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CONTINUES ON P3

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CONTINUES ON P5



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Tuesday, May 19th 2026

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LOTUS Bank Partners FG On CNG, EV Mobility Initiative

LOTUS Bank has partnered with the Presidential Initiative on Compressed Natural Gas and

Electric Vehicles (Pi-CNG & EV) to support the Federal Government's drive

towards cleaner and more affordable transportation alternatives across the country.

The partnership was announced during the launch of the Northern Corridor of the

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Electric Vehicle (EV)

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Pedestrian Killed By Bus Along Imowo-Ibadan Road In Ogun

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FRSC Cracks Down On Fake Diplomatic Number Plates

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Dangote Refinery Cuts Jets Fuel Price To N1,650 Per Litre

P3



The signing of the PCNG initiative partnership agreement in Kano State

NAHCO Posts N24bn Profit, Targets Airport Concession Opportunities

The Nigerian Aviation Handling Company Plc recorded a profit before tax of N24.28bn for the 2025 financial year as the

company signalled interest in the Federal Government's planned concession of major airport terminals nationwide.

The disclosure was made during the company's 45th Annual General Meeting held in Lagos, where

shareholders urged the management to leverage its strong financial standing and operational capacity to compete for airport ownership

CONTINUES ON P2

LASTMA Trains Officers On Trauma Management

P5

Local Transport News

FRSC Cracks Down On Fake Diplomatic Number Plates

Culled

The Federal Road Safety Corps on Monday launched a strategic intervention patrol, code-named 'Operation Guduma', to check the use of fake diplomatic number plates as well as overloading on roads.

The Corps Marshal of the FRSC, Shehu Mohammed, disclosed this in Awka during the inauguration of the operation.

Mohammed, represented by the corps' head of Transport Union Coordination Unit, Oko Etuali, said the corps discovered that many individuals were using fake ambassadorial and diplomatic number plates to ply the roads.

He said the development had become a source of concern in view of the prevailing insecurity in the country.

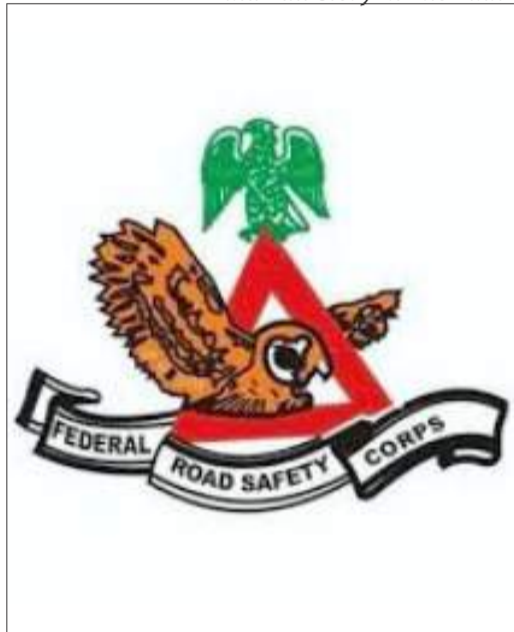
"We discovered that most people are faking ambassadorial or diplomatic number plates and using them to ply the roads.

"Considering the insecurity in the

country, the corps launched this strategic intervention patrol to ensure that all those using fake ambassadorial number plates and other illegal government number plates are brought to book," he said.

He explained that one of the statutory functions of the FRSC was to design and produce number plates, while state governments were responsible for issuing them to government officials, including lawmakers.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



FRSC

NPA Pensioners Protest Unpaid Benefits In Lagos

Culled

Retired workers of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) on Monday staged a protest at the agency's headquarters in Marina, Lagos, demanding the implementation of pension increments and improved welfare payments amid worsening economic hardship.

The protesters, under the umbrella of the Nigerian Ports Authority Pensioners Welfare Association (NPAPWA), accused the authorities of failing to fully implement statutory pension reviews as provided under Section 173(3) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

According to the retirees, some pensioners currently receive as low as N30,000 monthly, while previous increases ranging between three and 11.5 percent were described as arbitrary and insufficient to meet present economic realities.

The Guardian observed that active workers also took part during the protest. This followed earlier threats by

the association to shut down port operations nationwide in April 2026 after issuing a seven-day ultimatum to authorities.

"We have not received any increments in four years now, and everything is hard, the government have continue to do as if everything is fine" a protester told the Guardian.

