

NANS, LASTMA Partner On Student Road Safety, Youth Empowerment In Lagos

The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), Joint Campus Council (JCC), Lagos State chapter, has begun talks with the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) to promote youth empowerment initiatives across the state. The meeting, held at

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NEMA, FAAN Sign MoU To Strengthen Partnership At Owerri Airport

Head of Operations, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Owerri Operational Office, Mr Nnamdi Igwe, has

announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) of the

Sam Mbakwe International Cargo Airport, Owerri, Imo State, to manage and bring emergencies under control.

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Friday, May 8th 2026

NIWA Moves To Phase Out Wooden Boats On Waterways

The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) has intensified efforts to phase out wooden boats

across Nigeria's waterways as part of measures to improve safety and reduce boat

accidents. The Lagos Area Manager of NIWA, Engr. Sarat Braimah,

disclosed this during a courtesy visit by members of the 2026 Dockworkers' Day

Committee of the Shipping Correspondents Association of

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NIWA, Maritime Academy Train Boat Operators On Water Safety

P3

Umahi Orders 10-Day Probe Into Eko Bridge Structural Concerns

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Aviation Workers Halt Strike After NCAA Intervention

P7



Wooden boats in the water

Lagos To Introduce Paid Roadside Parking Scheme

The Lagos State Parking Authority (LASPA) has announced plans to commence paid parking on designated streets

across the state before the end of 2026 as part of efforts to improve traffic management and curb indiscriminate parking.

The General Manager of LASPA, Adebisi Adelabu, disclosed this during a stakeholders' meeting with the

Chairman of Ikeja Local Government Area, Akeem Dauda, and members of the council's management team.

The development was

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Abia Moves To Develop Seaport Project

P5

Local Transport News

NIWA Moves To Phase Out Wooden Boats On Waterways

Culled

The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) has intensified efforts to phase out wooden boats across Nigeria's waterways as part of measures to improve safety and reduce boat accidents.

The Lagos Area Manager of NIWA, Engr. Sarat Braimah, disclosed this during a courtesy visit by members of the 2026 Dockworkers' Day Committee of the Shipping Correspondents Association of Nigeria (SCAN) to her office in Lagos.

Braimah said the initiative aligns with the safety agenda of the Acting Managing Director of NIWA, Alhaji Yusuf Girei, who has directed the agency to strengthen nationwide awareness campaigns on waterways safety.

According to her, safety remains a top priority for the authority, stressing that NIWA is committed to ensuring compliance with safety regulations by both passengers and operators.

She explained that the agency has intensified sensitisation campaigns to educate water users on the importance of safety measures, especially the use of life jackets.

Braimah noted that the campaigns have significantly improved safety consciousness among commuters on Lagos waterways, with passengers increasingly insisting that fellow travellers wear life jackets before boats depart jetties.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Wooden Boat

NEMA, FAAN Sign MoU To Strengthen Partnership At Owerri Airport

Culled

Head of Operations, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Owerri Operational Office, Mr Nnamdi Igwe, has announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) of the Sam Mbakwe International Cargo Airport, Owerri, Imo State, to manage and bring emergencies under control.

This is even as the MoU clearly stated that no party shall incur legal obligations beyond those explicitly stated in the agreement.

Igwe said the MoU was aimed at strengthening collaboration between both agencies and formalizing their partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the NEMA, Owerri office last week.

The FAAN delegation included Mrs Njaka (head of Medicals), Mr Ikemefula (head of Aerodrome Rescue and Fire Fighting Services – ARFFS), Mrs Emilia Erekosima (head of Operations) and Mrs Juliet Nwafor (chief safety officer).

According to the provisions of the MoU, NEMA is to provide all available resources—including information, equipment, materials, and technical expertise—to support Sam Mbakwe International Cargo Airport and other relevant agencies in managing and bringing emergencies under control adding that the support is to be rendered as a matter of national service.

Igwe said “the agreement further stipulates that all assistance provided by NEMA—such as personnel, ambulances, equipment, and other logistics—must be in good working condition. And the MoU states that no party shall incur legal obligations beyond those explicitly stated in the agreement”.

On their part, the Sam Mbakwe airport management will ensure that FAAN's Aerodrome Rescue and Fire Fighting Services (ARFFS) equipment are maintained in optimal condition and will provide an enabling environment for effective emergency response operations.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Residents Decry Hardship As Lagos Road Expansion Triggers Demolitions

Culled

Residents of Langbasa and Harmony Estate in Eti-Osa Local Council Area of Lagos have lamented the demolition of homes, shops and kiosks following an ongoing road expansion project by the Lagos State Ministry of Works and Infrastructure.

