Speaking at a forum hosted by the Nigerian-British Chamber of Commerce, Olubunmi Kuku, the Managing Director/Chief Executive, represented by Lekan Thomas, the Director of Cargo Development and Services, highlighted encouraging trade figures and policy support driving the aviation corridor.

According to him, Nigeria-UK trade reached £8.1 billion, recording an 11.4 per cent year-on-year increase, while UK imports from Nigeria stood at £2.4 billion. He noted that even a modest 1–5 per cent increase in exports could generate an additional \$25–125 million in revenue.

Thomas also pointed to the United Kingdom's decision to grant duty-free

or reduced tariffs on over 3,000 Nigerian products as a major opportunity for exporters, particularly in agriculture, manufacturing, and emerging sectors.

He further emphasised strong government backing for aviation reforms, citing recent engagements led by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the Minister of Aviation, Festus Keyamo, which have helped restore investor confidence and strengthen bilateral cooperation.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Mrs Kuku

### Kebbi Rolls Out 50 New Commercial Buses To Ease Transportation

#### Culled

The Kebbi State Government has unveiled 50 brand-new 18-seater Toyota commercial buses to tackle transportation challenges and improve mobility for residents across the state.

The buses were officially unveiled on Thursday at the newly reconstructed motor park in Birnin Kebbi by a Kebbi political leader, Umar Faruk-Buro, who said the initiative reflects the government's commitment to easing travel for citizens.

"These buses are meant to serve the good people of Kebbi State. They will soon commence operations across different routes for the benefit of all residents, irrespective of political, religious or ethnic affiliations," Faruk-Buro said at the event. He dismissed criticisms suggesting the buses were procured for political campaigns, describing such claims as unfounded.

"Some people don't see anything good in good efforts. The essence of procuring these buses is to support transport

unions, empower drivers and improve the lives of our people," he added.

Faruk-Buro also urged transport operators to maintain integrity and professionalism in their duties, stressing the importance of safety and accountability.

"Drivers must be honest, fair and trustworthy. They should avoid picking passengers outside designated motor parks and ensure all luggage is properly screened before departure," he warned.

In his remarks, the Commissioner for Transport, Bala Muhammad-Gagga, described the occasion as a significant milestone for the state's transport sector.

"This is a memorable day for all of us. The remodelled motor park stands as one of the best in Nigeria, and these vehicles will greatly enhance transport services in Kebbi State," he said.

Muhammad-Gagga commended Governor Nasir Idris for the initiative, noting that the buses would operate at subsidised fares to ease the financial burden on commuters.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

## NNPC, Sonatrach Sign MoU To Deepen Research, Innovation In Oil, Gas Sector

#### Culled

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sonatrach, Algeria's national oil company, to strengthen cooperation in research, development and innovation across the oil and gas sector.

NNPC disclosed in a statement on Wednesday that the agreement was executed through its Research, Technology and Innovation (RTI) Division in collaboration with the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF).

The MoU was signed by NNPC's Executive Vice President, Business Services, Sophia Mbakwe, and Sonatrach's Managing Director, Khodjah Mohamed.

According to the statement, the agreement provides a formal framework for joint work in research and technology exchange between the two national oil companies.

The signing took place during the opening ceremony of the 3rd Meeting of



NNPC, Sonatrach sign MoU on research, Innovation in oil, gas sector

the African Petroleum Producers' Organisation (APPO) Forum for Research and Development Directors, held at the PTDF Tower in Abuja.

The forum brought together R&D directors from APPO member countries to deliberate on shared industry challenges and opportunities.

Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), Heineken Lokpobiri, represented by a former APPO Secretary

General, Omar Ibrahim, said the forum is one of four strategic initiatives introduced by APPO to address challenges arising from the global energy transition.

He explained that while the R&D forum focuses on technology and expertise, the proposed African Energy Bank is designed to tackle funding constraints, and the Central African Pipeline System aims to enhance regional market

integration.

In his remarks, NNPC's Group Chief Executive Officer, Bashir Ojulari, represented by the Chief Financial Officer, Adedapo Segun, emphasised the central role of research and development in the future of Africa's oil and gas industry.

He said R&D centres must evolve into drivers of industrial competitiveness, warning that while innovation may be costly, the consequences of technological stagnation would be greater.

Mr Ojulari also called for a unified strategic framework among African producers to enable resource pooling, data integration and risk-sharing.