However, the planned shutdown was suspended after interventions and communications from the Presidency, relevant government agencies, and NPA management, with negotiations still ongoing over the payment of arrears and pension reforms.

Speaking during the demonstration, the pensioners urged the federal government and NPA management to urgently reconcile outstanding issues to prevent further escalation.

They maintained that retirees who devoted decades of service to Nigeria's maritime sector deserved benefits that reflect current living conditions.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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The Nigerian Aviation Handling Company Plc recorded a profit before tax of N24.28bn for the 2025 financial year as the company signalled interest in the Federal Government's planned concession of major airport terminals nationwide.

The disclosure was made during the company's 45th Annual General Meeting held in Lagos, where shareholders urged the management to leverage its strong financial standing and operational capacity to compete for airport ownership and management under the Federal Government's privatisation initiative.

The Federal Government is currently pursuing the concession of five major international airport terminals through a Public-Private Partnership arrangement supervised by the Bureau of Public Enterprises and the Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development.

Speaking at the AGM, President of the Association for the Advancement of Rights of Nigerian Shareholders, Farouk



NAHCO

Umar, said NAHCO had attained the financial and operational strength required to bid for airport concessions both within and outside Nigeria.

According to him, the company's strong market performance has continued to deliver impressive returns to shareholders.

"NAHCO has now reached a level that they can even provide the same

services in other African countries. The government is trying to privatise the airport, and I call on NAHCO to bid because they have the capability and financial position to win," Umar said.

He added that the company's share price rose from N80 last year to over N200, while shareholders are also benefiting from bonus shares and expanding business partnerships with airlines

including Fly Gabon, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar.

Financial results presented at the meeting showed that total revenue increased by 22.93 per cent from N53.54bn in 2024 to N65.82bn in 2025.

Profit before tax rose by 29.83 per cent from N18.70bn to N24.28bn, while profit after tax grew by 36.02 per cent from N12.87bn to N17.5bn.

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Local Transport News

Pedestrian Killed By Bus Along Imowo-Ibadan Road In Ogun

Culled

A pedestrian has died after being struck by a Toyota Coaster bus at Imowo, along the Imowo-Ibadan Road inward Ijebu Ode in Ogun State. The Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Agency (TRACE) confirmed that the fatal accident occurred around 4:45 p.m. on Sunday, causing heavy traffic congestion along the route due to obstruction by the bus.

According to the spokesperson for TRACE, Babatunde Akinbiyi, TRACE operatives and officers from the Obalende Police Division were immediately deployed to the scene to manage traffic and carry out rescue operations.

Eyewitnesses said the victim attempted to cross the road without checking for oncoming vehicles. Authorities also noted that ongoing road rehabilitation work along the axis had reduced traffic to a single lane outward Ijebu Ode.

“According to eyewitness account, the pedestrian forgot to check the other side of the road before crossing the road. There is diversion to one lane due to ongoing road rehabilitation on the axis,” Akinbiyi stated.

He added that no other injuries were recorded in the incident aside from the death of the male pedestrian.

TRACE officials reportedly controlled vehicular movement around the scene to ease congestion and prevent secondary accidents.

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Omonayajo

Dangote Refinery Cuts Jet Fuel Price To N1,650 Per Litre

Culled

Dangote Petroleum Refinery & Petrochemicals has reduced the price of aviation fuel (Jet A1) to N1,650 per litre from N1,750 per litre, in a move aimed at easing cost pressures on airlines and ensuring uninterrupted fuel supply across the country.

The latest reduction comes in addition to a 30-day interest-free credit facility backed by bank guarantees for marketers and airline operators, as well as the refinery's transition from a dollar-denominated pricing structure to a naira-based model.

Daily Trust reports that the domestic carriers had reduced flight frequencies over the development amidst skyrocketing fuel prices exceeding N2500 per litre.

In a statement, the refinery said, “Dangote Petroleum Refinery & Petrochemicals has reduced the price of aviation fuel (Jet A1) to N1,650 per litre from N1,750 per litre, in a move aimed at easing cost pressures on airlines and ensuring uninterrupted fuel supply across the country.”

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ensuring uninterrupted fuel supply across the country.

“This is in addition to a 30-day interest-free credit facility backed by bank guarantees (BG) for marketers and airline operators and a shift from a dollar-denominated pricing structure to a naira-based model.”

The intervention comes amid growing concerns over the rising operational costs faced by domestic carriers, with aviation fuel accounting for a significant portion of airline expenses.

