

Aviation Ministry Orders Personnel Audit To Boost Transparency, Verify Staff Records

The permanent secretary, Federal Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Mahmud Adam Kambari, has reaffirmed the federal government's commitment to transparency and accountability in the public service, following a high-level review meeting with Personnel Audit and Skills Gap Analysis (PASGA) consultants on the outcome

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Maritime Police, Navy Renew Commitment To Joint Security Operations

The Nigerian Maritime Police Command says the security of the maritime environment remains a collective responsibility.

The Assistant Inspector-General of Police, Okunade Ronke Nurat, made the statement when she

visited the Flag Officer Commanding, Western Naval Command, Rear Admiral A. A. Mustapha.

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TRANSPORTATION

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Tues, April 14th 2026

Abuja Bus Terminal Damaged By Rainstorm Undergoing Repairs - Wike

The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike, says repairs have begun on the

Bus and Taxi Terminal, partly damaged by a rainstorm.

Wike, who stated this in

Abuja on Monday after inspecting some ongoing projects, said

the development was

caused by a natural disaster that no one had control over.

The News Agency of

Nigeria reports that the incident occurred on

April 7, when a

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Oyo Targets 2026 Airlifting From Akintola International Airport

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OAU Students Boycott Lectures Over Transport'ion Problem

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SAHCO Takes Operations To Ogun Airport, State Backs Firm

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The Kugbo Bus and Taxi Terminal in Abuja

Passengers Protest 150% Surge In Parking Fees At MMA Terminal Two

Passengers have expressed anger over the sharp increase in parking tariffs at the Murtala Muhammed Airport

Terminal Two, the terminal facility operated by Bi-Courtney Aviation Services Limited. Air travellers who park their vehicles within

vehicle categories. The development has left many questioning the rationale behind what they described as an astronomical increase.

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FG Confident Of Timely Completion Of Coastal Highway

P5

Local Transport News

SAHCO Takes Operations To Ogun Airport, State Backs Firm

Culled

Skyway Aviation Handling Company (SAHCO) Plc has reaffirmed its leadership in Nigeria's aviation industry as the sole ground handling service provider at the commissioning of the newly completed Gateway International Airport at Iperu, Ogun State Airport by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

The historic commissioning marks a significant milestone in the development of aviation infrastructure in Nigeria, positioning Ogun State as a strategic hub for passenger and cargo operations.

SAHCO's appointment as the exclusive ground handler underscores its reputation for operational excellence, safety standards, and world-class service delivery.

Speaking on the development, the Chairman of SAHCO, Dr. Taiwo Afolabi (CON), expressed pride in the Company's role in supporting the successful launch of the airport.

He noted that the opportunity to serve as the sole ground handling partner reflects the trust placed in SAHCO's capabilities and its consistent track record in delivering efficient and reliable aviation services across the country.

"This milestone further reinforces SAHCO's commitment to supporting the growth of Nigeria's aviation sector through continuous investment in modern equipment, skilled personnel, and innovative service solutions.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



SAHCO

Oyo Targets 2026 Airlifting From Akintola International Airport

Culled

The Oyo State Government is doing everything humanly possible to ensure that 2026 intending pilgrims to Mecca from Oyo State are airlifted from Samuel Ladoke Akintola International Airport, Ibadan.

The Samuel Ladoke Akintola Airport in Ibadan is undergoing a major upgrade, being done by Oyo state Government by Craneburg Construction to become an international facility, with completion projected for Q1 2026.

Presently, runway extension, new terminal construction is 15% complete as of mid-2025), and enhanced fire/navigation systems, aiming to handle increased passenger volume and international flights.

The Upgrading Committee set up by the State Government has therefore intensified efforts to ensure that the pilgrims takes off from the airport, in line with the vision of the Governor Seyi Makinde-led administration.

Abimbola Adekanmbi, Chairman of the Committee during a visit to the leadership

of the Oyo State Muslim Pilgrims' Welfare Board and an inspection of facilities at the Hajj Camp, Olodo, Ibadan, said the inspection was necessary to identify areas requiring urgent attention.

He emphasised the need to put in place essential facilities at both the Hajj Camp and the airport ahead of the visit by the assessment team from the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and other regulatory agencies, noting that that would facilitate prompt approval.

Adekanmbi also pledged to personally support the renovation of critical facilities pending the governor's approval and the release of funds.

He called for synergy among all relevant stakeholders to ensure the realisation of the plan for 2026 Hajj intending pilgrims to depart from the Alakia Airport.

