

## LAGFERRY Hosts LJLA Fellows On Lagos W'ways, Highlights Growth and Safety Milestones

The Lagos State Ferry Services (LAGFERRY) has hosted Fellows of the Leadership Academy (LJLA) on a special waterways tour as part of its Brown Bag Series engagement, offering participants firsthand experience of water transportation in Lagos. Akeem Odusina, Public Affairs, LAGFERRY, in a press release said the visit which was

CONTINUES ON P2

## Lagos Taskforce Launches Anti-Crime Patrol Unit To Tackle Criminal Activities

The Lagos State Taskforce has launched a dedicated Anti-Crime Patrol Unit to strengthen efforts at combating criminal

activities and environmental violations across the state. The Chairman of the agency, CSP Adetayo Akerele, unveiled the unit on Wednesday at the Taskforce headquarters in Bolade, Oshodi, describing the initiative as a

CONTINUES ON P2



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Thurs, April 2nd 2026

E-NEWSPAPER

# Transport Costs Surge N'wide As Abia And Ogun Lead Intercity Fare Spike In Feb 2026

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Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The NBS disclosed this in its February 2026

Transport Fare Watch released on Wednesday, noting increases across most

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The report showed that

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## FUT Daura Trains FRSC Officers On Crash Investigation, Road Safety Expertise

P3

## TRACE Deploys Operatives For Easter Traffic Control In Ogun

P2

## NANTA Advises Foreign Airlines Over Dollar Sales

P7



National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Headquarters

## FRSC Begins Easter Patrols, Says No Room For Speeding, Overloading

The Federal Road Safety Corps has launched the 2026 Easter Special Patrol Operations, scheduled to run from

April 1 to 8, 2026, to ensure safe and smooth movement of road users during the holiday.

In a statement on

Wednesday, signed by Ag. Corps Public Education Officer, Felicia Kalu, the Corps Marshal Shehu Mohammed,

said the operation was necessitated by the "expected increase in vehicular and human traffic across the country, as Nigerians join the

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## Reps Begin Probe Of Ports' Concessionaires

P5

## Local Transport News

### Lagos Taskforce Launches Anti-crime Patrol Unit To Tackle Criminal Activities

#### Culled

The Lagos State Taskforce has launched a dedicated Anti-Crime Patrol Unit to strengthen efforts at combating criminal activities and environmental violations across the state.

The Chairman of the agency, CSP Adetayo Akerele, unveiled the unit on Wednesday at the Taskforce headquarters in Bolade, Oshodi, describing the initiative as a strategic move to rid Lagos of criminal elements posing threats to residents and visitors.

Akerele said the unit would operate as a rapid response team with the mandate to arrest and prosecute offenders involved in crimes such as drug peddling, street hooliganism, activities of "area boys" (popularly referred to as "Omotaku"), and "one-chance" robbery syndicates.

He added that the team would also target environmental infractions, attacks on government officials on

lawful duty, quackery, and other related offences.

According to him, the Taskforce will intensify surveillance, patrols, and enforcement operations across identified flashpoints in the state to ensure improved public safety.

"We will be all out to stamp out criminal activities in the state this year. No stone will be left unturned to compel criminals to desist or relocate from Lagos," Akerele stated.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



CSP Akerele

### TRACE Deploys Operatives For Easter Traffic Control In Ogun

#### Culled

The Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Agency (TRACE) has announced plans to ensure effective traffic management and round-the-clock emergency and rescue services across 27 major traffic corridors in the state during the Easter celebrations.

In a statement issued by the office of the agency's most senior commander, Cmrdr. Elias Omonayajo, the special operation commenced on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, and is scheduled to end on Friday, April 10, 2026.

According to the agency, an increase in human and vehicular movement is anticipated during the festive period, alongside possible challenges such as vehicle breakdowns, road obstructions, overloading, excessive speeding, drunk driving, and road crashes.

To address these concerns, TRACE said it has deployed additional personnel and engaged its voluntary arm, TRACE Mayors, to monitor strategic locations and traffic-prone

areas across the state.

The agency also noted that it would collaborate with other security and safety agencies, particularly the Ogun State Emergency Medical Services and Ambulance System (OGSEMSAS), under the state's security architecture to ensure the safety of lives and property.

Field commanders have been directed to ensure that operatives maintain professionalism, civility, and fairness while carrying out their duties.

While extending Easter greetings to Christians, the TRACE leadership urged motorists to strictly adhere to traffic rules and regulations.

It warned that any vehicle impounded for traffic violations during the period would not be released until Monday, April 13, 2026, after the conclusion of the special operation.

For emergencies and feedback, the agency provided the following contact lines: 112 (toll-free), 0706 942 5555, 0806 270 3568, and 0803 491 9165.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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The Lagos State Ferry Services (LAGFERRY) has hosted Fellows of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy (LJLA) on a special waterways tour as part of its Brown Bag Series engagement, offering participants firsthand experience of water transportation in Lagos.

Akeem Odusina, Public Affairs, LAGFERRY, in a press release said the visit which was held along the Lagos coastline, forms part of the Academy's structured Brown Bag Series, an initiative designed to provide Fellows with direct access to leadership across Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) through interactive sessions.

The programme aims to deepen understanding of governance, institutional mandates, and policy implementation.

Managing Director of LAGFERRY, Ladi Balogun, during the session, traced the history and development of water transportation in the state, highlighting key achievements recorded by the



LAGFERRY hosts the LJLA fellows

agency in recent years.