The refinery explained that its decision “is expected to provide relief to airline operators by lowering fuel procurement costs, improving operational stability, and supporting efforts to moderate airfares.”

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Mbah Inspects Major Road, Other Projects Ahead Of Inauguration

Culled

Governor Peter Mbah of Enugu State has inspected several ongoing and completed infrastructure projects across the state ahead of their inauguration in the coming weeks.

The projects include the 40-kilometre Owo-Ubahu-Amankanu-Umualor-Neke-Ikem dual carriageway, the 14.5-kilometre Amechi Idodo-Oruku-Amagunze Road, the New Enugu Smart City, and the Enugu International Hospital located on Rangers Avenue in Enugu.

Speaking during the inspection tour, Mbah said the projects formed part of his administration's broader strategy to transform Enugu into a major economic hub and investment destination.

According to him, the state government is pursuing infrastructure development to drive economic growth from a projected \$4.4 billion economy to a \$30 billion economy.

He described the 40-kilometre dual carriageway as a strategic gateway that would improve connectivity between Enugu and the North Central region.



Governor Mbah inspects major road project

“We are just 600 metres away from the main road that takes you to Obollo Afor. This is a brand-new gateway to the North. Our people can now travel to the North Central without going through 9th Mile or Opi Nsukka, and in a few hours, they are in Abuja,” he said.

Mbah added that the road project would create new economic opportunities for residents, especially farmers, by easing access to farmlands and improving

transportation of agricultural produce. He commended the contractor, China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), for maintaining a rapid pace of work to meet the government's completion deadline.

The governor disclosed that the contractors had been directed to deliver the road by the end of May, adding that the state government had ensured prompt release of funds to support timely

execution.

“We are not just interested in speed, but also in quality. CCCC is one of the biggest construction companies in the world, and we are satisfied with the quality of work being done,” he said.

Mbah also reiterated his administration's commitment to expanding rural road infrastructure across the state.

He highlighted other ongoing projects, including the dualisation of the 44.1-kilometre Enugu-Ugwogo Nike-Opi Nsukka Road and the recently flagged-off 52.2-kilometre road linking Lejja, Aku, Ukehe, Akpakume Nze, Egede, Affa and Eke communities.

At the completed Amechi Idodo-Oruku-Amagunze Road, the governor announced plans to extend the road to the headquarters of Nkanu East Local Government Area.

During the inspection of the New Enugu Smart City project, Mbah praised the quality of work on the initial 6.5-kilometre dual carriageway and ongoing construction of secondary and tertiary roads within the development.

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Local Transport News

Niger Completes Transportation Of 2,281 Pilgrims To Saudi Arabia

Culled

The Niger Government has completed the transportation of the 2,281 intending pilgrims from the 2026 Hajj.

This is contained in a statement issued by Yunusa Saidu-Ibrahim, the Director of Information and Public Relations Services, State Ministry of Information and Orientation, on Monday.

He said the intending pilgrims were transported from the Bola Tinubu International Airport, Minna.

The intending pilgrims, drawn from the 25 Local Government Areas of the state, were transported to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in six scheduled flights coordinated by the Niger Pilgrims Welfare Board in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Governor Umaru Bago, described the completion of the exercise as a reflection of effective partnership, proper management, hard work, commitment, and dedication demonstrated by the state

government, the Pilgrims Welfare Board, and all agencies involved in the operation.

He commended the 2026 Amirul Hajj and Emir of Agaie, Alhaji Yusuf Nuhu, for his leadership and guidance throughout the exercise.

The government also commended the security agencies, the medical team, travel agencies, airline personnel, and airport officials for working tirelessly to ensure a smooth, orderly, and hitch-free operation.

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Governor Bago

Culled

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) has organised a two day intensive workshop for its Principal Officers on trauma awareness, emotional resilience and mental wellness as part of efforts to strengthen personnel welfare and institutional capacity.

The workshop, held at the LASTMA Training Institute in Oshodi, was organised in collaboration with the African Trauma Care Alliance (ATCA) under the Community Trauma Awareness Campaign 2026.

The programme, themed "Restoring Minds and Building Trauma Informed Communities," focused on traumatic stress management, emotional intelligence, psychological wellness and the need to build compassionate and emotionally responsive communities.

Speaking at the event, the General Manager of Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, Olalekan Bakare Oki, said the agency considered the emotional and psychological wellbeing of officers critical because of the nature of their daily responsibilities.