He further urged the adoption of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence and advanced engineering, to improve efficiency across upstream, midstream and downstream operations. APPO Secretary General, Farid Ghezali, stressed the need for research efforts to yield practical solutions tailored to Africa's specific needs.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# #SafetywithMOT



**Expressways are not designed for pedestrians. Use a pedestrian bridge, underpass, or designated crossing whenever possible.**



**#LagosMOT**  
**#SafetywithMOT**  
**#SafetyFirst**  
**#Staysafe**

## Local Transport News

# Gov Bago Distributes Over 100 Vehicles To Boost Service Delivery

### Culled

Niger State Governor Umaru Bago has distributed over 100 vehicles to judges and members of boards and commissions in the state as part of efforts to enhance service delivery.

The symbolic presentation took place at the Government House in Minna, where the governor said the initiative was designed to address transportation challenges faced by public office holders in the discharge of their duties.

He said improved mobility for key government officials would translate into more efficient governance and better service delivery across the state.

Governor Bago urged the beneficiaries to ensure the vehicles are used strictly for official purposes and maintained properly.

Some of the beneficiary institutions include the Niger State Secondary Education Board, Civil Service Commission, Local Government Service Commission, House of Assembly Service Commission, Law Reform

Commission, Fiscal Responsibility Commission, Niger State Universal Basic Education Board, and the Judicial Service Commission.

The event featured a symbolic handover of vehicles to representatives of the various agencies.

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Governor Bago

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

### Culled

The Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority, Dr Abubakar Dantsoho, has stated that despite Nigeria's vast advantages in the region, including strategic location, market size, and economic strength, among others, the country currently handles only about 25 per cent of cargo traffic in the region, even though it accounts for over 60 per cent of West Africa's gross domestic product.

According to a recent statement obtained by The PUNCH, Dantsoho stated this while speaking at the Blue Economy Investment Summit in Abuja.

"It is worrisome that Nigeria, despite controlling over 60 per cent of West Africa's GDP, handles only about 25 per cent of the region's cargo traffic. This clearly shows that we have not fully optimised our potential," Dantsoho said.

He, however, assured investors that the tide is turning, as the Federal Government, through the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, is implementing far-reaching reforms to reposition the sector.

# Nigeria Handles 25% Of Regional Cargo Traffic

According to him, key initiatives include port modernisation, deployment of a Trade Single Window, implementation of a Port Community System, development of deep seaports, and full digitalisation of port operations.

"We are implementing key strategic initiatives such as port modernisation, trade single windows, a port community system, deep seaport development, and full digitalisation to reposition our ports for global competitiveness," he stated.

Dantsoho emphasised that private sector funding remains central to achieving these goals, noting that the NPA is actively encouraging project financing to bridge infrastructure gaps and improve efficiency.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# NRC Declares Stark Prohibition Of Illegal Structures Along R'way Corridors



The NRC Train

Before now, railway stations served as rallying points for passengers and tourists such that development of some cities, towns and markets centred around proximity to the stations.

The stations were so relevant to the extent that wreckage of boat used to discover River Niger by Mungo Park and first Coal engine that railed on narrow gauge tracks were displayed at Jebba and Minna railway stations respectively for interested passengers/tourists on board Lagos-Kano, Port-Harcourt-Lagos and Lagos-Maiduguri passenger trains to drop down at the duo stations to catch a glimpse of these monuments during stopovers.

However, as frequency of trains and population continued to expand, coupled with hindered access to rail tracks, this development snowballed into erection/construction of illegal structures near railway sub-stations, habited by questionable characters especially in Lagos.

Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) in response to petitions challenging illegal leases/sales of land/properties last year, advised interested parties seeking either land leases or properties to obtain approvals from Railway Property Management Company Limited.

In a letter signed by managing director of the corporation, Dr. Kayode Opeifa to railway district managers and co-ordinators, he cautioned them against sales of railway properties or lease of land.

According to the letter titled: "Strict warning against unauthorised sales /lease or allocation of railway landed properties", he stated categorically that it has come to the attention of

management that some officers have been engaging in lease, allocation or unauthorised dealings in NRC landed properties without proper documentation or approval from office of the managing director of the corporation.

Opeifa stated inter alia that "No railway district manager is authorised to engage in any form of transaction, allocation or disposal of NRC landed property without explicit written approval from office of managing director, NRC or managing director, Railway Property Management Company Limited Mr. Timothy Zalanga".