Quiting a statement from Dotun Oyelade, Commissioner for Information, further urged the Pilgrims Board to submit its proposal promptly to enable the renovation work to commence without delay.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Passengers Protest 150% Surge In Parking Fees At MMA Terminal Two

Culled

Passengers have expressed anger over the sharp increase in parking tariffs at the Murtala Muhammed Airport Terminal Two, operated by Bi-Courtney Aviation Services Limited.

Air travellers who park their vehicles within the terminal facility lamented the upward review of parking tariffs by over 150 per cent, depending on vehicle categories. The development has left many questioning the rationale behind what they described as an astronomical increase.

Some passengers who spoke with our correspondent insisted that the increment was unjustifiable and imposed an additional financial burden on travellers already grappling with rising airfares.

The PUNCH gathered that the new tariff took effect on April 1, 2026, following a two-week notice issued by the terminal operators. The revised tariff sighted by our correspondent showed that sedan cars now pay N3,500 for the first hour, while Sports



Murtala Mohammed Airport

Utility Vehicles are charged N4,000 for the same duration.

Buses are billed as high as N20,000 for the first hour.

Subsequent hours for sedans and SUVs are now charged at N2,500, while overnight parking has surged to N50,000 from the previous N6,000.

Before the increase, sedans were charged N1,300, which was later

adjusted to N2,500 months ago for the first hour, with subsequent hours costing N500. SUVs previously paid N1,800, which was later increased to N3,500 for the first hour, with the same N500 hourly extension.

Additionally, a penalty of N25,000 is now imposed for lost or damaged parking tickets, a development that has sparked reactions on social media. This

spike in price triggered widespread outrage by passengers on Sunday, who expressed their grievances on X (formerly Twitter).

A user of the app, @horlaolas2, wrote, "People would rush to blame the APC government on this because they don't know the rationale behind the increments. A civilian single-handedly caused this increment.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Local Transport News

Abuja Bus Terminal Damaged By Rainstorm Undergoing Repairs - Wike

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The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike, says repairs have begun on the Kugbo Bus and Taxi Terminal, partly damaged by a rainstorm.

Wike, who stated this in Abuja on Monday after inspecting some ongoing projects, said the development was caused by a natural disaster that no one had control over.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that the incident occurred on April 7, when a rainstorm blew off the terminal's roof and deposited debris on the Abuja-Keffi Expressway.

The minister, who thanked God that no life was lost, said that only roofing sheets were affected, adding that the terminal did not collapse.

Insisting that the terminal's structure was intact, the minister added that the damage was already being fixed.

"What happened was that a strong wind blew off parts of the roof, but repairs are ongoing," he said.

NAN reports that the Kugbo bus/taxi terminal is one of three newly built terminals inaugurated in June 2025.

Wike inaugurated the construction of bus and taxi terminals in Mabushi, Central Business District (CBD), and Kugbo in July 2024 to enhance commuter safety and convenience.

He explained that the bus terminals in Kugbo and Mabushi, though completed and inaugurated in 2025, could not begin operations because their management was beyond ministerial approval.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Lekki deep seaport

NUPRC Backs FG's Oil Royalty Shift, Defends \$3-\$7m Signature Bonuses

Culled

The Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), has thrown its weight behind the federal government's decision to withdraw royalty collection powers from the commission, describing the move as a step towards greater fiscal clarity and efficiency.

The upstream regulator also justified the relatively low signature bonuses set for the ongoing 2025 licensing round for 50 oil blocks, noting that lowering the financial bar to between \$3 million and \$7 million was done deliberately to prioritise technical competence, strong work programmes and real development capacity over speculative bidding.

NUPRC Chief Executive, Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan, in an interview published in the agency's in-house magazine, 'Upstream Gaze', explained that the reassignment of royalty collection to the Nigeria Revenue Service (NRS) aligned with the intent of

the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) to strengthen transparency, eliminate overlaps and enhance revenue assurance.

She noted that while the NRS now handles the collection and enforcement of royalties, the NUPRC retains its technical oversight role, including production measurement, volume verification and royalty computation.

According to her, the delineation of responsibilities ensures institutional clarity and improves accountability across the system. She added that the commission has already established coordinated frameworks with the NRS covering data integrity, harmonised processes and clearly defined operational roles.

Eyesan stressed that the commission would continue to serve as the technical authority for metering and production validation, while verified data would be shared seamlessly with the revenue agency to prevent leakages.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Aviation Ministry Orders Personnel Audit To Boost Transparency, Verify Staff Records

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The permanent secretary, Federal Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Mahmud Adam Kambari, has reaffirmed the federal government's commitment to transparency and accountability in the public service, following a high-level review meeting with Personnel Audit and Skills Gap Analysis (PASGA) consultants on the outcome of the ministry's personnel audit exercise.