The project, which covers Oba Elejigbo Street, Mallam Eshinlokun Street and parts of Kingsley Osuh Avenue, is aimed at improving infrastructure and boosting economic activities in the area. It is being executed by Visible Construction Limited and is expected to last about 15 weeks, although officials noted that the broader project could extend beyond six months.

The demolition exercise has generated mixed reactions among residents. While some welcomed the development, describing it as long overdue, others said the exercise had left many families displaced and traders counting heavy losses.

Some residents expressed optimism that the road project would improve



Home, shops and kiosks being demolished by the Lagos State Ministry of Works and Infrastructure

transportation, security and business activities in the community.

“This is a welcome development. Good roads will improve business and even bring solar street lights,” a resident said.

However, affected residents in the Osho area and adjoining streets, including Abel Abayomi Street, accused authorities of carrying out the

demolition without adequate notice or compensation plans.

“Heavy machines moved in and started pulling down buildings. We were not given enough time to prepare,” a resident alleged.

A trader, Mallam Mohammed Sheriff, appealed to the Lagos State Government to assist displaced families.

“We are pleading with the government to come to our aid. People are sleeping outside,” he said.

Mr Joshua Ogunmeye, whose family property was partially demolished, questioned the level of communication from government officials.

“A large part of our compound was taken. There was no clear compensation plan or proper notice,” he said.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Local Transport News

FRSC Rolls Out Initiative To Prevent Road Crashes In Katsina

Culled

The Federal Road Safety Corps commenced a comprehensive traffic control operation on Thursday at strategic locations across Katsina.

The exercise launched in Katsina by the sector commander, Ali Hinna-Ibrahim, aimed to ease congestion and ensure the free flow of traffic within metropolitan areas.

According to the sector commander, the initiative stemmed from resolutions reached at FRSC's first quarter strategy meeting held in Abuja. He explained that the exercise also aimed to boost operational efficiency and strengthen road safety measures across the country.

Mr Hinna-Ibrahim further said the exercise was designed to maintain a smooth and efficient traffic system across major roads and busy locations in the state.

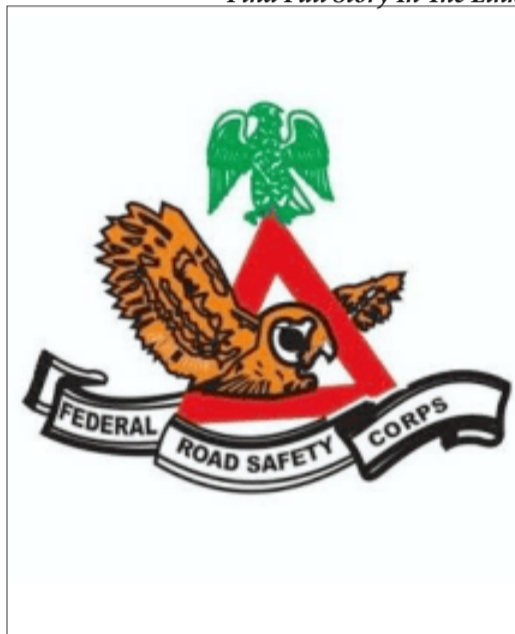
He explained that the operation also formed part of the command's corporate social responsibility initiatives aimed at improving public service delivery and promoting safer road use among motorists

and other commuters.

According to him, the traffic control operation aligns with the 2026 strategic goals of the corps marshal, which focus on strengthening road safety through a humanitarian approach, deeper community engagement, and data-driven operations.

The sector commander reassured residents and road users of the command's commitment to reducing road crashes, eliminating traffic obstructions, and ensuring safer highways across the state.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



FRSC

NIWA, Maritime Academy Train Boat Operators On Water Safety

Culled

The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), in partnership with Lufredha Maritime Academy, has begun a three-day intensive waterways safety training for about 100 boat operators from Maton Engineering Nigeria Limited.

The programme, held in Warri, Delta State, is part of efforts to improve professionalism in inland water transportation and reduce the growing rate of accidents on Nigeria's waterways.

Managing Director of Lufredha Maritime Academy, Onajite Rosemary Tonlagha, said the training aligns with NIWA's safety standards for private and commercial boat operators and is aimed at equipping participants with navigation skills, safety procedures, regulatory compliance knowledge, and professional licensing requirements.