LASTMA Trains Officers On Trauma Management

Oki noted that traffic management personnel are constantly exposed to emotionally difficult situations including fatal road crashes, confrontations with motorists, environmental hazards and emergency rescue operations.

He said the workshop was designed as a strategic investment in human capital development to equip officers with emotional resilience, coping mechanisms and empathetic leadership skills necessary for efficient service delivery.

According to him, trauma informed interventions and sustained psychological support have become increasingly important in enhancing productivity and strengthening institutional resilience.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Flooding Submerges Collapsed Kwara Bridge, Traps Commuters



Heavy flooding on the collapsed Moro Bridge

Commuters travelling along the Ilorin-Igbeti Federal Highway in Kwara State were left stranded on Monday after heavy flooding overtook the collapsed Moro Bridge, submerging vehicles and disrupting movement across the busy interstate route.

The PUNCH gathered that the incident followed an overnight downpour that caused the Moro River to overflow its banks, leaving several vehicles trapped in floodwaters, while desperate passengers reportedly climbed onto car roofs awaiting rescue.

The affected bridge, located between Oko-Olowo/Mandala in Ilorin West and Asa local government areas, had earlier collapsed on April

30 after a heavy-duty articulated truck reportedly passed over the aging structure.

The collapse had already cut off a major transport link connecting Kwara State to neighbouring Oyo State and onward routes towards the Benin Republic border.

Monday's flooding further worsened the situation, as the temporary diversion promised by the state government after the bridge collapse was yet to be completed.

Video footage obtained by The PUNCH from the scene showed vehicles partially submerged in the overflowing river, while stranded commuters struggled to navigate the flooded passage.

Residents and motorists expressed frustration over the prolonged delay in completing emergency intervention works at the site, warning that the situation could become more dangerous as the rainy season intensifies.

A trader identified simply as Kafayat lamented the impact of the incident on economic activities in the area.

"This development has negatively affected economic activities, causing delays and increasing the cost of transportation for commuters and businesses," she said.

Some residents also questioned why an alternative bridge project located beside the collapsed structure had remained abandoned for several years.

The worsening condition has heightened fears among communities around the Moro River axis, especially with peak rainfall months still ahead.

Residents warned that more severe flooding could occur in July and August if urgent measures are not taken to restore safe passage across the river.

Following the initial collapse of the bridge in April, the Kwara State Government had announced traffic diversion measures and promised immediate intervention to ease the hardship faced by commuters.

The Commissioner for Works, Engr. Abdulquawiy Olododo, had said the government was working with federal authorities to address the situation.

"The Kwara State Government is

working with federal authorities to immediately divert traffic following the collapse of the Moro Bridge overnight," the commissioner had stated.

"The collapse occurred in the early hours after a heavy-duty truck passed over the bridge, resulting in a major disruption along the route," he added.

Olododo also disclosed that engineers had been mobilised to begin palliative work on alternative routes to reduce traffic congestion and hardship for road users.

He further assured residents that construction was ongoing on a new Moro Bridge located a few metres away from the collapsed structure.

Despite the assurances, Monday's flooding has now intensified public concern over the safety of commuters and the pace of response at the site.

The Moro Bridge, a colonial-era Bailey bridge, has for decades served as a critical crossing point linking parts of Kwara and Oyo states, although the structure has repeatedly undergone rehabilitation due to persistent structural defects.

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Local Transport News

LOTUS Bank Partners FG On CNG, EV Mobility Initiative

Culled

LOTUS Bank has partnered with the Presidential Initiative on Compressed Natural Gas and Electric Vehicles (Pi-CNG & EV) to support the Federal Government's drive towards cleaner and more affordable transportation alternatives across the country.

The partnership was announced during the launch of the Northern Corridor of the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Electric Vehicle (EV) Programme held in Kano State.

The initiative is aimed at accelerating the adoption of sustainable mobility solutions through the expansion of CNG and EV infrastructure nationwide.

Speaking at the event, Vice President Kashim Shettima described the programme as a major economic strategy designed to reduce transportation costs, enhance energy security and improve the living conditions of Nigerians.

Represented by the Deputy Chief of Staff



LOTUS partner FG on CNG, EV initiative plan

to the President, Ibrahim Hadeja, the Vice President noted that transportation costs significantly affect food prices, manufacturing, logistics and the overall economy. Under the partnership

framework, LOTUS Bank will provide financing for businesses and solutions across the CNG value chain, including integrated energy hubs, clean mobility asset acquisition, fleet conversion and bank remained

committed to supporting sustainable initiatives capable of delivering long-term economic and social benefits.