Speaking during the meeting, Kambari noted that the personnel audit aligns with the directive of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to ensure a comprehensive and credible verification of staff across Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

He further emphasized that the office of the head of the civil service of the federation has underscored the importance of timely submission of audit reports.

Kambari explained that the exercise



Kambari

is aimed at generating accurate and reliable personnel data within the ministry to enhance workforce planning, eliminate discrepancies, and improve overall efficiency.

He commended the consultants for their professionalism, diligence, and commitment throughout the exercise.

Earlier, the managing director/chief executive officer of Stransform

Limited, Dr. Offiong Archibong highlighted that the Personnel Audit and Skills Gap Analysis (PASGA) project is designed to ensure accurate and up-to-date personnel records, identify skills gaps, and strengthen documentation processes.

She disclosed that out of the ministry's total staff strength of 350, a

total of 310 personnel were successfully verified, while 40 staff did not present themselves for the exercise.

Archibong made key recommendations, including the re-verification of unverified staff, enforcement of accountability measures through the office of the head of service, removal of retired personnel from the nominal roll, and the auditing and resolution of discrepancies within the Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System (IPPIIS).

She further stated that necessary circulars concerning affected staff, including those yet to receive verification certificates, would be issued through the Human Resources Department to ensure compliance.

In his closing remarks, the director, human resources management of the ministry, Mr. Ejike Osibe described the engagement as a close-out session for the audit exercise.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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Local Transport News

OAU Students Boycott Lectures Over Transportation Problem

Culled

Students of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, have declared a 72-hour lecture boycott in protest against what they described as the "inadequate and poorly implemented" campus transportation system linked to vehicles donated by the First Lady of Nigeria.

The boycott, scheduled to run from Tuesday, April 14 to Thursday, April 16, 2026, was announced in a resolution of the Students' Union Government following a congress held on April 9 and subsequent joint meetings of its leadership structures.

In the statement co-signed by the SU President, Adelani David, and Secretary-General, Habeeb Oke, the union said the decision followed weeks of mounting frustration over mobility challenges on campus, which it said had disrupted academic activities and daily student movement.

"The union shall embark on a total 72-hour lecture boycott starting from Tuesday, 14th April 2026, to Thursday, 16th April 2026. All academic activities are to be boycotted

throughout this period," the statement read.

The students said the new transportation arrangement had worsened commuting conditions across campus, citing insufficient vehicles, overcrowding, long waiting times, and inadequate route coverage.

According to the union, the situation has been particularly difficult for students living in off-campus areas, who now rely on limited and expensive alternatives outside university control.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



OAU gate

Culled

The Federal Government has expressed confidence in the timely delivery of the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway in Cross River State, citing steady progress and the contractor, HITECH Construction Company's, adherence to quality standards.

Assistant Chief Engineer with the Federal Ministry of Works and Supervisor for Section 3B of the project, Itam Patrick, said that about 4.5 kilometres of rigid pavement have been completed within the first year of construction.

The project, awarded in February last year with a 36-month completion timeline, is being executed using Continuous Reinforced Concrete Pavement (CRCP), a durable concrete road technology.

Patrick noted that ministry engineers are actively supervising the project to ensure compliance with specifications, adding that the quality of work done so far meets required standards.

He also commended the contractor for adhering to local content directives, revealing that about 80 per cent of the workforce comprises indigenes of host

FG Confident Of Timely Completion Of Coastal Highway

communities.

MEANWHILE, the Civic group Tracka has raised fresh concerns about transparency and accountability in the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway project, more than a month after submitting a Freedom of Information request, which remains unanswered.

In a letter dated February 19, 2026, and addressed to the Minister of Works, David Umahi, Tracka, an initiative of BudgIT Foundation, requested detailed information under the Freedom of Information Act, 2011.

The request, acknowledged by the ministry on March 2, 2026, sought clarity on the project's procurement process, including justification for any selective or direct contracting methods.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Air Traffic Controllers Call For Improved Working Conditions

stretched beyond acceptable limits. The association said controllers are currently operating under sustained operational deficiencies, inadequate working tools, unresolved welfare issues, and severe psychological strain, all of which create avoidable risks in a sector where precision and alertness are essential every second of the day.

A major concern is the state of obsolete Communication Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) infrastructure.