Tonlagha explained that the academy, which has operated for over seven years, has maintained collaboration with NIWA in training and certifying boat operators in line with national regulations.

She noted that participants would receive practical and theoretical training covering navigation, engine maintenance, first aid, and safety protocols, including sea trials designed to assess operators' competence.

According to her, many boat operators rely on informal experience rather than structured maritime training, a situation she said contributes to accidents on inland waterways.

"Navigation is not an inherited craft. It requires structured training, adherence to evolving safety standards, and compliance with regulations such as the use of life jackets, possession of valid licences, and restrictions on night operations," she said.

Tonlagha also identified poor hazard identification, especially the inability to detect submerged wrecks, as a major cause of waterway mishaps.

She expressed appreciation to Maton Engineering Nigeria Limited for supporting the initiative and urged participants to maximise the opportunity to improve their professional skills.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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Culled

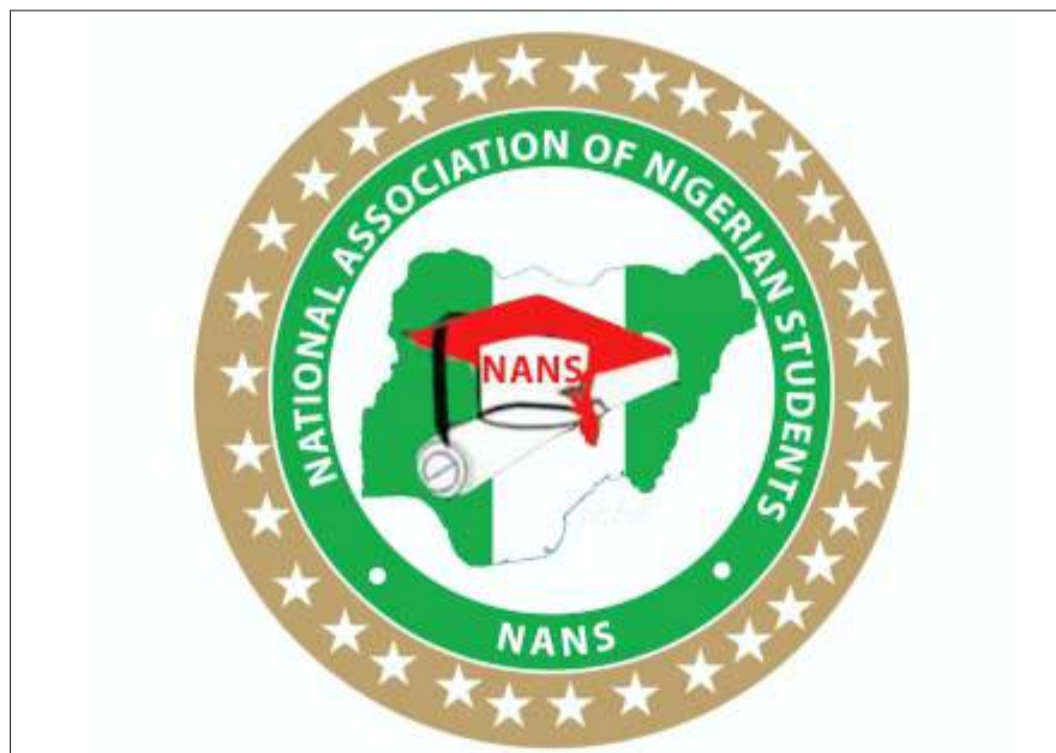
The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), Joint Campus Council (JCC), Lagos State chapter, has begun talks with the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) to strengthen road safety awareness among students and promote youth empowerment initiatives across the state.

The meeting, held at LASTMA headquarters in Oshodi, was led by the Chairman of NANS JCC Lagos, Ridwan Ajayi, and the management team of LASTMA headed by its General Manager, Mr. Olalekan Bakare-Oki.

Speaking during the engagement, Ajayi commended LASTMA for its sustained efforts in maintaining traffic order and improving road safety across Lagos State.

He explained that the visit was aimed at formally introducing the newly inaugurated NANS leadership and establishing a structured partnership with the agency, particularly in the area of traffic education for students.

Ajayi noted that students make up a



NANS

significant percentage of road users in Lagos and stressed the need for increased sensitisation within tertiary institutions.

He proposed collaboration in areas such as campus-based traffic safety campaigns, student-focused awareness programmes, and other initiatives designed to encourage responsible road use among youths.

The NANS chairman also appealed for

youth empowerment opportunities, including internship placements and structured engagements for qualified students, citing previous successes recorded through partnerships with government agencies and private organisations.