He attributed the growth of the sector to the support of Babajide Sanwo-Olu, noting that deliberate investments by the state government have significantly enhanced LAGFERRY's operational capacity.

According to Balogun, the agency has transported over four million passengers as of 2026, a sharp

increase from just over 40,000 recorded in 2020.

He added that LAGFERRY now operates 17 terminals and jetties across 27 routes statewide, with its fleet expanded from four vessels in 2020 to 20 vessels in 2026.

The Managing Director also underscored the agency's commitment to safety, citing strict enforcement of protocols such as

compulsory use of lifejackets, comprehensive insurance coverage, regular training for boat operators, and routine vessel maintenance.

As part of the visit, the Fellows embarked on a cruise aboard the MV Adimu Orisa barge, departing from Five Cowries Terminal, Falomo. The tour offered scenic views of notable landmarks, including the Lekki-Ikoyi Link Bridge.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

## Local Transport News

### FUT Daura Trains FRSC Officers On Crash Investigation, Road Safety Expertise

#### Culled

The Federal University of Transportation, Daura has concluded a two-day capacity building training for officers of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Daura, aimed at strengthening road safety knowledge and improving crash investigation skills.

The training, held from March 30 to 31, 2026, at the university's permanent site, was organised as part of the institution's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. It was themed "Vehicle Crash Worthiness and Road Crash Reconstruction."

Speaking at the opening session, the Vice-Chancellor, Umar Adam Katsayal, underscored the importance of interactive learning in enhancing participants' understanding and overall service delivery. He highlighted the critical role of road safety measures in reducing accidents and commended FRSC officers for their continued commitment.

The training facilitator, Ibrahim Rafukka, delivered lectures on the fundamentals of

road safety, stressing the need for safer roads, vehicles, and responsible road users.

He identified environmental, human, vehicular, and road-related factors as major causes of accidents, while emphasising the importance of vehicle safety systems in reducing fatalities.

Also speaking, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Wahab Akanni Owokoniran, praised the university management for organising the programme.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Prof. Katsayal

### Motorists Commend Reps Over Rehabilitation Of Ejigbo Road

#### Culled

Residents of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have expressed excitement over the rehabilitation of Segun Awolowo Street by a member of the Federal House of Representatives representing Oshodi/Isolo Federal Constituency II, Okey Joe Onuakalusi.

A resident, Monday Ogwo, said the road rehabilitation had become a milestone achievement in grassroots development within the constituency, adding that the road had long hindered movements and affected economic activities in the area.

Also, a motorist, Kunle Ajao, extolled the lawmaker's timely intervention.

According to him, many motorists have spent so much on replacement of spare parts because of the poor state of the road.

The Community Development Association (CDA) Chairman in the area, Peter Adewale, thanked the federal lawmaker for always keeping to his promises to the people.

He noted that for years, residents had endured poor road conditions and felt neglected despite repeated appeals to previous representatives.

He said: "Today, he has not only tarred the road but also provided free healthcare for the elderly people in the community."

He further stated that the CDA would take full responsibility for the road project by maintaining its standard and ensuring its drainage path is well taken care of.

Onuakalusi, while speaking on the project, noted that the road rehabilitation had received massive applause from both residents and community leaders, saying that the project traces its roots in 2025 when he first intervened in the community's electricity challenges by donating and commissioning a 300 KVA transformer for residents of Segun Awolowo Street.

He said that during his visit, the community leaders expressed appreciation and appealed for tarring of their road, which he assured them and today, he has fulfilled the promises.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

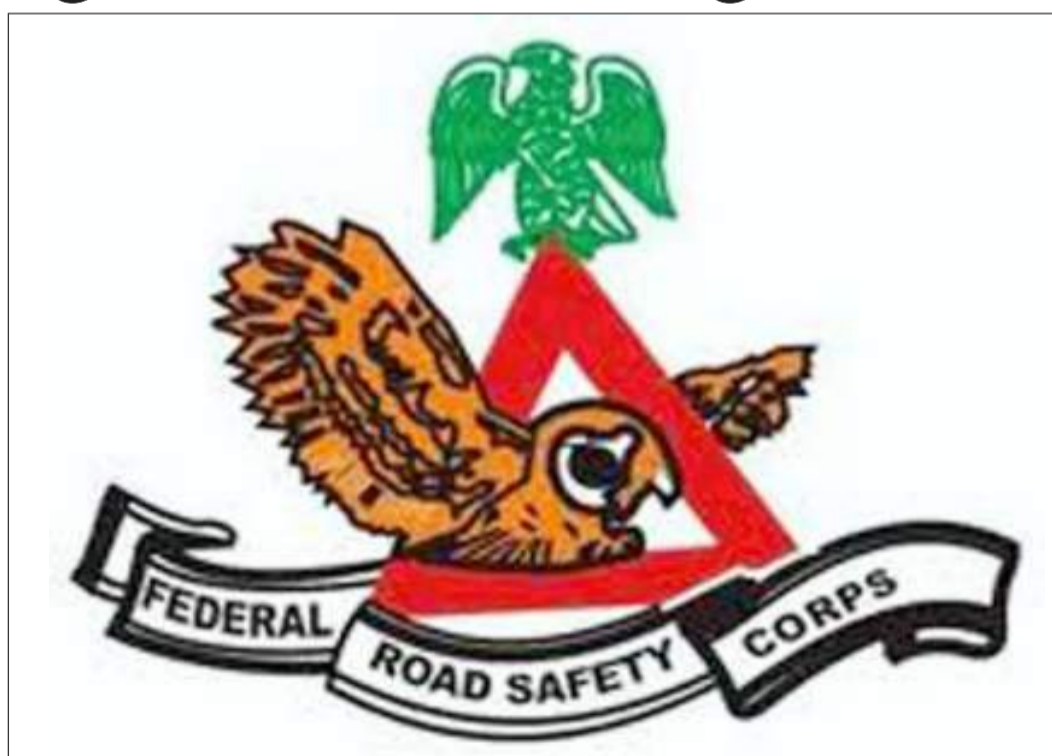
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The Federal Road Safety Corps has launched the 2026 Easter Special Patrol Operations, scheduled to run from April 1 to 8, 2026, to ensure safe and smooth movement of road users during the holiday.