According to the association, critical communication, navigation, and surveillance facilities remain outdated and fail to meet acceptable reliability standards, forcing controllers to work around system weaknesses that should not exist in a modern aviation environment.

NATCA warned that no airspace can be truly safe when the people responsible for managing it are compelled to operate beyond the safe limits of their available systems.

Equally troubling is the lack of structured training, retraining, and manpower development for Air Traffic Controllers.

Aviation, the body said is a highly dynamic industry that requires continuous professional development to keep pace with evolving technologies, procedures, and global best practices.

However, insufficient investment in recurrent training programmes and the absence of long-term manpower development planning have slowed professional growth and weakened operational resilience. Without sustained capacity-building initiatives, the system risks producing fewer adequately prepared controllers to meet the increasing demands of Nigeria's expanding airspace.

NATCA further drew attention to unsafe and substandard working conditions, particularly at some control tower facilities that fall short of basic ergonomic and safety requirements.

The association cited the recent fire

incident at Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos, where controllers reportedly had to escape through dangerous means before being rescued by crane, yet still resumed operations under traumatic conditions immediately afterward. NATCA said the incident exposes the hidden risks controllers face while serving the public under intense pressure.

Another major issue, the controllers lamented is prolonged career stagnation.

NATCA stated that many experienced Air Traffic Controllers have remained on Grade Level 16 for periods ranging from 6 to 13 years, a situation the association described as deeply demoralising in a profession that demands discipline, excellence, and long-term commitment.

The continued delay in career progression, NATCA said, sends the wrong message to hardworking professionals who shoulder huge responsibilities without corresponding advancement.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



NATCA

Nigerian Air Traffic Controllers' Association (NATCA) has raised serious concerns about the deteriorating welfare, working conditions, manpower levels, and career progression among its members.

The association, according to a statement by its President, Comrade Amos Edino and General Secretary, Fahad Muhammed Umar, said the situation has reached a point where the safety of personnel, the stability of operations, and the protection of the nation's airspace can no longer be taken for granted. NATCA explained that its concerns are not driven by convenience or emotion, but by the reality of a safety-critical profession being



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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!



20 LITERS

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QUALITY EMULSION

...quality speaks

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QUALITY EMULSION

...quality speaks

Maritime Police, Navy Renew Commitment To Joint Security Operations

Culled

The Nigerian Maritime Police Command says the security of the maritime environment remains a collective responsibility.

The Assistant Inspector-General of Police, Okunade Ronke Nurat, made the statement when she visited the Flag Officer Commanding, Western Naval Command, Rear Admiral A. A. Mustapha.

The visit is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration and enhance security within Nigeria's maritime domain.

The meeting, which took place at the Headquarters of the Western Naval Command, provided a platform for both Commands to reaffirm their shared commitment to safeguarding Nigeria's coastal and inland waterways through deliberate coordination, intelligence sharing and joint operational strategies. Speaking during the visit, Nurat underscored the importance of



Maritime police renews commitment to the Western Naval Command

sustained synergy between both Commands. She acknowledged the Navy's leading role in securing Nigeria's territorial waters while reiterating the complementary mandate of the Maritime Police Command in maintaining law and order within inland waterways and coastal communities. In his response, the Flag Officer Commanding, Western Naval

continue to partner with the Nigeria Police Force in addressing maritime security challenges," Mustapha reaffirmed.

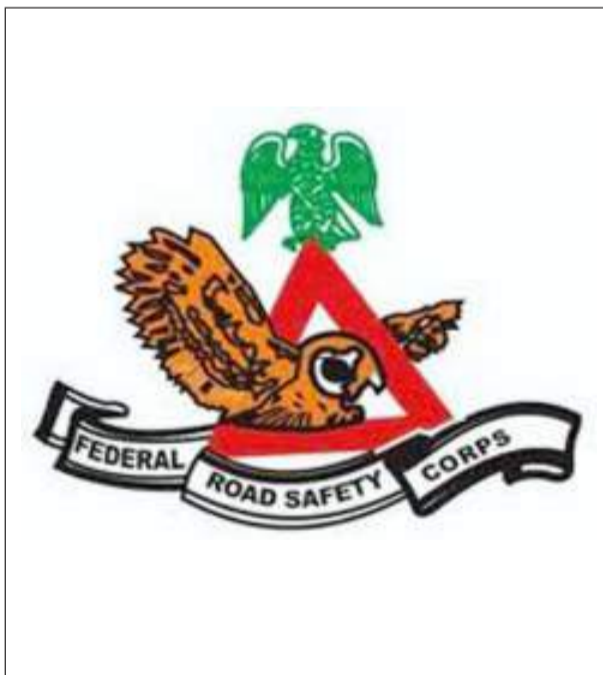
Deliberations during the meeting identified key areas of cooperation, including intensifying coordinated patrol operations across Lagos waterways and adjoining creeks, the development of a unified response framework for maritime emergencies, and the enhancement of capacity building through joint exercises.