Responding, LASTMA General Manager, Bakare-Oki, congratulated the new NANS leadership and acknowledged the role of student bodies in supporting traffic

management and civic responsibility.

He highlighted the agency's achievements in reducing road accidents across the state, while expressing concern over rising traffic incidents along the Badagry Expressway corridor, especially around tertiary institutions.

According to him, previous collaborations with student leaders had produced positive results, adding that LASTMA remains open to renewed partnerships aimed at improving traffic safety awareness on campuses.

On employment concerns, Bakare-Oki explained that recruitment into LASTMA is handled through the Lagos State Civil Service Commission, although the agency regularly engages students through the Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) and the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC).

The meeting also featured discussions on LASTMA's use of digital platforms for traffic information dissemination, the introduction of a toll-free emergency line, and ongoing stakeholder engagements to tackle traffic-related challenges in Lagos.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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#SafetyFirst
#Staysafe

Local Transport News

Abia Moves To Develop Seaport Project

Culled

The Abia State Government has approved a Chinese engineering firm, China Harbour Engineering Company Limited, to conduct a feasibility study for the proposed Azumini-Obeaku Seaport and Inland Waterways Corridor project.

Governor Alex Otti disclosed this during a meeting with a delegation from the company led by Nicolas Liu at the Government House in Nvosi.

Otti said the study is a critical step toward actualising the proposed seaport and inland waterways corridor, urging the firm to complete the process within the shortest possible time.

According to the governor, the state government is committed to initiating the necessary approval processes with relevant federal authorities, including the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), the Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, and the Presidency.

"Somehow, deep in my mind, I know that this is the approach. It is good to

understand the details and all that is required," Otti said.

"We need to start the process of getting the approval of the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA), and the Ministry of Blue Economy. And of course, the President. So, I think we need to start the process immediately," he added.

The proposed project is expected to boost maritime activities, improve inland water transportation, and stimulate economic development in Abia State and the South-East region.



Governor Alex Otti

Culled

The Lagos State Parking Authority (LASPA) has announced plans to commence paid parking on designated streets across the state before the end of 2026 as part of efforts to improve traffic management and curb indiscriminate parking.

The General Manager of LASPA, Adebisi Adelabu, disclosed this during a stakeholders' meeting with the Chairman of Ikeja Local Government Area, Akeem Dauda, and members of the council's management team.

The development was confirmed in a statement issued by LASPA's Head of Public Affairs, Dunkwu Divine.

According to Adelabu, the On-Street Parking Scheme will begin with a pilot phase in selected local government areas, including Ikeja, before expanding to other parts of the state.

She explained that the initiative is designed to improve parking orderliness, ease traffic congestion and create employment opportunities for residents.

"The On-Street Parking Scheme will

Lagos To Introduce Paid Roadside Parking Scheme

improve parking management, enhance traffic flow and generate employment opportunities, particularly for residents within the selected areas," she said.

Adelabu noted that parking operations were previously managed by local government authorities before the responsibility was transferred to LASPA by the Conference of the 57 Local Government Areas and Local Council Development Areas.

She added that councils participating in the initiative would benefit based on their level of cooperation and urged them to support the implementation process. She also assured stakeholders of LASPA's readiness to engage residents and incorporate feedback for smooth execution of the scheme.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

FG Receives \$600m Maritime Investment Proposal From APMT



Dr. Akutah

The Federal Government, through the Nigerian Shippers Council, said it has received a proposal for an additional \$600m investment into the nation's maritime industry by the APM Terminals Apapa, The PUNCH reports.

According to a statement on Wednesday, the Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Shippers Council, Dr Pius Akutah, disclosed this when the Governing Board of the NSC paid a familiarisation visit to the terminal last week.

While welcoming the proposal by the terminal operator, Akutah described it as a strong vote of confidence in the Nigerian economy.

"APM Terminals has already presented a

proposal to invest an additional \$600m in the sector. This is highly encouraging," he said.

He noted that as the Federal Government intensifies efforts to attract foreign direct investment, it is encouraging to see firms already operating in Nigeria reinvesting and deepening their commitments.

"It is truly heartening and signals a promising period for the country," he said.

Akutah emphasised the regulator's ongoing oversight of operators within the sector to ensure compliance, innovation, and improved performance. He reiterated that the NSC is closely tracking operators in the sector to evaluate their performance and identify ways to improve it, noting that most agencies are already complying with its directives to modernise facilities, drive innovation, and integrate technology into their operations.

