

LAGFERRY Promotes Tourism With Movie Screening On Lagos Waterways

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CONTINUES ON P2

Lagos To Enforce Ban On Goods In Public Buses From June 1

The Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority has announced a ban on the movement of goods and heavy

luggage on all regulated public transport buses across Lagos State, with begin on June 1, 2026.

The agency disclosed this in a statement issued on Tuesday by its Head of Corporate Communication, Kolawole Ojelabi,

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Wednesday, May 20th 2026

E - NEWSPAPER

FG Signs N690bn Road Contracts For South-West, North-West Projects

The Federal Government has signed contracts valued at over N690 billion for the construction and

rehabilitation of major road projects across the South-west and North-west regions as part of

efforts to modernise Nigeria's transport infrastructure under the administration of

President Bola Tinubu. The contracts, signed at the headquarters of the Federal Ministry of

Works in Mabushi, Abuja, cover four major road projects in

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Lagos CBD Prosecutes 859 Traffic Offenders, Suspends Seven Officers

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Edo Takes Delivery Of 50 CNG Buses To Ease Transportation Rail Licence Not For Construction Of New Tracks - SWDC

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Senator David Umahi - Minister of Works

Lagos Approves Mining Sites For Hitech On Coastal Highway Project

The Lagos State Government has approved designated mining sites for Hitech Construction Company to

support ongoing construction of the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway project. The disclosure was

made during the 2026 Ministerial Press Briefing of the Lagos State Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources

held in Alausa, where the Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, Biodun Ogunleye, presented the ministry's achievements over

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FG Suspends Planned Closure Of Eko Bridge

P5

Local Transport News

LAGFERRY Promotes Tourism With Movie Screening On Lagos Waterways

Culled

The Lagos State Ferry Services (LAGFERRY) has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting tourism, entertainment and water transportation culture through a unique movie viewing experience aboard the Adimu Orisha Barge on the Lagos waterways.

The event, organised in partnership with Wave Media and tagged "Cinema and Cruise," featured the screening of Michael, a film centred on the life and legacy of American pop icon, Michael Jackson.

The entertainment experience attracted movie lovers, stakeholders, passengers and invited guests, who enjoyed an evening of leisure and relaxation along the Lagos coastline.

Speaking during the event, the Managing Director of LAGFERRY, Hon. Ladi Balogun, said the initiative reflects the agency's drive to introduce innovation into public transportation while boosting tourism and recreational activities across the state.

According to him, the programme was designed to strengthen public confidence in water transportation and showcase the waterways as viable destinations for social and entertainment activities.

Balogun noted that the movie screening aboard the Adimu Orisha Barge aligns with LAGFERRY's vision of redefining commuting and leisure through safe, customer-focused and enjoyable water transport services.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



The water side cinema movie by LAGFERRY

Lagos Approves Mining Sites For Hitech On Coastal Highway Project

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The disclosure was made during the 2026 Ministerial Press Briefing of the Lagos State Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources held in Alausa, where the Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, Biodun Ogunleye, presented the ministry's achievements over the past year.

According to the commissioner, the approved mining locations are situated within the Ilamija, Kajola, Orimedu and Akodo corridors and are expected to provide construction materials required for the highway project.

Ogunleye said the approvals were granted to accelerate infrastructure delivery and ensure a steady supply of materials for the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Road, which is being executed by Hitech

under an Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Financing (EPC+F) arrangement.

He explained that the ministry is currently monitoring 20 mineral resource sites across the state, comprising 13 active and seven inactive sites located within Ikorodu, Epe/Ibeju-Lekki/Ajah and Badagry areas.

The commissioner also disclosed that the state had deployed 141 approved revenue consultants to strengthen compliance and oversight in the mining sector.

As part of environmental management efforts, the ministry said it partnered with the Lagos Waste Management Authority to deploy specialised corridor sweepers, known as "Highway Doctors," along the Ajah/Ibeju-Lekki/Epe corridor to address sand spillages linked to mining and construction activities.

Beyond the mining approvals, the ministry revealed that it is facilitating Right of Way for the Lekki-Epe Integrated Energy Corridor project.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Nigeria, West Africa Attract \$27bn Maritime Investments For Port Expansion

Culled

Nigeria and other countries in West and Central Africa are witnessing a renewed wave of maritime infrastructure development, with more than \$27 billion committed to port expansion projects across the region.

The development was disclosed during the Mid-Year Session of the Board of Directors of the Port Management Association of West and Central Africa (PMAWCA) held in Lagos.

Speaking at the event, the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, said the Federal Government had approved the development of additional deep seaports to strengthen Nigeria's position as the leading maritime and logistics hub in West and Central Africa.

According to the minister, the new ports are expected to complement existing infrastructure, improve supply chain resilience and boost Nigeria's competitiveness in global maritime trade.