The visit concluded with an exchange of souvenirs and a renewed commitment by both Commands to deepen collaboration in the collective interest of national security, as well as the protection of lives and property within Nigeria's maritime domain.

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[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

FRSC Cautions Drivers Against Unsafe Loading On Highways



FRSC

The newly posted sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps in Kaduna State, Andrew Longkam, has assured residents of improved road safety through strategic enforcement and public engagement.

Mr Longkam gave the assurance while interacting with journalists on Monday in Kaduna.

Mr Longkam assumed duty on April 9; his leadership would focus on reducing road traffic crashes and ensuring safer roads across the state.

"The people of Kaduna state should expect visionary leadership. Our primary mandate is to reduce road traffic crashes and make the

roads safer for all users," he said. He pledged to strengthen coordination within the command, particularly in the areas of enforcement, public enlightenment, and removal of road obstructions. According to him, ongoing road construction projects by both federal and state governments have contributed to traffic challenges, adding that proactive measures would be taken to ease congestion.

"We will ensure there is no obstruction to the free flow of traffic. Our personnel will be effectively deployed to minimise delays and ensure smooth movement on the roads," he said.

The sector commander also expressed concern over the increasing trend of roadside trading and activities that obstruct traffic flow.

"Selling on highways and other forms of roadside trading disrupt traffic and endanger lives. We will ensure such practices are curtailed to protect both

traders and motorists," he added. On the issue of overloading and unsafe transportation practices, Mr Longkam described the situation as alarming and dangerous. He noted that some commercial vehicles designed to carry seven passengers are often overloaded with up to 15 or more, significantly increasing the risk of fatalities in the event of a crash.

"Overloading is a serious safety violation. In the event of a crash, the number of casualties is usually high," he stated.

He also condemned the practice of mixed loading, where goods are transported alongside passengers, describing it as a major safety hazard.

"In many cases, goods carried with passengers end up causing fatalities during crashes. Some passengers even sit on motorcycles loaded inside trucks, exposing themselves to grave danger," he said.

Mr Longkam said the command

would intensify enforcement through special intervention patrols and collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including transport unions and sister security agencies. "Road safety is a collective responsibility. We will work closely with all stakeholders to ensure compliance and promote safer road use," he said.

He urged motorists and road users to adhere to safety regulations and cooperate with authorities to reduce avoidable accidents.

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According to him, ongoing road construction projects by both federal and state governments have contributed to traffic challenges, adding that proactive measures would be taken to ease congestion.

"We will ensure there is no obstruction to the free flow of traffic. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

South African Airlines Becomes Latest Carrier Set For CEO Departure

Culled

South African Airlines (SAA) is the latest carrier to announce that its CEO will be departing in a bizarre wave of industry bosses heading for the exit.

On April 10, 2026, South African Airlines confirmed that CEO John Lamola had resigned and will leave the carrier within the next few weeks.

Lamola joined South African Airlines in July 2021 as a non-executive director and chairperson of the board, before stepping into the role as CEO in May 2022.

The Minister of Transport, Barbara Creecy, in her capacity as shareholder representative and the airline's board of directors, thanked Lamola for his "dedicated and distinguished service to the national flag carrier".

"Professor Lamola has played a pivotal role in



rebuilding South African Airways and positioning it for sustained success. His leadership during a complex and demanding period has

left a lasting and positive legacy on the organization," said Chairperson Sedzani Mudau.

SAA added that Lamola led the company at

"critical juncture, as the airline emerged from business rescue and navigated the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic".

Matshela Seshibe, the

CEO of SAA's subsidiary company, Air Chefs, will become interim CEO with the process to recruit the permanent lead commencing shortly.

This year the CEOs of multiple airlines have announced that they are retiring or resigning from their posts.

Most recently Air India CEO Campbell Wilson and flyadeal CEO Steven Greenway confirmed they were departing from their roles.

IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers is also stepping down as leader of India's largest airline and Peter Foster, who led Air Astana for 20 years, left his post at the end of March 2026.

Air Canada President and CEO Michael Rousseau will also retire by the end of the third quarter of 2026.