In a statement on Wednesday, signed by Ag. Corps Public Education Officer, Felicia Kalu, the Corps Marshal Shehu Mohammed, said the operation was necessitated by the "expected increase in vehicular and human traffic across the country, as Nigerians join the global Christian community in commemorating the Easter celebration."

The Corps has identified high-risk and high-traffic routes for special attention, including Lagos-Ibadan, Sagamu-Ore-Benin, Abuja-Lokoja, Benin-Auchi-Okene, Kaduna-Zaria-Kano, Ilorin-Mokwa-Birnin Gwari, Bauchi-Gombe, as well as major eastern routes such as Onitsha-Asaba-Benin, Onitsha-Owerri, and Enugu-Aba-Port Harcourt. Mohammed said personnel and



FRSC

logistics have been "strategically deployed along these corridors to enhance traffic flow, ensure rapid emergency response, and boost operational visibility."

He added that the Corps will "intensify enforcement against major traffic violations responsible for road crashes," including speeding, dangerous driving, overloading, lane indiscipline, use of mobile phones while driving, tyre

violations, road obstructions, and mix-loading of passengers with goods.

Special attention will also be given to "seat belt compliance, child restraint use, passengers' manifest violations, and mechanically deficient vehicles."

To reinforce compliance, Mohammed said, "mobile courts will be deployed along major routes for the prompt prosecution of offenders. This measure is designed to ensure immediate

dispensation of justice in accordance with existing traffic laws, while promoting discipline and accountability among road users."

The FRSC has also activated round-the-clock patrol, rescue, and traffic management services, supported by patrol vehicles, ambulances, tow trucks, and modern enforcement equipment.

Mohammed said, "Public enlightenment campaigns will be intensified through National Traffic Radio 107.1 FM and other media platforms to provide real-time travel advisories and safety information."

He assured Nigerians of the FRSC's commitment to "safeguarding lives and property on the highways" and called on motorists to "obey traffic rules, avoid risky driving behaviours, and ensure their vehicles are in good condition before embarking on any journey."

Members of the public are advised to contact the Corps in case of emergencies through the toll-free number 122 or 0700-CALL-FRSC.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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## Local Transport News

# Customs Dismantle Fuel Smuggling Network In Southwest

### Culled

The Nigeria Customs Service NCS has dismantled a fuel smuggling network operating along the Southwest border corridor, as part of ongoing efforts to curb the illegal export of Premium Motor Spirit PMS.

The development was disclosed during a press briefing held at the Customs Training College in Ikeja on Tuesday March 31, 2026 and posted on the Official X handle of the Nigeria Customs Service.

Speaking at the briefing, the National Coordinator of Operation Whirlwind, Deputy Comptroller of Customs Abubakar Aliyu, said the operation led to the interception of 14,875 litres of PMS.

“Over the past few weeks, our operatives, acting on credible intelligence, have successfully dismantled a coordinated network of smugglers engaged in the illegal export of PMS to neighbouring countries,” he said.

According to the statement, Aliyu explained that the seizures were made

across several locations, including Imeko, Ilara, Ilaro, Idiroko, and the Seme-Badagry axis.

He noted that a total of 544 jerrycans, each containing 24 litres, were recovered during the operation.

The Duty Paid Value of the seized product was estimated at N14,875,000 he added

The Customs official noted that the seized fuel has been auctioned in line with regulations, to prevent it from being diverted back into illegal channels.

*Find Full Story In The Link*



Nigeria Customs Service (NCS)

### Culled

The House of Representatives on Wednesday commenced an investigation into the performance of concessionaires operating in Nigeria's air and seaport terminals, covering the period from 2006 to 2025.

The probe, being undertaken by an ad-hoc committee of the House, is expected to scrutinise the operations, investments and compliance records of key stakeholders involved in the concession regime introduced nearly two decades ago.

Agencies billed to appear before the panel include the Nigeria Customs Service, Nigerian Ports Authority, Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission, Nigerian Shippers' Council, Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency.

Private sector operators such as Dangote Group, Julius Berger, West Africa Container Terminal, Tincan Terminal, ECM Terminal, Ibeto Terminal and APM Terminals are also expected to provide details of their activities under the

# Reps Begins Probe Of Ports' Concessi'aaires

concession agreements.

Speaking during the investigative hearing at the National Assembly Complex, the Chairman of the committee, Mr Kolawole Akinlayo, said the exercise represents a crucial stage in the panel's assignment.