He warned that any staff found to be involved in Illegal leasing of land to squatters will be sanctioned according to the rules and regulations of the corporation.

Opeifa also restated that trading and construction of structures along railway corridors is illegal

Barely one month after Lagos state task force burnt/demolished illegal structures housing squatters along Iju-

Agege railway corridor, another set of makeshift structures have started taking shape.

Recall that the demolition/burning exercise, started in early hours of the morning on that faithful Thursday, March 26, amid tight security.

The task force alongside Lagos State ministry of environment officials burnt/demolished illegal structures with bulldozers as dislodged occupants gathered and grumbled in hushed tones.

During the exercise, some affected squatters showed signs of resistance setting up bonfire with used tyres in the middle of railway tracks.

This resulted into thick dark smoke that enveloped the air thereby affecting vehicular, train and pedestrian movements within "Fagba Junction" and environs.

The managements of Nigerian Railway Corporation's (NRC) and Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) had to delay their separate mass transit train services for more than 2 hours.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



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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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**QUALITY EMULSION**

...quality speaks



# NRC Pushes Rail-Port Synergy To Boost Freight Movement, Economic Growth

## Culled

Ahead of plans to link Lekki, Tin-Can Island and Warri Seaports via standard gauge railway lines, Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has advocated for stronger collaboration with Nigerian Ports Authority in order to optimize evacuation of imports and exports in and out of Lagos and Eastern port corridors to other parts of the Country.

Managing director of NRC who dropped this hint while delivering a keynote address at the recently conclude Quarterly engagement of Nigerian Ports Consultative Council (NPCC) said that maritime sector reforms and construction of deep seaports without efficient rail linkage will continue to yield marginal returns.

He stated further that based on approval granted Federal government the Lagos-Ibadan standard gauge railway line will be extended from Apapa to Tin-Can Island port while Warri-Itakpe standard gauge will be linked to Warri port and



Dr. Opeifa

Port-Harcourt narrow gauge connected to One port. The NRC boss restated that "connecting all seaports by railways is a pathway to boosting the economy". As part of the

expansion plan, he said year. Lekki deep seaport standard gauge railway line will be connected to Sagamu via Ijebu-Ode and link Lagos-Ibadan standard gauge railway line at Kajola in Ogun state before end of this

efforts to improve operational efficiency and reduce bottlenecks.

"Optimizing port operations through revolution of freight by rail is critical to achieving a more reliable and cost-effective freight system," he said

Opeifa spoke about strategic relevance of interconnectivity among eastern region ports adding that plans are underway to construct new railway lines that will further enhance port operations and regional trade integration.

He also enjoined truck owners not to sabotage plans to link railway line to seaports adding that truckers still have a role to play in the movement of raw materials from the farmlands to seaports for export as well as imports from the seaports to the hinterland.

According to a statement issued by chief public relations officer of the corporation Callistus Uyimadu, the Federal government plans to introduce high speed trains and a committee has been constituted by Secretary to the Federal government to drive the process.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

## Delta Oil C'nties Flay Operators Over Non-Implementation Of PIA



The Niger Delta region

Having waited patiently for the Asset Management Team and Sterling Global Oil Exploration and Energy Company, working with the NNPC Exploration and Production Limited (NEPL), to operationalise the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), Delta State host communities, under OML 26, have said they have ran out of patience and are now prepared to take their destinies into their hands.

According to a statement signed by Ere Okpako and Angela Akpofa on behalf of Isoko Grassroots Mobilisers, the group noted that Chapter 3 of the PIA provided the responsibility of the settlor to the host communities.

The statement said: "It is expected that three

per cent of the settlers' yearly Operating Expenditure (OPEX) is set aside for community development through the Host Community Development Trust (HCDDT). But strangely, the settlor only made a paltry remittance to the HCDDT of OML 26, contrary to the PIA.

"This was in October 2025, nearly two years after the inauguration of the HCDDT. Curiously, the remittance was short-paid by about N2.4 billion." The group disclosed that the Board of Trustees (BOT) raised an alarm about the short payments by drawing the settlor's attention to the shortfall in November 2025, but the company didn't respond until December 22, 2025, when a virtual meeting was held without any resolution, despite the company's assurance that it would respond within two weeks.