IndiGo has named the former British Airways boss and current director general of International Air Transport Association (IATA) Willie Walsh as its new CEO. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Culled

Brazil may see the unlocking of projects related to light rail vehicles (VLTs), with greater involvement of the federal government in these initiatives.

Recently, the state-owned company Infra S.A. announced that it had been hired by the municipality of Bauru, in the

state of São Paulo, to carry out the Technical, Economic and Environmental Feasibility Study (EVTEA) for the city's first LRT.

The project marks the state-owned company's definitive entry into the passenger transportation segment in

Light Rail Projects In Brazil Gain Momentum

medium-sized cities, expanding its operations.

"What is underway in Bauru is the consolidation of a new area of activity for Infra S.A. We are bringing to the urban environment the same technical capacity that structured major logistics corridors in the country, with rigor, legal certainty, and a long-term vision," said the CEO of Infra S.A., Jorge Bastos, in a statement.

According to stakeholders, the involvement of Infra S.A. can help in the development of a series of other projects in cities in Brazil, similar to what has happened in other infrastructure sectors, such as sanitation and highways, which had the state-owned bank BNDES as an important agent in the preparation of project studies in these segments.

"Infra S.A. has very strong technical capacity to develop projects in this rail transport segment. We have to remember that the state-owned company is the result of the merger of Empresa de Planejamento e Logística (EPL) and the railway company Valec, both with

enormous expertise in the segment," Vicente Abate, president of the Associação Brasileira da Indústria Ferroviária (Abifer), told BNamericas.

In Bauru, Infra S.A. will prepare the study for the construction of an LRT line with a length of 28.8km, divided into three branches and with more than 30 stations, using the existing railway network.

The city of Bauru has 380 thousand inhabitants and the LRT is expected to connect regions to the center, easing pressure on the road system and driving urban revitalization around the tracks, many of which are currently underused.

In addition to preparing the Bauru LRT project, Infra S.A. is also involved in developing the Campina Grande LRT project in Paraíba, which is already at an advanced stage.

In the second largest city in Paraíba, with more than 400 thousand inhabitants, the studies are in the final stage of data collection and technical consolidation, with delivery scheduled for the first half of 2026.

Light Rail Transit (LRT) projects in Brazil also tend to proliferate as major Brazilian cities show greater engagement in the urban redevelopment of their central areas. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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Tinubu Urged To Unlock World Bank Grants As Nigerians Groan Under Delays

Culled:

The Founder and President-General of a prominent non-governmental advocacy group, the Grant Community Discipleship Movement (GCDM), Rev. (Dr.) Moses Chooji, has made a passionate appeal to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala GCON the Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, former president of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, Nigerians in the diaspora, among other stakeholders, to compel the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and other relevant financial institutions, to unconditionally release what they described as “entrapped” World Bank grant funds meant for over one hundred and ten million Nigerian beneficiaries.

In a strongly worded statement made available to journalists in Port Harcourt, the GCDM boss lamented that countless Nigerians—particularly youths, small and medium scale business owners, and grassroots entrepreneurs—have been denied access to approve grant funds due to bureaucratic bottlenecks and institutional delays.

Rev. Chooji described the situation as both “painful and unjust”, warning that



President Bola Tinubu

continued withholding of the funds could undermine public trust on government-backed empowerment programmes.

“When hope is given and then delayed, it becomes a burden on the soul. As the Holy Scripture says in Proverbs 13:12, “Hope deferred maketh the heart sick”.

This is the reality many Nigerians are facing today”, he said.

The GCDM leader specifically called on President Bola Tinubu to rise

to the occasion as a responsible leader and father of the nation”, by directing the apex bank and other agencies to ensure the immediate disbursement of the funds.

According to him, the grants-facilitated through international development frameworks involving the World Bank—were designed to stimulate economic growth, reduce poverty, and empower citizens at the grassroots level.

“Mr. President, this is a defining moment. The release of these funds will not only revive struggling businesses, but will also reaffirm your administration's commitment to economic inclusion and social justice”, he stated.

He further stressed that the intervention would serve as a catalyst for job creation and youth engagement, particularly in a time when economic pressures continue to weigh heavily on ordinary Nigerians.

Find Full Story In The Link

Nigeria Eurobond Yields Fall To 7.12% On Strong Demand

Culled:

Nigeria's Eurobond market closed the week to April 10 on a positive note, with average yields declining by 33 basis points to 7.12 percent from 7.45 percent, as renewed investor demand lifted prices across maturities.

The drop in yields signals stronger appetite for Nigerian sovereign debt in the international market, as investors increased purchases of existing bonds, pushing prices higher and borrowing costs lower for the government.