“This session marks a critical phase in the Committee's assignment. Today, we shall engage directly with terminal operators whose roles have been central to the concession regime introduced nearly two decades ago,” he said.

Providing insight into the panel's focus, Akinlayo noted that the concession policy was conceived to deliver measurable economic benefits to the federal government, improve efficiency and attract private sector investment into critical infrastructure.

*Find Full Story In The Link*

# Kogi Govt Awards Contract For 9km Dualisation Of Airport Road



Governor Usman Ododo

Kogi State Government has approved the award of a contract for the dualisation of the road leading to the proposed Kogi Airport in Zariagi.

The project, which covers about 9.1 kilometres, was awarded to China Civil Engineering Construction Company (CCECC) following a competitive bidding process involving five companies. CCECC Nigerian Limited emerged as the preferred contractor after submitting the lowest bid.

Presenting the award certificate to the company's project manager in Lokoja on Wednesday, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Works and Transport, Engr. Sagir

Abdulsalam said the project would link the proposed ultra-modern Kogi Airport to the state road network.

Abdulsalam, who represented the Commissioner for Works and Transport, said the contract is expected to be completed within 18 months.

He explained that the road project forms part of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo's economic expansion agenda and is designed to improve connectivity, ease movement, and attract investment to the state.

According to him, the dualisation will boost the ease of doing business and enhance the movement of goods, services, and people along the airport corridor.

“In his magnanimity, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, through the weekly Executive Council meeting, approved and awarded the dualisation of the airport road to the same construction company handling some of the state's projects,” he said.

He added that the project would be

funded directly by the state government and is expected to stimulate economic growth and create employment opportunities during and after construction.

Responding, the Project Manager of CCC Construction Company, Mr. Austin Qi, thanked Governor Ododo and members of the state executive council for the confidence reposed in the company.

He assured the government that the firm would deliver the project to the highest standard within the stipulated period.

In his reaction, the Kogi State Commissioner for Information and Communications, Kingsley Femi Fanwo, said the contract award marks a “significant watershed” in the commitment of Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo to ensure Kogi is linked to the rest of the world through the establishment of an international airport.

“Today's award is further proof that the Governor is prepared to see the project through. We are prepared for

the project, and I can confirm that finance won't be a challenge. We have prepared ourselves well enough.

“With the financial engineering acumen of the Governor and the fact that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has made resources available to the sub-nationals, we are prepared to see this Airport project through”.

He urged the people of Kogi State to continue to protect government infrastructure across the state as the state continues to provide infrastructure in the critical sectors of the economy.

Meanwhile, the Kogi State Government has commenced payment of compensation to residents of Zariagi, Kabba Junction, and Irepeni communities whose lands were acquired for the proposed airport project.

The affected residents, mostly farmers, have been invited to the Kogi State Bureau of Lands conference room from April 1, 2026, for the payment process.

*Find Full Story In The Link*



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

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**QUALITY EMULSION**

...quality speaks

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**QUALITY EMULSION**

...quality speaks

# Transport Costs Surge N'wide As Abia And Ogun Lead Intercity Fare Spike In Feb 2026

## Culled

Transport fares across air, land, and water rose in Nigeria in February 2026, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The NBS disclosed this in its February 2026 Transport Fare Watch released on Wednesday, noting increases across most transport categories, including intra-city buses, intercity travel, air fares, motorcycles (Okada), and water transport.

The report showed that Abia State (N9,490.95) and Ogun State (N9,402.26) recorded the highest intercity bus fares per passenger in February, while Kwara State recorded the lowest at N6,190.50, followed by Edo State at N6,650.00.

According to the NBS, the average fare for bus journeys within cities rose by 0.74 per cent from N1,186.98 in January 2026 to N1,195.75 in February 2026. On a year-on-year basis, it increased by 26.71 per cent from N943.68 in February 2025.

For intercity bus travel, the average fare



National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

stood at N8,108.81 in February 2026, reflecting a 4.65 per cent decline from January 2026 (N8,504.39), but a 6.13 per cent increase compared to February 2025. Air transport fares also rose, with the average single-journey ticket costing N153,647.95 in February 2026, up 1.51 per cent from January 2026 (N153,647.95), but a 53.26 per cent rise compared to February 2025. Water transport fares averaged N2,097.30, up 0.55 per cent month-on-month and 31.66 per cent year-

on-year.

State-level data showed that Lagos recorded the highest intra-city bus fare at N1,537.09, followed by Taraba at N1,405.36, while Abia recorded the lowest at N699.17, followed by Adamawa at N700.00.

In air travel, Kano recorded the highest fares at N187,742.40, followed by Ogun at N175,500.00, while Gombe recorded the lowest at N131,290.00, followed by Bauchi at N135,650.88.

For motorcycle transport, Kaduna recorded the highest fare at N1,500.00, followed by Lagos at N1,416.67, while Adamawa and Akwa Ibom recorded the lowest at N650.00.

Water transport fares were highest in Rivers State at N6,560.01, followed by Bayelsa at N5,338.49, while Borno recorded the lowest at N880.00.

By geo-political zone, the South-West recorded the highest intra-city bus fares (N1,326.80), while the South-East recorded the lowest (N1,116.10). For intercity travel, the South-East recorded the highest fares (N8,507.45), while the North-East recorded the lowest (N7,709.98).