Represented by the bank's Regional Head for Northeast and Northwest, Nazif Ibrahim, Ajani-Lawal stated that the partnership aligns with the bank's commitment to sustainable and developmental finance.

According to him, the bank recently supported renewable energy and infrastructure financing initiatives in collaboration with the Rural Electrification Agency, including the signing of a N100 billion renewable energy financing agreement aimed at expanding clean energy access across Nigeria.

He added that LOTUS Bank has continued to focus on ethical, technology-driven and inclusive banking solutions while supporting sectors considered critical to Nigeria's economic transformation.

Meanwhile, the Pi-CNG & EV initiative disclosed that it has facilitated more than 250,000 vehicle conversions nationwide and expanded conversion centres from seven to over 350 locations within 18 months.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

FRSC Warns Against Unlatched Containers On Highways



Container trucks

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) on Monday warned transporters against carrying containers that are not properly secured, saying the practice poses serious danger to road users.

The warning comes as the FRSC Kano Sector Command intensifies enforcement through its ongoing special patrol, "Operation Guduma," aimed at reducing traffic violations across the state.

According to the Corps, vehicles conveying unlatched containers can easily cause accidents or block major highways if the containers fall off while in motion.

"The operation targets offences including

the use of fake diplomatic number plates, overloading violations, mix-loading of goods and passengers, as well as vehicles conveying unlatched containers capable of causing road crashes and obstruction on highways," the command said.

Officials explained that poorly secured containers not only endanger the lives of drivers and passengers but also other road users, especially on busy routes.

During a monitoring exercise along the Kano-Zaria Road, the Assistant Corps Marshal in charge of Federal Operations, Y.A. Haruna, urged officers to strictly enforce traffic laws while maintaining professionalism.

He also called on drivers and transport companies to take responsibility by ensuring that all loads are properly secured before moving on the road.

The FRSC advised motorists to comply with safety regulations,

warning that anyone found violating the rules would face sanctions.

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UK Rail Timetable Changes Affect South East Services

Culled

A new railway timetable came into effect across the United Kingdom on Sunday, bringing revised train services, additional trips and schedule adjustments for passengers travelling in the South East.

The changes affect services operated by Southeastern, Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) and South Western Railway (SWR), with operators introducing extra trains, longer carriages and updated departure times on selected routes.

Southeastern said weekend high-speed services between Faversham and London St Pancras would now operate every 30 minutes during peak travel periods.

The operator also restored some morning and evening peak services to and from London Blackfriars, with trains starting and terminating at Maidstone



East and Gillingham/Rochester. Additional trains will run between London Charing Cross and Maidstone East from 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.,

providing passengers with a half-hourly service. Southeastern further announced amended stopping patterns on some Maidstone East-

London Victoria services to improve capacity and reliability.

Until September 6, extra services will also operate between London and Dover/Ramsgate via

Whitstable, Herne Bay, Margate and Broadstairs, while some trains on the route will run with additional coaches. The company added that a new late-night Friday

and Saturday service from Margate to Gillingham would depart at 11:15 p.m. to support passengers returning from events at Dreamland.

From December, Southeastern plans to significantly expand metro services, with most stations expected to receive trains every 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, Govia Thameslink Railway confirmed that services between East Grinstead and London Victoria would run every 30 minutes on Wednesdays, matching existing Thursday and Friday schedules.

The operator also introduced a later final service from London Victoria to Three Bridges, departing at 12:08 a.m.

In another adjustment, the 5:00 a.m. Brighton-Ore service will now stop at Cooden Beach at 6:01 a.m. before continuing to Ore.

[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.

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General News

Nigeria Rolls Out First Household Climate Change Survey With Gender Focus

Culled: Nigeria has launched its first National Household Survey on Climate Change as part of efforts to strengthen climate governance through data-driven and gender-responsive policymaking.

The initiative, co-led by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), is designed to generate nationally representative data on how climate change affects households across the country's five climatic zones, with emphasis on gender and social inclusion.

The survey, scheduled to run from May 14 to 21, 2026, forms part of the Gender Inclusive Climate Change Governance (GENCGOV) research programme funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

The programme is being implemented in collaboration with partners across Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

Speaking at the launch, Associate Professor at the University of Bradford and Principal Investigator of GENCGOV, Dr Pedi Obani, stressed the importance of gender-disaggregated data in climate policymaking.