"We are witnessing this progress at an encouraging pace, consistent with the vision of the Honourable Minister of

Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, CON," Akutah said.

He commended APMT for its strides in operational development, particularly in export growth, saying, "At APM Terminals, we were informed that export cargo volumes are rising significantly, with growth already at about 30 per cent. This gives us optimism that, in the coming years, Nigeria will achieve a more balanced trade position. For too long, the country has operated largely as an importing nation, resulting in persistent deficits in the balance of payments."

Akutah noted that while exports remain largely commodity-driven, there are emerging opportunities to diversify: "It is encouraging to see increased export activity, even if it is still largely raw materials. With the Dangote Refinery now exporting petroleum products, we expect further progress. In addition, the manufacturing sector holds strong potential, particularly under the African Continental Free Trade Area, which provides a unified platform for trade

across the continent. We are confident that Nigeria will soon expand its footprint in exporting manufactured goods across Africa."

Meanwhile, during the visit, the Board of the NSC lauded the terminal operator for sustaining high operational standards and maintaining its position as a benchmark for port operations in Nigeria.

Speaking during the visit, the Chairman of the NSC Board, Dr Ibrahim Shema, reaffirmed the Council's commitment to its statutory role as the nation's port economic regulator.

Shema noted that collaboration across the maritime value chain remains essential to achieving efficiency and competitiveness, adding that the NSC would continue to work with key stakeholders to enhance service delivery and position Nigeria as a maritime hub for West and Central Africa, in alignment with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Tinubu. He urged shippers, shipping lines, and terminal operators to deepen cooperation in pursuit of this objective.

[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!



20 LITERS

STANDARD QUALITY EMULSION

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QUALITY EMULSION

...quality speaks

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QUALITY EMULSION

...quality speaks

Umahi Orders 10-Day Probe Into Eko Bridge Structural Concerns

Culled

Minister of Works, David Umahi, has directed that investigations into structural concerns surrounding the Eko Bridge in Lagos be concluded within 10 days as the Federal Government intensifies efforts to prevent further deterioration and resume rehabilitation works on the bridge.

Umahi gave the directive while addressing growing concerns over the condition of the bridge and the expected traffic disruptions that may arise during the repair process.

The minister apologised to Lagos residents over the inconvenience linked to the ongoing rehabilitation efforts, noting that parts of the bridge had previously suffered severe fire damage caused by illegal activities beneath the structure.

"Parts of the bridge had previously suffered severe fire damage caused by traders storing chemicals and other



Apapa corridor

goods beneath the structure," he said. "The rehabilitation contract for the bridge was awarded before the current administration assumed office but experienced setbacks

due to funding challenges," Umahi stated, adding that "President Bola Tinubu later approved renewed funding support for the project."

He further disclosed that the current administration came into office, but were delayed due to funding

preparing to commence rehabilitation works on the Third Mainland Bridge following concerns over weakening structural components.

The minister explained that investigations were currently ongoing on some piers and pier caps to determine the level of damage and identify necessary engineering interventions.

Eko Bridge has witnessed multiple rehabilitation exercises in recent years due to recurring structural concerns and fire incidents associated with illegal trading and storage activities beneath the bridge.

In March 2022, the Lagos State Government partially shut down the bridge for six months following the commencement of repair works by the Federal Ministry of Works.

The bridge had earlier reopened in August 2021 after undergoing a 10-week rehabilitation exercise.

Umahi also revealed in October 2023 that repairs on the bridge would require imported equipment estimated at about 1.2 million Euros.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Aviation Workers Halt Strike After NCAA Intervention



NCAA

The Aviation Ground Handlers Association of Nigeria has suspended its planned industrial action over the lingering N9bn debt dispute, following the intervention of the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority.

The association said the strike, earlier scheduled to commence on Thursday (today), was put on hold after the aviation regulator invited its leadership to a stakeholders' meeting slated for May 12 at the NCAA annex office at the Murtala Muhammed Airport, Lagos.

In a statement jointly signed by its Chairman, Olaniyi Adigun, and Vice-Chairman, Ahmed Bashir, the association explained that the decision to suspend the strike was taken in the

interest of dialogue and industry stability.

The association stated that it "decided to put on hold the industrial action due to the intervention from the NCAA," adding that the invitation to a formal meeting signalled a willingness by regulators to address the concerns raised by their members.

AGHAN further disclosed that it had also received a formal communication from the Airline Operators of Nigeria regarding the issues at the heart of the dispute, describing the development as an encouraging step toward resolving the crisis.