Buying interest was broadly distributed along the yield curve, reflecting confidence across both medium- and longer-term maturities. Key instruments such as the Feb-2030 bond saw yields compress by 41 basis points, while the Jan-2031 and Sep-2033 bonds declined by 39 basis points and 41 basis points respectively. The Feb-2032 bond recorded the sharpest movement, with yields falling by about 45 basis points, highlighting particularly strong demand at that tenor.

“The Eurobond market also closed in the green this week, as the average yield fell by 33bps to 7.12 percent from 7.45 percent previously,” analysts at Meristem said, noting that “buying interest was spread across the curve,” with bonds such as Feb-2030, Jan-2031, Feb-2032, and Sep-2033 reflecting strong demand.

Analysts at CSL Stockbrokers also pointed to improving global sentiment as a key driver. “The Nigerian sovereign Eurobond market posted a broadly positive performance, with yields trending lower across the curve,” CSL said, attributing the movement to easing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

According to the firm, ceasefire discussions involving the United States, Israel, and Iran have raised expectations of de-escalation, supporting investor confidence and driving yields lower by about 32 basis points week-on-week to around 7.1 percent.

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Access, Zenith Top Nigeria's Most Valuable Brands



Bank

Culled:

Access Bank and Zenith Bank have emerged as Nigeria's most valuable brands, with the country's top 25 brands recording a 14 percent increase in total brand value to N5.01 trillion, according to the

latest ranking by Brand Finance.

According to the Nigeria 25 2026 report, the banking sector accounted for 61 percent of total brand value at N3.05 trillion, maintaining its lead across sectors.

Access Bank retained its position as the most

valuable brand for the fifth consecutive year, despite a 13 percent decline in brand value to N773.2 billion.

“The bank recorded a 17 percent decline in Nigerian income and a 14 percent increase in income from African operations and ranked 320th among the world's top 500 banking brands,” the report disclosed.

Zenith Bank ranked second with a 20 percent increase in brand value to N547 billion, supported by growth in interest and non-interest income, digital investment, and expansion into African and European markets. The bank invested about \$100 million in upgrading its core banking systems.

GTCO placed third with a 3 percent increase in brand value

to N540.7 billion, reporting income growth across banking operations and other revenue lines. Its brand strategy included engagement through its food and drink festival.

The report disclosed that Seplat Energy recorded the highest growth in brand value, rising 97 percent to N194.5 billion, driven by higher production, improved cash generation, and consolidation of offshore assets. The company ranked ninth, entering the top 10 for the first time.

First Bank of Nigeria emerged as the strongest brand with a Brand Strength Index score of 92.2 out of 100 and an AAA+ rating, supported by its focus on SMEs and private banking clients.

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Dr. Alausa

FG Opens Applications For Second Phase Of TVET Programme

Culled:

The Federal Government has announced the commencement of applications for the second cohort of its Technical and Vocational Education and Training programme aimed at boosting skills acquisition and employment.

The Minister of Education, Tunji Alausa, disclosed this in a post on his X handle on Monday, describing the initiative as a key component of the administration's human capital development drive.

"Today marks the opening of applications for the second cohort of our National TVET Programme, a key step in advancing human capital

development," he said.

He noted that the programme recorded significant interest during its first phase, with over 1.3 million applications received nationwide.

"Last year, over 1.3 million Nigerians applied, a powerful reminder of the growing demand for practical skills and the impact they can have on people's lives and our economy," he added.

Alausa said the application portal would open at 4:00pm (WAT), urging Nigerians across age groups to take advantage of the opportunity.

"We are calling on every Nigerian, young or old, who has a dream, a vision for a better life, and a hardworking spirit

to sign up. With TVET, you can build your own future," he said.

According to details on the programme portal, applications reopened on April 13, 2026, offering fully funded training across multiple vocational and technical fields.

The initiative features two training tracks, a six-month Short-Term Certificate programme designed for beginners, and a one-year Vocational Education and Innovation track for individuals with prior learning or informal experience.

Entry requirements include a valid National Identification Number and Bank Verification Number, while the

advanced track also accepts proof of prior learning or basic educational certificates.

Participants will receive free tuition funded by the Federal Government, monthly stipends, hands-on training, and nationally recognised certification upon completion.

The programme also offers start-up support and access to business loans to enable graduates to establish enterprises in their chosen fields.

Training areas include electrical installation, welding and fabrication, digital media, automobile repairs, fashion design, agriculture, and renewable energy, among others.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Tinubu Holds Security Meeting With Service Chiefs

President Bola Tinubu, on Monday, held an emergency security meeting at the State House, Abuja, bringing together top military commanders, intelligence chiefs, and the Inspector-General of Police to review the nation's security situation.