"Without gender-disaggregated data,



National Council on Climate Change (NCC)

climate policy is flying blind. "This groundbreaking national survey marks a major step toward inclusive, evidence-based climate governance in Nigeria by generating critical insights into how climate change affects women and men differently across diverse climatic zones," she said.

Obani stated that the findings would help policymakers move away from broad assumptions and adopt more inclusive, data-driven

approaches to climate governance. According to her, the survey would also strengthen Nigeria's leadership in gender-responsive climate governance and improve its credibility in global climate negotiations.

Executive Director of the Environmental Law Research Institute (ELRI), Prof. Olanrewaju Fagbohun (SAN), described the initiative as a "watershed moment" for Nigeria.

"The inauguration of Nigeria's first National Household Survey on Climate Change is a watershed moment in building a more resilient, equitable and climate-just future," he said.

Fagbohun added that integrating gender-disaggregated and intersectional data into climate research would ensure that policies reflect the realities faced by communities.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Eko City Rumble Launches To Drive Basketball Growth

Culled:

A new basketball development initiative, Eko City Rumble, is set to tip off in Lagos as organisers move to expand opportunities for players while improving visibility, storytelling and data-driven development within African basketball, PUNCH Sports Extra reports.

The tournament, organised by tech entrepreneur and PGRaters founder Frank Osayi, is scheduled to take place on 5 and 6 June 2026 at the Northern Foreshore Estate Northern Basketball Court in Chevron, Lagos Island.

It will feature four male teams and four female teams, alongside two veteran sides, as well as additional attractions including one-on-one contests, a shooting competition, and fan engagement activities.

It will mark the platform's first major basketball competition on the island, following previous events staged on the Lagos mainland.

Osayi said the project is designed to go beyond competition, focusing instead on player exposure, performance tracking and long-term development pathways for athletes.

"We want to give players a platform to compete, we want them to be seen, and we want them to be able to tell their stories through media," he said.

He added that the broader aim is to strengthen basketball culture in Nigeria while ensuring players receive recognition beyond their on-court performances.

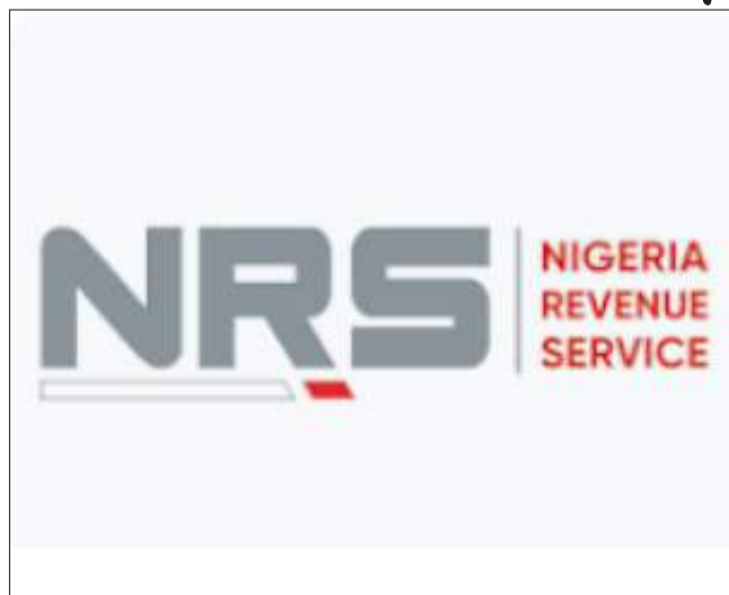
"The tournament is bigger than basketball. It's more about inspiring the next generation and raising the standard of basketball culture and events in Nigeria as a whole," he said.

Osayi also stressed that the experience for players is central to the vision of the tournament, noting that every participant should feel valued throughout the competition.

"The key thing is that we want every player who steps on that court to feel like they matter," he said.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

FG Introduces Mandatory Tax ID For All Nigerians



Nigeria Revenue Service (NRS)

Culled: The Nigeria Revenue Service (NRS), in collaboration with the Joint Revenue Board (JRB), has introduced a new Taxpayer Identification (Tax ID) system for all taxable persons in the country as part of efforts to modernise tax administration and improve compliance. The announcement was made in a public notice posted on the agency's X handle on Monday.