According to the association, it would honour the NCAA's invitation, stressing that "as an association, we will attend the NCAA's meeting as scheduled." The body described the intervention as "a positive step towards structured engagement and constructive dialogue among key stakeholders in the aviation sector."

The ground handlers added that it reflects growing recognition of the

need for collaborative problem-solving within the industry. AGHAN said it is currently consulting widely with its members and other relevant stakeholders to review the communication received and determine a unified position ahead of the scheduled meeting.

"In view of this correspondence, the association is consulting its members and relevant stakeholders to review the contents and determine an appropriate collective position," the statement noted.

It added that all previously planned industrial actions would remain suspended pending the outcome of ongoing discussions and the establishment of a clear resolution framework.

"Any previously contemplated industry actions remain on hold pending the outcome of ongoing engagements and the establishment of a clear resolution framework to be communicated at the appropriate time," the association stated.

Reiterating its commitment to the aviation sector, AGHAN assured the flying public and industry players that it remains dedicated to maintaining operational stability and safety across Nigerian airports.

They emphasised that "it remains fully committed to the stability, safety, and uninterrupted operations of the aviation industry in Nigeria. All matters can be resolved through continued dialogue, mutual understanding, and adherence to due process."

It also appealed for calm among stakeholders and the general public as engagements continue, assuring that efforts are ongoing to reach a lasting and mutually beneficial resolution.

"We therefore urge all parties and the general public to remain calm as structured engagements continue between stakeholders, with a view to achieving a lasting and mutually beneficial resolution," the statement added.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Emirates Group Employees To Receive 20-Week Salary Bonus After Record Profits

Culled

The Emirates Group has announced a remarkable 20-week salary bonus for its employees following a record performance in the fiscal year 2025-26 after the group achieved historic highs in net profits, revenues, and cash balances.

Dubai's flagship airline recorded these earnings despite the ongoing US-Israel-Iran war, which has battered Middle East aviation.

The Emirates Group, comprising of Emirates airline and dnata, its aviation services arm, alongside subsidiaries spanning cargo, catering, travel, and retail operations, reported a record profit before tax of Dh 24.4 billion (up 7 per cent y-o-y, with revenue reaching Dh150.5 billion (up 3 per cent) and cash assets at Dh59.6 billion (up 12 per cent).



In a heartfelt letter to employees, Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates airline and Group, wrote, "March

2026 will fade into memory, but we will never forget your bravery and incredible resilience....

"You were called upon during one of the most

complex and challenging times in our history and you showed up with commitment and passion. For that, I will remain forever grateful to you."

For the second year in a row, Emirates is the world's most profitable airline in the 2025-26 reporting period.

The airline has reported record-breaking

financial results, despite a disruptive and challenging 12th month of its financial year, including:

The results come despite what the airline described as a "disruptive and challenging" 12th month. Regional aviation, which was enjoying a robust growth period post-Covid, has plunged into chaos after the US-Israel-Iran broke out late-February. It is gradually stabilising after recent disruptions, with airlines restoring schedules and capacity.

Sheikh Ahmed also said in a statement, "We are fortunate to be based in Dubai, where years of infrastructure investments and a cohesive aviation ecosystem has enabled the government to quickly secure safe corridors for commercial flights."

Emirates Group is one of the biggest employers in Dubai. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Culled

Georgia is launching a large-scale overhaul of its railway system aimed at boosting capacity, efficiency, and regional connectivity, Economy Minister Mariam Kvrivishvili has said.

"We are embarking on a historic renewal of Georgian Railways –

a process that will fundamentally transform the company," Kvrivishvili said during a presentation of the reform plan.

The strategy focuses on three key directions: infrastructure development, strengthening freight transport, and

Georgia Launches Railway Modernisation Plan - Kvrivishvili

modernizing passenger services, combining operational and infrastructure upgrades into a single system.

The minister said the company's financial performance has improved, with an optimization effect exceeding ₾230 million over the past year and net profit rising to 30%. Operating profit margins increased from 25% to 36%.

Rail capacity has also expanded, with throughput on the main line up 30% and transit time across the country reduced by 20%.

Kvrivishvili said Georgia plans to purchase 50 new locomotives and 1,500 wagons, with more than ₾1 billion in investment. The upgrades are expected to cut transit time from 24 hours to 12 hours and double overall transport capacity.

Passenger services are also set for expansion, with new trains planned to increase ridership and improve travel speed and comfort.