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

## NANTA Advises Foreign Airlines Over Dollar Sales



Folami

The President of the National Association of Travel Agents of Nigeria, Yinka Folami, has accused some foreign airlines of showing "disrespect" to Nigeria by insisting on dollar-denominated ticket sales, warning that the practice undermines the country's sovereignty and weakens the naira.

Folami made this known during a press conference held ahead of the association's Annual General Meeting and golden jubilee celebrations, where he also addressed broader challenges facing travel agents, including the ripple effects of the ongoing Israel-Iran conflict.

Speaking firmly on the issue of foreign

currency ticketing, Folami said it was unacceptable for airlines to operate in Nigeria while disregarding its local currency.

"When we talk about dollar sales, it is not convenient for me, as the NANTA president, to look at my colleagues and friends in the airlines and say no. That alone is major and substantial; it doesn't have to be about projects," he said. "It is disrespectful that some airlines sell in dollars only in our country, a sovereign nation. Even if BASA allows it, what happens to us, to our naira? I strongly think it is disrespectful."

His remarks come amid growing concerns within the aviation and travel industry over the increasing cost of international travel and the pressure placed on agents and passengers by foreign exchange constraints.

Beyond the currency controversy, Folami painted a human picture of how global crises are directly affecting Nigerian travel agents,

many of whom are grappling with declining patronage and mounting refund obligations.

"This Israel-Iran war, we honestly don't like it. Anytime there is this kind of disruption, we are the first to suffer it, and suffer it really," he said. "That region is a major hub for Nigeria and takes 30-40 per cent of our traffic. We don't like it, our members don't like it, and it is affecting our business in no small measure."

He added that the financial strain on agents has been particularly severe due to refund demands triggered by disrupted travel plans.

"I, personally, know the number of refunds that I have had to do, and when this happens, we refund in full, including commissions. So we don't want it, and we can only pray for peace," Folami lamented.

The NANTA president also highlighted efforts by the association to protect the interests of its members through sustained advocacy and engagement with

industry stakeholders.

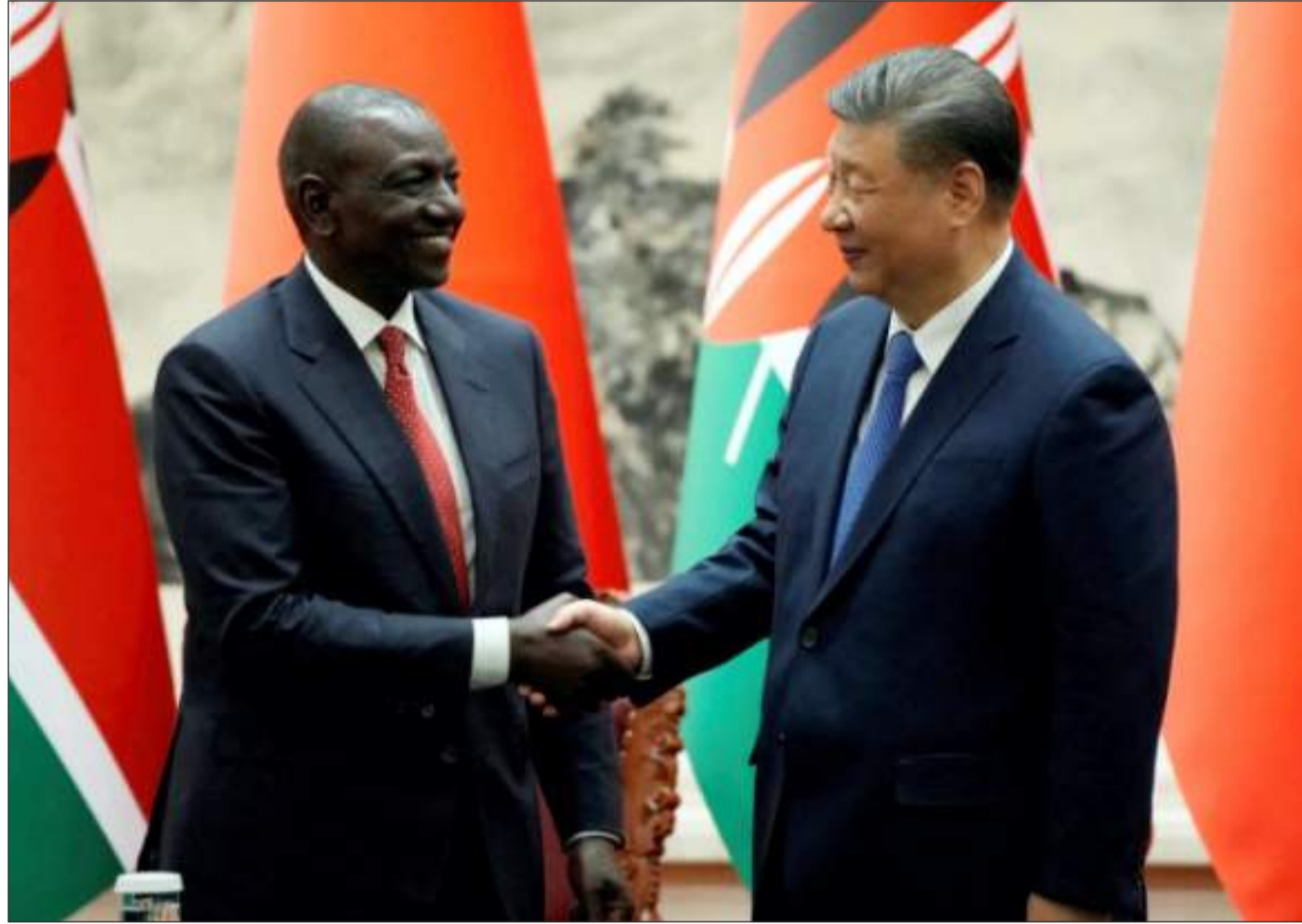
"What I have kept saying is that what our administration has done and the executive council have been elaborately reported, but in summary, we have been very strong in advocacy, and you guys have helped us," he said. "When we came in, we said we were going to sit on a three-legged tripod: protection of our market, protection of NANTA and fair play."