The meeting was attended by the Chief of Defence Staff, General Olufemi Oluyede; Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Waidi Shaibu; Chief of

Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Idi Abbas; and Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Sunday Anele.

Others present included the Director-General of the Department of State Services (DSS), Oluwatosin Ajayi; Director-General of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Mohammed Mohammed; Inspector-General of Police, Tunji Disu; and National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu.

Details of the closed-door session were not made public at the time of report though it was gathered that the meeting was part of ongoing efforts to strengthen coordination among security agencies amid rising security concerns in several parts of the country.

This comes after the Army stated on Monday that another commander and six soldiers have been killed after troops of Sector 3 of the Joint

Task Force (North-East), Operation HADIN KAI, repelled a terrorist attack on a military position in Monguno, Borno State.

A statement issued on Monday by the Media Information Officer of Operation HADIN KAI, Lieutenant Colonel Sani Uba, said the attack occurred late Sunday, April 12, 2026, at the Charlie 13 location, where troops engaged insurgents in a fierce gun battle.

[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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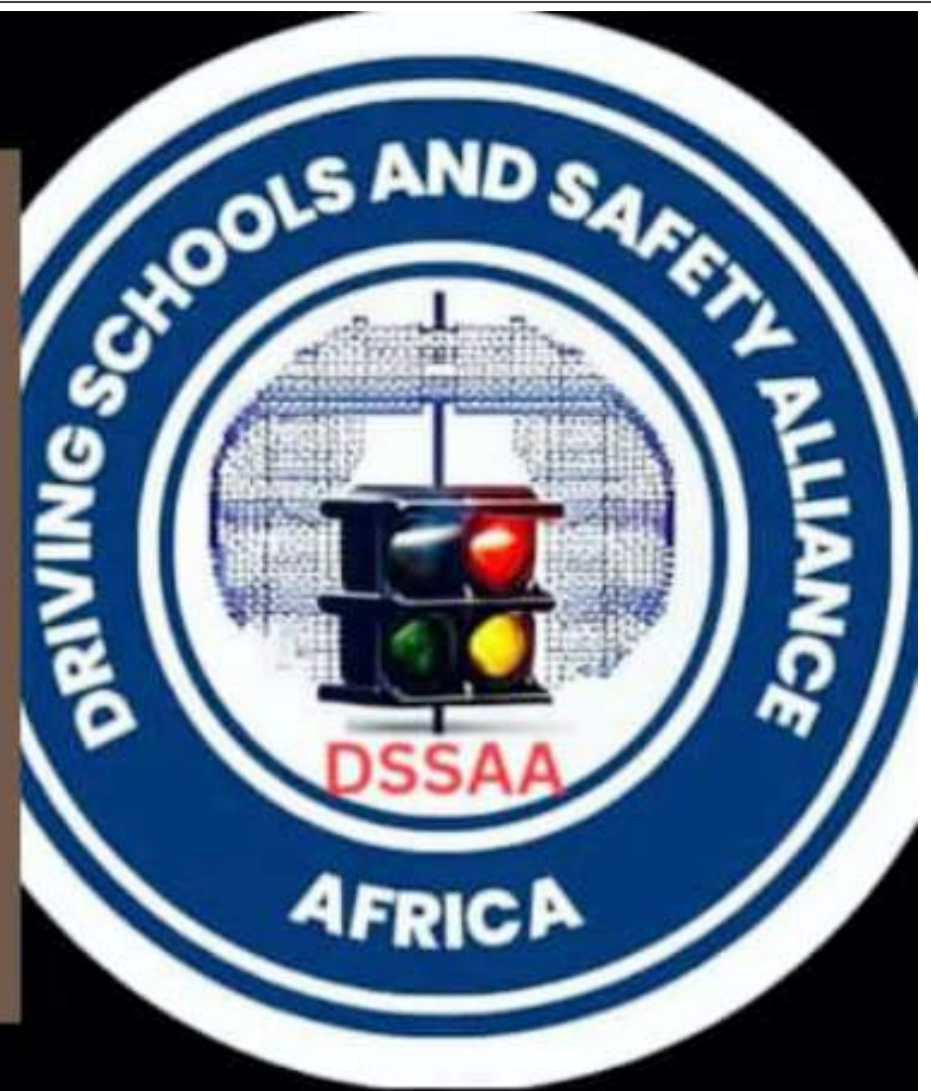


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