Major infrastructure works are underway. Rehabilitation of the Tbilisi-Batumi railway and Tbilisi-Akhaltshikhe railway lines is expected to be completed by August 2026, reducing travel

time to Batumi to around four hours and halving journey times to Akhaltshikhe.

The historic Borjomi-Bakuriani railway line is also set for rehabilitation, with completion planned for winter 2027.

Kvrivishvili linked the railway upgrades to broader regional connectivity plans, including the Anaklia deep-sea port project, which she describes as a key component of Georgia's logistics network. Construction of connecting road and rail infrastructure is expected to begin soon.

She added that growing global demand for alternative trade routes has increased the importance of the Middle Corridor, positioning Georgia as a key transit partner between Europe and Asia.

The minister said modernization of major railway stations across the country is already underway, aimed at aligning infrastructure with modern standards and passenger needs.

The minister said the company's financial performance has improved, with an optimization effect exceeding ₾230 million over the past year and net profit rising to 30%. Operating profit margins increased from 25% to 36%. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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General News

Dangote Targets Nigeria's Power Crisis With 20,000MW Generation Plan

Culled:

Aliko Dangote is preparing a major move into Nigeria's power sector, with plans to generate 20,000 megawatts of electricity. The proposal could significantly expand his business empire beyond cement, fertiliser, oil refining and other industrial operations.

The plan was revealed during a discussion with Makhtar Diop, managing director of the International Finance Corporation. Dangote said his group is now looking at power generation as part of a wider push to meet Africa's biggest industrial needs, including energy, fertiliser and key production inputs.

The proposed 20,000MW project would be far larger than Nigeria's current electricity output. Despite repeated government promises to improve supply, the country has struggled to generate and deliver enough power for its population and businesses. BusinessDay reported that supply has often remained around 3,331MW, while even the government's 6,000MW target has been difficult to sustain.

Nigeria's unreliable power supply has long been one of the biggest obstacles to industrial growth. Many



Nigeria Power grid

households and companies still depend on diesel and petrol generators, raising production costs and w e a k e n i n g competitiveness. According to BusinessDay's reference to World Bank data, poor power supply costs the Nigerian economy about \$29 billion each year.

Dangote's plan comes after the launch of his 650,000-barrel-per-day refinery and the expansion of his fertiliser operations. The group

believes its stronger cash flow and asset base could support another large infrastructure investment.

However, the project would face major challenges. Nigeria's transmission network remains weak and may not be able to carry the level of electricity Dangote wants to generate.

BusinessDay reported that the grid currently struggles to handle even 8,000MW without serious stability risks.

Another challenge is the financial structure of the power sector. Distribution companies often struggle to collect enough revenue, which creates debts across the system and affects payments to gas suppliers and power generation companies. Gas shortages have also limited the performance of many existing thermal plants.

Dangote may try to reduce those risks by relying on his own gas and energy assets.

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FCT Budget: Senate Passes N2.285trn For 2026

Culled:

The Senate has approved a N2.285trillion 2026 budget for the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) Abuja.

Approval of the budget proposal by the Senate, followed reports submitted to that effect by its Committee on FCT.

In the report presented by the Vice Chairman of the committee, Senator Austin Akobundu (Abia Central), a total of N1.741trillion representing 76% of the entire budget estimates, is earmarked for capital expenditure, N165.7billion for personnel expenditure and N378.231billion for overhead cost.

According to Akobundu, while N1.741trillion earmarked for capital expenditure in the proposed budget, represents 76.1% of the entire budget estimates, N544.6billion which is the total sum of personnel and overhead costs, represents 23% of the budget.

The budget proposal, he added, focuses majorly on infrastructure development in the FCT and provision of required utilities and facilities for residents across the Six Area Councils.

Impressed by the proposal, the majority of Senators who debated it, urged the Senate to give it expeditious passage as according to him, the Minister Nyesom Wike, is working and should be encouraged to do more.

Specifically, the Deputy President of the Senate, Jibrin Barau (Kano North), in his contribution, commended the FCT Minister for doing wonderful works in FCT.

"Mr President, the report presented to us for consideration and approval should be approved without any hesitation.

"The FCT Minister is doing wonderful work in the territory through implementation of budgets of impacts, budget of development on yearly basis.

"We need to commend him for practically showing willingness to continue to build FCT and urge him not to waiver in making Abuja one of the best cities in the world," he said.