He pointed to the association's campaign against cross-border ticket sales as a major milestone in reclaiming lost revenue for Nigerian agents.

"I just spoke about cross-border trading, and you people have helped us. Cross-border trading is a sin, and it takes 50 per cent of our market, but today our market has regained its place," he stated. "That was done not just by us, but our advocacy has forced the hands of industry stakeholders to make those corrections."

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

# Kenya-China Revive Stalled Railway Project With New Financing Model



already connects Mombasa to Nairobi and parts of the interior, but the incomplete extension has long limited its full potential. Kenyan President William Ruto has emphasised the importance of completing the railway, describing it as key to reducing transport costs, boosting trade and supporting long-term economic growth. Reviving stalled infrastructure projects has become a priority for his administration as it seeks to stimulate development. For China, the renewed partnership reflects an evolving strategy in overseas investment. Rather than relying solely on large-scale lending, its involvement is increasingly shifting towards shared-risk models and more financially sustainable cooperation. The revival of the railway project is being closely watched as a test case for future China-Africa partnerships.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

*Culled*  
China and Kenya have agreed to revive a long-delayed railway project, signalling renewed momentum in infrastructure cooperation and a shift towards more sustainable financing models across Africa.

The project centres on extending Kenya's Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), a major transport corridor developed with Chinese support under the Belt and Road Initiative. Construction had been stalled for more than six years after funding slowed amid concerns over debt levels and economic viability. Under the renewed agreement, both sides are adopting a revised financing approach. Rather than relying heavily on large government loans, Kenya is exploring alternative funding methods, including revenue from a railway development levy. This is expected to ease

financial pressure while allowing the project to progress.

Chinese firms, including China Road and Bridge Corporation, are expected to continue playing a

central role in Kenya's current economic construction. The restart follows a series of negotiations aimed at restructuring earlier arrangements and aligning the project with

Kenya's current economic priorities.

The railway extension is seen as vital for regional connectivity. Once completed, it is expected to link the port city of

Mombasa with neighbouring countries such as Uganda, strengthening trade routes across East Africa. The initial phase, completed in 2017,

*Culled*  
African airlines recorded the strongest growth in global air cargo demand in February 2026, posting a 21 per cent year-on-year increase, according to data from the International Air Transport Association.

According to the data released on Monday, the association said

the capacity for African carriers also rose significantly, increasing by 17.3 per cent compared with February 2025.

Globally, air cargo demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometres, grew by 11.2 per cent year-on-year in February, while international operations

## African Airlines Lead Global Air Cargo Growth In February - IATA

recorded a slightly higher increase of 11.6 per cent. Capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometres, increased by 8.5 per cent overall, with international capacity rising by 9.8 per cent.

Commenting on the global outlook, IATA Director General Willie Walsh said the sector showed strong growth despite emerging uncertainties in the operating environment.

"Air cargo demand grew 11.2% in February. Even considering the boost from the movement of goods ahead of the Lunar New Year, the month showed strong growth," Walsh said.

He added that the outbreak of war in the Middle East at the end of the month created uncertainty over full-year performance.

"Sharply rising fuel costs, fuel scarcity in parts of the world, and severe disruption to key cargo hubs in the Gulf are major challenges. While air cargo has repeatedly proven its resilience, an early resolution of the conflict and normalisation of fuel supply and costs would be in everybody's interest," he said.

IATA noted several factors shaping the operating environment. Global goods trade grew by 5.2

per cent year-on-year in January, while jet fuel prices rose 1.2 per cent in February, reflecting continued volatility in refining margins.

The association also reported improved global manufacturing sentiment, with the Purchasing Managers' Index rising to 53.1 in February, above the 50-point expansion threshold. The PMI for new export orders climbed to 51.4, the highest since July 2021, indicating positive conditions for air cargo demand.

Across other regions, Middle Eastern carriers recorded a 16.5 per cent year-on-year increase in air cargo demand with capacity rising 13.5 per cent, while Asia-Pacific airlines posted 13.6 per cent growth and a 10.1 per cent rise in capacity.

North American carriers saw demand increase by 9.4 per cent with capacity up 5.3 per cent, while European airlines recorded 6.9 per cent growth in demand and 6.1 per cent growth in capacity.

Latin American and Caribbean carriers reported the weakest performance, with demand rising 0.7 per cent and capacity increasing 4.5 per cent.

According to IATA, air freight volumes increased across all major trade corridors in February 2026, highlighting the resilience of the sector amid global challenges.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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## General News

# Nigeria Targets Diaspora Investments With Toronto Economic Summit

**Culled:** Nigeria plans to channel diaspora remittances into investments as NiDCOM unveils 2026 economic summit in Toronto.