It noted that a petition to the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) followed in January 2026, which now hosted a tripartite meeting of NEPL, the HCDDT

BOT at the NUPRC Abuja office on April 15, 2026, where the operator categorically said the shortfall was allegedly spent on Special Intervention Projects contrary to the PIA 2021 and the Global Memorandum of Understanding (GMOU) before the advent of the PIA. "Although the PIA allows for a one-year transition, that one year post-PIA elapsed in August 2022," it added.

The group expressed concern that the company's Asset Management Team (AMT), led by Sterling Global Oil Exploration and Energy Company, is playing games and is no longer acceptable.

"We are aware of the efforts of the BOT to ensure development of the communities, but paucity of funds has been a clog in this direction," the group said.

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[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# Fraport Inaugurates The New Terminal 3 At Frankfurt Airport

*Culled*  
Fraport AG officially opened the new state-of-the-art Terminal 3 at Frankfurt Airport with a ceremony attended by more than 400 invited guests from government, business, and the aviation industry.

The inauguration marks the completion of the largest infrastructure project ever undertaken by the MDAX-listed company, ushering in a new era in Frankfurt Airport's history.

Guests of honour included German Federal Minister for Transport Patrick Schnieder; Hesse's Minister-President Boris Rhein; the Lord Mayor of Frankfurt, Mike Josef; Michael Boddenberg, Chair of Fraport's Supervisory Board; and Christoph Mäckler, the architect responsible for designing Terminal 3.

"Today is a special day – for Fraport, for Frankfurt, for Hesse, and far beyond,"



emphasises Stefan Schulte, Chief Executive Officer of Fraport AG. "With the inauguration of our Terminal 3, one of Europe's most advanced terminals, we are

positioning ourselves for long-term success. This brand-new structure is more than just a major step forward in our airport's evolution; it also stands as a symbol of the

outstanding collaboration among all those involved in the project. Each of them has contributed to its success with their expertise, lifeblood, and abilities,"

he adds. Minister-President Boris Rhein states: "It's a great achievement that the new Terminal 3 is being inaugurated this Wednesday. As Europe's

largest privately funded infrastructure project, it demonstrates what Germany is capable of. Germany can build. We can deliver ambitious projects. 'Made in Germany' remains a badge of quality. The new terminal strengthens both our airport and our economy. We need strong air transportation hubs to keep our country internationally connected. That is why we want to further enhance Germany's competitiveness in the global aviation industry."

The grand opening of the new passenger terminal was celebrated with an impressive light show and a choreographed dance performance in Terminal 3's central marketplace. The official program concluded with the announcement: "Terminal 3 is ready for check-in!" [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

*Culled*  
An aerial drone photo taken on Nov. 15, 2024 shows people celebrating the That Luang festival in Vientiane, Laos. The China-Laos Railway cross-border passenger service marked its third anniversary on April 13, representing a significant milestone in regional connectivity

and cultural exchange. Linking Kunming in southwest China's Yunnan Province with the Lao capital Vientiane, the railway enables same-day trips between the two cities. By significantly slashing journey time, the railway also brings people of the two countries

## China-Laos Railway Boosts Cross-Border Connectivity

closer to each other.

Over the past three years, the rail service has transformed cross-border mobility. According to the Laos-China Railway Co. Ltd. (LCRC), which operates the Lao section of the railway, the train service has handled over 800,000 cross-border passenger trips as of April 12.

The China-Laos Railway cross-border passenger service has evolved into more than just a transportation link. It has become a vital bridge connecting people, cultures, and opportunities. This steel artery has made exchanges and mutual learning between the two sides an accessible part of daily life.

This photo taken on Sept. 26, 2024 shows a view of Patuxay Park in Vientiane, Laos. The China-Laos Railway cross-border passenger service marked its third anniversary on April 13, representing a significant milestone in regional connectivity and cultural exchange.

Linking Kunming in southwest China's Yunnan Province with the Lao capital Vientiane, the railway enables same-day trips between the two cities. By significantly slashing journey time, the railway also brings people of the two countries

closer to each other.

Over the past three years, the rail service has transformed cross-border mobility. According to the Laos-China Railway Co. Ltd. (LCRC), which operates the Lao section of the railway, the train service has handled over 800,000 cross-border passenger trips as of April 12.

The China-Laos Railway cross-border passenger service has evolved into more than just a transportation link. It has become a vital bridge connecting people, cultures, and opportunities. This steel artery has made exchanges and mutual learning between the two sides an accessible part of daily life.