Find Full Story In The Link

Senate Confirms Appointment Of New NMDPRA, NADC CEOs



The Senate

Culled:

The Senate on Thursday confirmed the appointment of Rabiul Umar and Mainasara Illo as the Authority Chief Executive of the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum

Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) and Executive Secretary/Chief Executive Officer of the Nigeria Anti-Doping Centre (NADC) respectively.

The conformation of appointment of Umar as NMDPRA boss followed the

presentation and consideration of a report by the Senate joint committees on Downstream Petroleum Sector and Gas during plenary in Abuja.

Chairman of the Senate Committee on Downstream Petroleum Sector, Abdulrahman Kawu, said the nomination complied with provisions of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA).

Kawu said the nominee possessed the technical competence, experience, and professional knowledge required for the position, adding that no petition was received against his nomination during the screening process.

He said that the joint committees cleared Umar after reviewing his credentials, records, and other relevant documents presented

before lawmakers during the confirmation exercise.

The committees subsequently recommended that the Senate confirmed Umar as Authority Chief Executive of the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority.

The Senate, sitting as the Committee of the Whole, considered the report and formally confirmed the nomination.

Also, confirmation of Mainasara Illo as NADC chief executive followed the consideration and adoption of a report by the Senate Joint Committee on Sports Development and Drugs and Narcotics on the screening of the nominee.

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Nigeria deepens bilateral relations with Somalia

Nigeria, Somalia Deepen Bilateral Relations, Security Cooperation

Culled:
 The Federal Government of Nigeria and the Federal Republic of Somalia have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation in security, economic development, and regional stability.

This formed the focus of discussions when the Permanent Secretary of Nigeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dunoma Umar Ahmed, received the Ambassador of Somalia to Nigeria, Mohamed Osman Mohamed, at the Ministry's headquarters in Abuja, a statement said on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Ambassador

Ahmed reaffirmed Nigeria's readiness to deepen diplomatic engagement with Somalia, describing the interaction as a step toward consolidating the cordial relationship between both countries. He also reiterated Nigeria's support for Somalia's efforts at stabilization, institutional strengthening, national development, and the protection of its sovereignty.

In his remarks, Ambassador Mohamed stressed the importance of closer collaboration between the two countries, particularly in intelligence sharing, security cooperation, and institutional

capacity-building. He called for structured mechanisms to address common security threats such as terrorism and transnational crime.

The Somali envoy also highlighted opportunities for greater collaboration in cultural exchange, technology transfer, and investment, while briefing the Nigerian side on the current security situation in Somalia. He expressed appreciation for Nigeria's continued support and that of the international community in safeguarding Somalia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Responding, Ambassador Ahmed assured Somalia of Nigeria's

willingness to share its experience in combating terrorism and insurgency through both kinetic and non-kinetic approaches. He identified maritime security, anti-piracy initiatives, and manpower development as critical areas of cooperation capable of promoting regional stability and economic security.

Both countries further explored opportunities for economic cooperation in agriculture, mining, digital technology, and fintech, noting their potential to stimulate economic growth and create employment opportunities for youths.

Find Full Story In The Link

Nigerian Billionaire Arrested In Switzerland Drug Raid

Operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, working with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and security agencies from Europe, have arrested a suspected Nigerian billionaire drug baron, Amadi Simon, in Switzerland over an alleged international drug money laundering operation.

The NDLEA announced the development in a statement issued

on Thursday by its spokesman, Femi Babafemi.

"The multi-country investigation into the drug money laundering operations culminated in the well-coordinated simultaneous arrest of a billionaire drug baron, Amadi Simon in Switzerland and his co-conspirators: 34-year-old Jecinta Amara Ikechi, in Anambra state, and 28-year-old Blessing Ngozi Amadi in Agbor, Delta state on Tuesday 28th

April 2026.

"This followed months of intelligence and investigations across multiple jurisdictions linking Amadi to the laundering of hundreds of billions of Naira in proceeds of drug and financial crimes," the statement read.

The agency said the syndicate allegedly operated a complex financial network used to move and conceal proceeds of drug trafficking

through shell companies, cryptocurrency wallets and multiple bank accounts across different countries.

Investigators also traced several luxury properties in Nigeria allegedly linked to the suspect and his associates.

The properties include Jovi Hotel in Asaba, Jovi Hotel and Suites in Agbor, Delta State, as well as Jovi Apartment in Mabushi, Abuja.
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

DIGITAL MARKETING

DSSAA will promote your business from time to time on our growing social media handles.


JOB FAIR


Your Road Safety organization or Driving School qualifies as a Job Fair Agent. You earn money from this.

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