Nigeria is ramping up efforts to convert over \$20 billion in annual diaspora remittances into productive investments, as the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) announced plans for a major global investment conference aimed at mobilising Nigerians abroad.

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of NiDCOM, Abike Dabiri-Erewa, disclosed that the Nigeria Diaspora Economic Conference (NIDEC) 2026 will hold from August 13 to 15 in Mississauga, Toronto, Canada.

Speaking at a press briefing in Abuja, Dabiri-Erewa said the initiative is designed to shift diaspora contributions from consumption-driven remittances to long-term investments that can drive economic growth.

She explained that the summit, themed "Invest Nigeria, Thrive Abroad," will connect diaspora professionals and investors with credible opportunities across key sectors of the Nigerian economy.

According to her, the event will function as a results-oriented



Dabiri-Erewa

investment marketplace, enabling participants to negotiate deals, hold business-to-business meetings, and sign memoranda of understanding.

Key sectors expected to feature at the conference include fintech and digital innovation, agriculture and agro-processing, mining and renewable energy, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, real estate, infrastructure, and financial

services.

Dabiri-Erewa said Canada was selected as host country due to its growing Nigerian community, particularly in healthcare, technology, and finance, adding that the event is being organised in collaboration with Nigerian and Canadian diplomatic missions.

Beyond investment discussions, the conference will also feature cultural showcases, including the Flavours of Nigeria Festival

and The Headies, which is scheduled to hold in Canada for the first time.

She urged state governments, financial institutions, entrepreneurs, and diaspora professionals to leverage the platform to attract global capital and foster partnerships.

Dabiri-Erewa added that arrangements are underway to facilitate visa access for participants, with a dedicated registration portal to be launched soon.

*Find Full Story In The Link*

# Nigeria, Islamic Bank Deepen Partnership

**Culled:**

The Federal Government and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to deepen their collaboration, focusing on sustainable economic development and growth.

The partnership aims to drive economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve Nigerians' overall well-being.

The partnership is built on four pillars: infrastructure for economic transformation, social development and education, innovative and ethical finance, and regional leadership and South-South cooperation.

It also includes agriculture, renewable energy, and healthcare.

Speaking at the IsDB Group Day in Lagos, the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr Wale Edun, emphasised the need for Nigeria to shift from reliance on public financing to mobilising private sector investment, leveraging partnerships with institutions like the IsDB to attract capital with purpose.

The minister called on investors, partners, and stakeholders to join Nigeria in its next phase of growth and development, saying the country was building an economy that would be resilient by design, inclusive by nature, and globally competitive by ambition.

On his part, the Director General, Country Programmes at IsDB, Anasse Aissami, said the group had approved total financing of more than \$2.32 billion in investment for Nigeria, with a focus on special agro-industrial processing zones and halal economy development.

The partnership also explores opportunities for Sharia-compliant financing and innovative financial instruments, including Sukuk financing.

The event was attended by government officials, representatives of the IsDB, and other stakeholders.

*Find Full Story In The Link*

# Nigeria Declares April 3 and 6 Public Holidays For Easter



Tunji-Ojo

**Culled:** Federal Government declares April 3 and 6 public holidays to mark Easter celebration across Nigeria.

The Federal Government has declared Friday, April 3, and Monday, April 6,

2026, as public holidays to enable Christians across the country celebrate Easter.

The Minister of Interior, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, made the announcement on behalf of the government in a statement issued by the Permanent Secretary of the

ministry, Magdalene Ajani.

Tunji-Ojo congratulated Christians in Nigeria and the diaspora, describing Easter as a period that reflects values of sacrifice, renewal, and hope.

He urged Nigerians to embrace virtues such as selflessness, forgiveness, patience, and love, as exemplified in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

The minister also called for strengthened unity, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence, noting that these values are essential for national cohesion.

He reaffirmed the Federal Government's commitment to policies aimed at promoting economic growth, national renewal, and shared prosperity.

Tunji-Ojo further wished Christians a peaceful and joyful

Easter celebration.

The Minister of Interior, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, made the announcement on behalf of the government in a statement issued by the Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Magdalene Ajani.

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# CBN Sets Tough Cybersecurity Timeline For Banks

*Culled:*

The Central Bank of Nigeria has directed banks to complete a mandatory cybersecurity self-assessment within three weeks as part of efforts to strengthen resilience across the financial system.

In a letter dated March 30, 2026, and published on its website on Tuesday, the apex bank said, "Institutions are required to submit their completed CSAT within the following timelines: i. Three (3) weeks – Deposit Money Banks (DMBs); ii. Five (5) weeks – All other regulated institutions."

The directive, addressed to banks,

selected other financial institutions, and payment service providers, introduced a Cybersecurity Self-Assessment Tool to evaluate the cyber risk exposure of regulated entities.

The CBN stated that the move was in line with its statutory mandate under the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act 2020 and its broader commitment to improving cybersecurity standards in the sector.

"The Central Bank of Nigeria, in furtherance of its statutory mandate under the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act (BOFIA) 2020 and

consistent with its commitment to strengthening cybersecurity resilience across the financial sector, hereby notifies all Deposit Money Banks, Payment Service Banks, Microfinance Banks, Payment Service Providers, Finance Companies, and Development Finance Institutions of the deployment of its Cybersecurity Self-Assessment Tool," the letter read.