This photo taken on April 16, 2026 shows an exterior view of the Luang Prabang Station of the China-Laos Railway in Luang Prabang, Laos. The China-Laos Railway cross-border passenger service marked its third anniversary on April 13, representing a significant milestone in regional connectivity and cultural exchange.

Linking Kunming in southwest China's Yunnan Province with the Lao capital Vientiane, the railway enables same-day trips between the two cities. By significantly slashing journey time, the railway also brings people of the two countries closer to each other. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

**PUBLISHER**  
Greatpen Global Media Limited  
(RC SCUML RC)

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
Olorundare Enimola

**ADMIN ACCOUNT HEAD**  
Funmilola Olowookere

**HEAD GRAPHICS**  
Michael Olamide

**NEWS CORRESPONDENT**  
Ayomide Tiwatayo

**E - CIRCULATION**  
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## General News

# Nigeria Decentralises Power Sector As States Take Regulatory Control

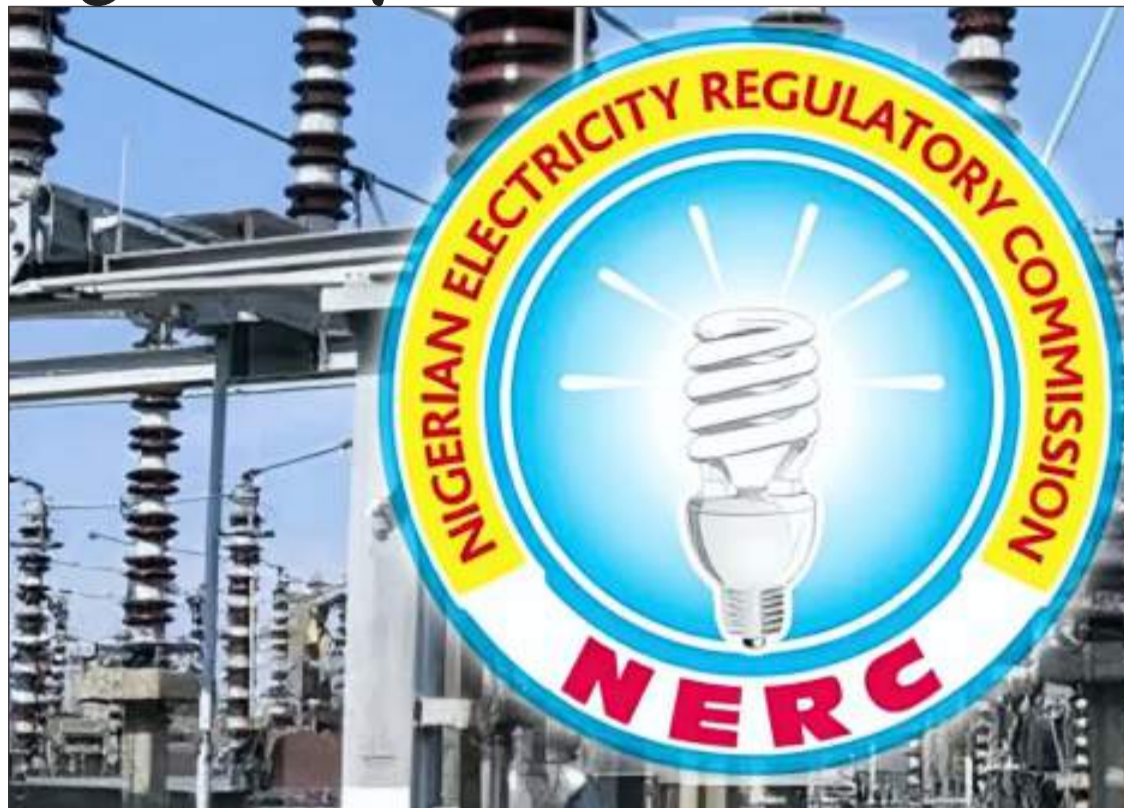
**Culled:** Nigeria has begun decentralising its electricity sector following the implementation of the Electricity Act 2023, with a growing number of states assuming control of their local power markets and regulatory processes.

The shift means electricity consumers in participating states will no longer direct complaints to the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), but instead to state-level regulators established to oversee electricity generation, distribution and consumer protection within their jurisdictions.

In a public notice outlining the transition, NERC said states that have completed the required legal and regulatory steps would assume responsibility for electricity regulation within their territories, including handling customer complaints such as disputed bills, metering delays and service failures by distribution companies.