According to the NRS, the initiative is backed by Sections 6, 7, and 8 of the

Nigeria Tax Administration Act, 2025, which mandates every taxable person to obtain a Tax ID.

The agency said the new system is aimed at strengthening tax administration, improving transparency, and streamlining service delivery across federal and sub-national tax authorities.

"The Tax ID will serve as a single, unified identity for all taxpayers, enabling seamless interaction with tax authorities at both federal and sub-national levels," the NRS said.

"It is designed to consolidate taxpayer records, eliminate duplication, and ensure more efficient management of tax-related information," it added.

The revenue authority noted that the Tax ID would simplify compliance procedures,

including registration, tax filing, and payment.

"The initiative will simplify tax compliance processes, including registration, tax filing, and payment procedures," the agency said.

The NRS also said the system would enhance accountability in tax collection by improving the visibility and tracking of taxpayer information.

"The system will improve transparency by enabling better visibility and tracking of taxpayer records while reducing leakages and improving accountability in tax collection," the agency said.

"The framework will also harmonise taxpayer information across all levels of government."

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Dr. Alausa

FG Links Education Spending To New Data-Driven Allocation System

Culled: The Minister of Education, Tunji Alausa, has said that about 80 per cent of donor funding for education over the past decade was directed to the North-West and North-East, even though the two zones continue to record the lowest literacy and numeracy outcomes in the country. He made the disclosure on Monday during a special roundtable session at the Education World Forum in London, United Kingdom, where he met with global education stakeholders and ministers to discuss Nigeria's foundational learning reforms.

According to a statement signed by his media aide, Ikharo Attah, the minister said the Federal Government now relies on improved data systems to better guide resource allocation and education planning across the country, noting that previous funding patterns had not produced the desired learning outcomes.

"NEDI data revealed a key issue: 80 per cent of donor funds in the last decade went to the North-West and North-East, yet those zones still have the lowest literacy and numeracy rates.

"We now have the data to redirect

resources where they deliver results," Alausa said.

The minister explained that Nigeria has strengthened its Foundational Literacy and Numeracy framework by unifying delivery standards across both formal and non-formal education systems.

He said the government is scaling up interventions such as Reading and Numeracy Activity and Teaching at the Right Level across multiple states through the Universal Basic Education Commission.

"We are scaling RANA for Primary 1 to 3 and Teaching at the Right Level for Primary 4 to 6 across 15 states

through UBEC.

"This uses structured lesson plans, weekly teacher coaching and regular assessments," he said.

Alausa also noted that the Accelerated Basic Education Programme developed by the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council is helping out-of-school children and adolescents achieve equivalent foundational learning outcomes within three years.

"Both tracks now report into NEDI, so for the first time we can monitor formal and non-formal education coverage from one dashboard," he added.

Find Full Story In The Link

Germany Deepens Development Collaboration With Nigeria

The Consul General of Germany in Lagos, Daniel Krull, has said Germany is seeking to deepen economic and development cooperation with Nigeria through stronger business partnerships, vocational training and private sector investments.

Krull spoke during German-Nigeria Business Day event in Lagos ahead of bilateral development cooperation negotiations scheduled in Abuja

between officials of both countries.

According to him, Germany provides development aid to Nigeria every two years through agreements negotiated by the ministries of both countries, noting that the latest round of talks would focus on expanding cooperation in critical sectors.

He said both countries could benefit from stronger partnerships in energy, infrastructure, manufacturing, health, construction, digitalisation and the

pharmaceutical industry.

Krull said German companies were already supporting skills development in Nigeria, citing Siemens Energy's investment in vocational training for Nigeria's energy sector. He explained that the initiative is matched with funding from the German government to help scale private sector-driven programmes to meet local needs.

He also highlighted efforts by SAP to

provide certified information technology training for one million Nigerian students, aimed at improving employability and supporting regional trade platforms across Africa.

According to him, certification and feedback systems have been integrated into the programme to monitor the success of the training, while SAP's global IT infrastructure could open significant employment

Find Full Story In The Link

DRIVING SCHOOLS AND SAFETY ALLIANCE AFRICA - DSSAA

DSSAA INITIATIVES AND CAUSES

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

About DSSAA

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

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

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

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

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

DSSAA

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



GRANTS

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

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

CAPACITY DEV.

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

NETWORKING

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

GOOD BUSINESS

PROFILE/LEVERAGE

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

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

OTHER BENEFITS

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

JOB FAIR

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