According to the regulator, the CSAT is designed as a supervisory instrument to provide a comprehensive view of financial institutions' cybersecurity posture. It explained that the tool would assess

critical areas, including governance structures, risk management frameworks, technology systems, third-party risk exposure, incident response capacity, and overall operational resilience.

"The CSAT is a structured supervisory instrument designed to obtain comprehensive information on the cybersecurity posture of regulated institutions," the CBN said. The bank added that insights generated from the exercise would support risk-based supervision and enhance regulatory oversight of cybersecurity threats within Nigeria's financial ecosystem.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

## Nigeria Targets 230m Internet Users With 5G

Nigeria is aiming to expand internet access to 230 million subscriptions by 2030 through a strategic focus on 5G network densification, Internet of Things adoption, and satellite connectivity, according to the Nigerian Communications Commission.

The 2026–2030 spectrum roadmap, guided by the Nigerian Communications Act 2003, is designed to transform the country's

digital infrastructure from basic connectivity to a high-capacity, multi-layered ecosystem capable of serving a projected population of 245 million. Central to the plan is extending 5G coverage in urban centres, industrial hubs, and underserved regions, with the Commission targeting minimum nationwide data speeds under its 'Quality of Experience' initiative. Additional spectrum releases in the

mid-band, including 3.5 GHz and 6 GHz, and high-band 26 GHz allocations are expected to provide the bandwidth necessary for advanced 5G services.

To bridge Nigeria's persistent digital divide, the Nigerian Communications Commission is prioritising non-terrestrial networks and direct-to-device satellite services to reach 87 unserved or underserved clusters, affecting roughly 23 million citizens.

Satellite-to-mobile technology is expected to deliver connectivity to areas where fibre-optic infrastructure is difficult or costly to install, ensuring even remote communities are integrated into the national network.

The roadmap anticipates monthly mobile data usage per user to rise from 8.5 gigabytes in 2025 to 17.7 gigabytes by 2030, fuelled by video streaming, artificial intelligence, and Internet of Things applications.

[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

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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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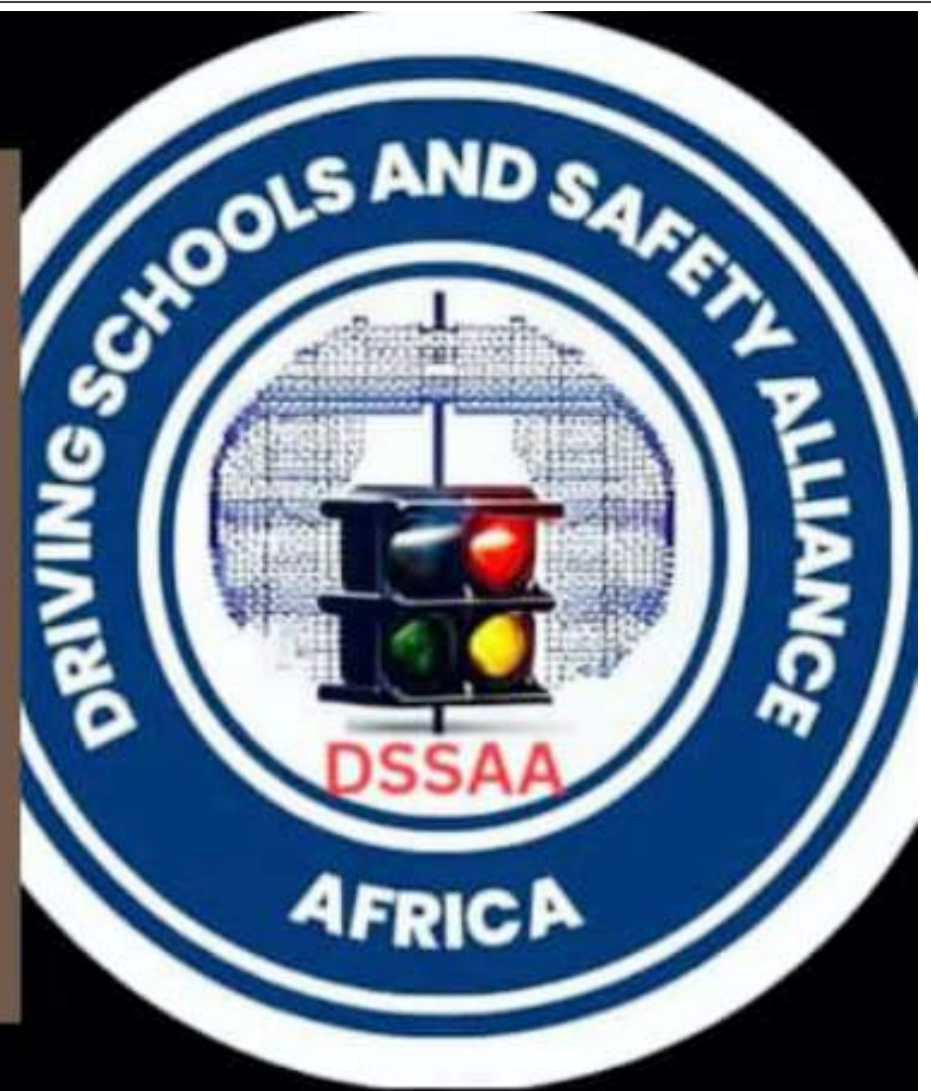


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