States that have moved into the new framework include Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Enugu, Ekiti, Ondo, Imo, Edo, Kogi, Niger, Plateau, Abia, Nasarawa and Bayelsa.

The Electricity Act, signed into law in 2023, removed electricity from the



Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC)

exclusive legislative list, allowing state governments to generate, transmit and distribute electricity within their borders. It also mandates states to establish independent regulatory commissions to manage licensing, tariffs and consumer protection.

NERC has said it will transfer regulatory oversight of intrastate electricity markets to states that meet the legal requirements, while retaining authority over interstate

electricity operations and the national grid.

“For states that have enacted their electricity laws and established regulators, the commission will cede regulatory oversight of intrastate electricity markets,” NERC said in a statement on the implementation of the Act.

In Enugu, the state government announced the operationalisation of its electricity regulatory commission, formally taking

over responsibilities previously handled by NERC. Similar steps have been taken in Lagos and other states that have passed electricity laws in line with the Act.

The reform changes how consumers seek redress. Residents in affected states are now required to report complaints directly to their state regulators, which serve as the primary point of contact for issues involving distribution companies.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# Alcohol Manufacturers Raise The Alarm Over Illicit Trade

**Culled:**

The Spirits and Wines Association of Nigeria has raised concerns over the scale and impact of illicit trade in the country, warning that it poses serious risks to public health, government revenue and legitimate businesses.

The association raised the concerns at a press conference held immediately after a one-day workshop in Abuja on Wednesday, themed 'Combating Illicit Trade in the Spirits and Wines Industry'.

SWAN, the industry body representing companies engaged in the manufacturing, importation, distribution and marketing of spirits, wines and other alcoholic beverages in Nigeria, counts both global and local firms among its members, including Bacardi, Diageo, Distell, Guinness Nigeria, Moët Hennessy, Nigerian Bottling Company, Nigerian Breweries and Pernod Ricard.

The SWAN President, Michael Ehindero, said that the workshop brought together regulators, policymakers, enforcement agencies and key industry players to address the challenge.

“Our discussions are based on a fairly shared concern. Illicit trade, particularly in spirits and wines, remains a significant threat to the public health of Nigerians, to government revenue, and to the sustainability of legitimate businesses operating within the law in Nigeria,” Ehindero said.

He stressed the need for stronger collaboration among stakeholders to tackle the issue effectively.

“Throughout this workshop, participants examined the scale and impact of illicit alcohol, shared insights from both local and international perspectives, and more importantly, identified practical and coordinated approaches to tackle the problem.

“One of the important takeaways from today's session is about collaboration. No single stakeholder can address the issue,” he said.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# Nigeria To Link Police Stations To Digital Map, Fibre Networks



Bosun Tijani

**Culled:** The Federal Government is set to map and digitalise police stations nationwide as part of broader efforts to modernise policing and strengthen national digital infrastructure.

Bosun Tijani, Minister of Communications,

Innovation and Digital Economy, disclosed this in Abuja on Wednesday after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Federal Government and the Police Trust Fund (PTF).

He said the initiative would

involve mapping all Police stations across the Country and assessing their proximity to existing fibre optic infrastructure to enable better connectivity and service delivery.

According to him, the exercise will help government identify police stations already within reach of fibre “points of presence” and guide more efficient expansion of the national broadband network.

Tijani noted that Nigeria already has extensive fibre infrastructure deployed through Galaxy Backbone and other government-backed investments, adding that better coordination through mapping could unlock greater value from existing assets.

He explained that the project could also influence future infrastructure planning, including

the strategic placement of fibre points closer to police stations across the country's over 7,000 wards.

The project, which is expected to be supported by the World Bank and the European Union, is part of Government's broader push to strengthen digital public infrastructure and improve security service delivery.

Tijani also pointed to potential efficiency gains in Police operations, including the use of speech-to-text systems that could automatically transcribe citizens' statements at Police stations, reducing language barriers and improving documentation accuracy. He added that capacity building for officers would be central to successful deployment.

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Far-Reaching reforms for economic revival

# Nigeria Reaffirms Far-Reaching Reforms For Economic Revival

**Culled:** Nigeria has reaffirmed its commitment to far-reaching reforms and deeper international engagement, highlighting its ambition for economic renewal, transparency and stronger global partnerships.

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, stated this in Abuja during an interactive session with foreign media organisations.

He said the country was currently undergoing one of its most ambitious reform programmes in decades under President Bola Tinubu.

“We are embarking on the most

comprehensive set of structural reforms in decades under the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu,” the minister said.

He explained that the reforms span critical sectors, including the economy, security, taxation, education, infrastructure, and social welfare, with early results already emerging.

According to him, Nigeria's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 3.87 per cent in 2025, marking a significant turnaround.

“For the first time in nearly a decade, economic growth has outpaced population growth, signalling renewed

momentum,” the minister noted.

Idris also highlighted key fiscal measures, including the removal of fuel subsidies and the unification of the exchange rate, which he said have generated savings now being redirected into infrastructure and social services.

On security, the Minister said intelligence-led operations have helped restore stability in parts of the country, while ongoing legislative efforts towards state policing are aimed at strengthening governance at the sub-national level.

He further pointed to investments in agriculture, education, and youth

development as critical drivers of inclusive growth.

“Programmes such as interest-free student loans and expanding digital infrastructure are creating new opportunities for young Nigerians,” he stated.

The Minister called for balanced global coverage, urging international media organisations to reflect both the country's challenges and progress in their reporting.

“Accurate reporting requires holding both truths. We welcome robust engagement and partnership with the international media as we chart this course of renewal,” he said.

*Find Full Story In The Link*

## NCDC Confirms COVID-19 Case In Cross River

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) has confirmed a case of COVID-19 in Cross River State, assuring Nigerians that the situation is under control with no evidence of widespread transmission.

In a press statement issued by its Corporate Communications Division, the agency disclosed that the infected individual has been isolated and is currently stable,

receiving care in line with national treatment guidelines.

The NCDC stated that immediate response measures have been activated in collaboration with the Cross River State Ministry of Health and relevant partners.

“These include intensified contact tracing, strengthened surveillance, and reinforced infection prevention and control measures to contain any possible spread,” they said.

According to the agency, all identified contacts are being closely monitored, with appropriate follow-up ongoing to ensure early detection and response where necessary.

The public health agency urged Nigerians to remain calm but vigilant, maintain proper hygiene practices such as regular hand washing, observe respiratory etiquette, and stay at home when

feeling unwell.

It further advised the public to rely only on verified information from official health authorities, warning against misinformation that could trigger unnecessary panic.

The NCDC reaffirmed its commitment to closely monitoring the situation and providing timely updates, while encouraging citizens to use its toll-free hotline and official platforms for accurate information.

*Find Full Story In The Link*

# DRIVING SCHOOLS AND SAFETY ALLIANCE AFRICA - DSSAA

## DSSAA INITIATIVES AND CAUSES

1. African Institute of Driving Instructors and Road Safety professionals (ADRIP) - This will be an online Academy for the training of Driving School Instructors and Road Safety professionals.
2. Africa Road Transport Safety Summit and Exhibition (ARTSS EXPO) - The largest gathering of Researchers and Industry Leaders in Road Transport Safety featuring exhibitions of technology devices and Innovations.
3. Africa Safe School Volunteer Project (ASSVP) - A social responsibility project that members of DSSAA will get directly involved in their various countries which includes volunteering to control traffic and help Children cross the Road during school hours in schools, funding installation of STOP Road signs and marking of zebra crossings at school Intersections, as well as carrying out the training of children on Road Safety practices in schools.
4. Africa Road Safety Partnerships and Research board (ARSPARB)- A hub for the advancement of partnerships with development agencies, National Governments and corporations as well as a Research Faculty for Road Safety Research Projects.

## About DSSAA

Driving Schools and Safety Alliance Africa - DSSAA is Africa's premier Professional Association of Driving School Owners, Instructors, Driver Assessors and Road Safety professionals.

It is registered in the Gambia and UK with National offices in all the Capital cities in Africa.

DSSAA aims to bring all the critical stakeholders together to build the capacity of Driving School operators and support Road Safety through advocacy, public education, lobbying, fund raising, training and certification.

We are the promoters of various Road Transport Safety initiatives and programmes among which are the African Institute of Driving Instructors and Road Safety professionals (ADRIP), Africa Road Transport Safety Exhibition (ARTSS EXPO), Africa Safe school volunteer project (ASSVP) and the Africa Road Safety Partnership and Research board (ARSPARB) domiciled in our Overseas Office in Bournemouth United Kingdom.

Membership is open to Road Safety advocates all over the world.

# DSSAA

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



### GRANTS

There are available grants from National Governments, multinational corporations and NGOS.

The leadership of DSSAA is committed to pursuing these grants at the African Union Secretariat, Ecowas NGO Roundtable and other multilateral Initiatives and making them available to Members only.

### CAPACITY DEV.

Membership gives you access to our robust learning portal where you get latest Road Safety Research, scholarship opportunities and internships. Admission to ADPRIP is at a discounted rate. Our interfaces with Government authorities gives you Industry advantages.

### NETWORKING

Your participation in our community platforms opens up new business relationship opportunities with operators, Regulators, Vendors, Researchers and Investors across the globe as membership is open worldwide.

### GOOD BUSINESS

### PROFILE/LEVERAGE

You are entitled to use DSSAA Member logo on your website, office branding, Letterhead and Business Cards.

Our community development projects such as the Safe School Volunteer Project as well as our Road Safety advocacy activities creates a positive brand footprint for all our Members and Affiliates. Membership of DSSAA elevates your Corporate ethical persona.

### OTHER BENEFITS

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#### JOB FAIR

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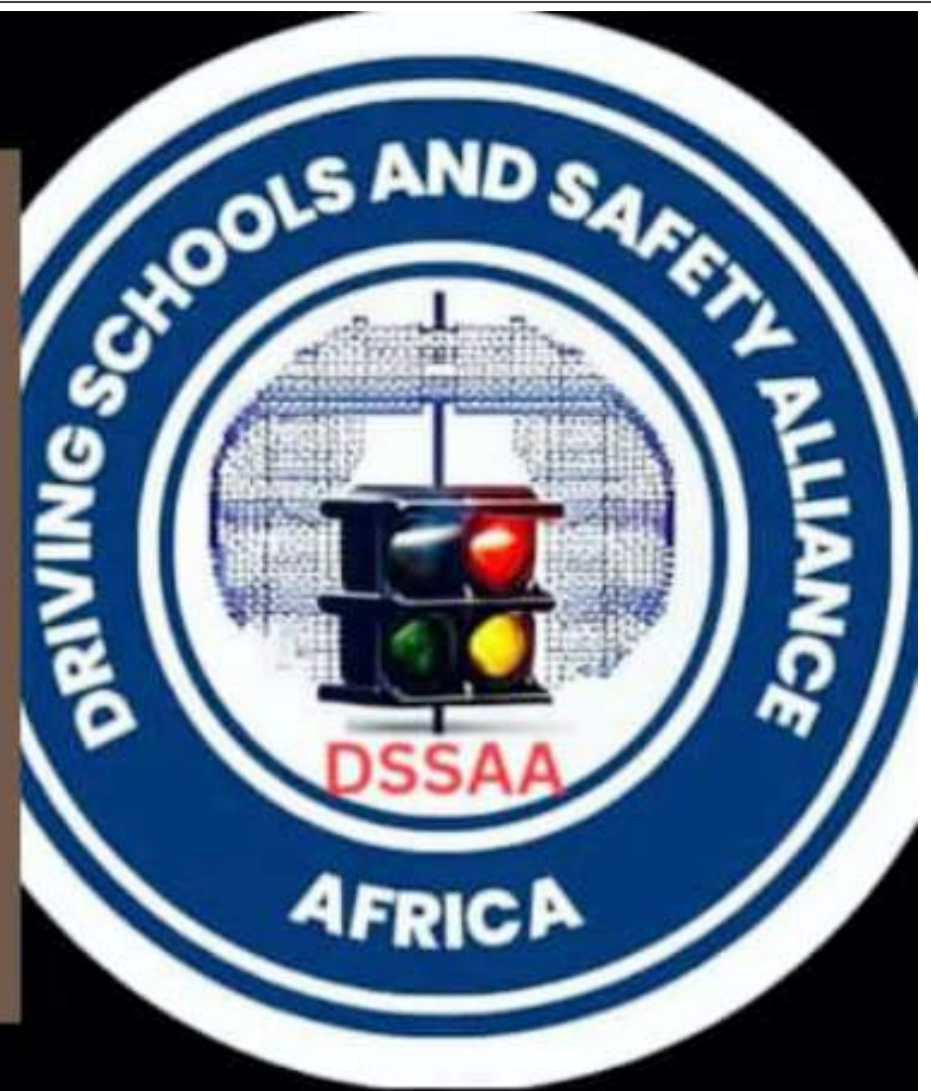


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