Oyetola also disclosed that existing



NAHCO

seaports across the country would undergo major upgrades, including channel deepening, to accommodate larger vessels and increase cargo handling capacity.

He noted that the administration of President Bola Tinubu remained committed to modernising the nation's ports through infrastructure renewal, digital transformation and improved

operational efficiency.

The minister said coordinated policy interventions and stronger collaboration among government agencies had helped reduce logistics bottlenecks at major seaports, leading to improved cargo evacuation, shorter vessel waiting time and enhanced operational efficiency.

On maritime security, Oyetola stated that the implementation of the Deep Blue

Project had significantly reduced piracy and maritime crimes in Nigerian waters and across the Gulf of Guinea, thereby boosting investor confidence in the region's maritime corridor.

He urged delegates at the conference to pursue initiatives that would strengthen logistics resilience, sustainable port management, digital transformation and inclusive coastal development.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Local Transport News

FRSC Launches Crackdown On Fake Number Plates, Overloading In Ogun

Culled

The Ogun State Command of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has commenced a special enforcement operation aimed at tackling the use of fake number plates, vehicle overloading, and other unsafe haulage practices across the state.

The operation, code-named "Operation Guduma," is designed to reduce the rate of fatal road crashes on Nigerian highways by ensuring strict compliance with road safety regulations.

This was disclosed in a statement issued on Tuesday by the command's spokesperson, Afolabi Odunsi, who said enforcement teams had already been deployed to monitor and prosecute offenders.

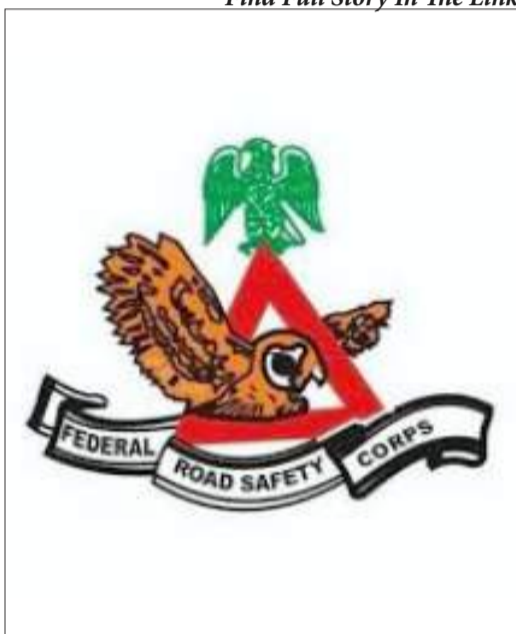
According to the statement, the exercise targets motorists and transport operators involved in the use of counterfeit diplomatic number plates, overloading of vehicles beyond approved limits, mixed loading of passengers and goods, as well as the transportation of unsecured

containers.

Odunsi explained that the operation was initiated in line with directives from the FRSC National Headquarters and is being supervised by Assistant Corps Marshal J.O. Asaolu in collaboration with the Ogun State Sector Commander, Corps Commander Oludare Ogunjobi.

He noted that the command would also enforce compliance with safety requirements for haulage vehicles, especially the proper locking and securing of containers to prevent accidents.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



FRSC

Lagos To Enforce Ban On Goods In Public Buses From June 1

Culled

The Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority has announced a ban on the movement of goods and heavy luggage on all regulated public transport buses across Lagos State, with enforcement set to begin on June 1, 2026.

The agency disclosed this in a statement issued on Tuesday by its Head of Corporate Communication, Kolawole Ojelabi, citing increasing complaints from commuters and operational challenges caused by the use of public buses for transporting goods.

According to LAMATA, the practice has negatively affected passenger comfort, safety, and efficient service delivery within the state's transport system.

The authority said the decision followed a strategic meeting with heads of operations and maintenance of bus operating

companies, where stakeholders unanimously agreed that the transportation of goods on regulated buses must be halted and properly reorganised to protect commuters and improve operations.

LAMATA warned that enforcement of the directive would be strict, stressing that any driver caught conveying goods during the suspension period would be immediately dismissed and blacklisted.

The agency also stated that terminal officials, ground staff, or LAMATA personnel found aiding or permitting the loading of goods onto regulated buses would face summary dismissal.

Reaffirming its commitment to restoring order, safety, and efficiency in the public transport sector, LAMATA urged commuters, transport operators, and members of the public to comply fully with the directive and make alternative arrangements for moving goods across the state.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Edo Takes Delivery Of 50 CNG Buses To Ease Transportation

Culled

The Edo State Government has taken delivery of 50 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses as part of efforts to improve transportation across the state.

The state Commissioner for Communication and Strategy, Kassim Afegbua, disclosed this in Benin City on Tuesday while briefing journalists on the activities of the government.

Afegbua said the 52-seater buses would soon be deployed across the three senatorial districts to ease transportation challenges faced by residents.

"We are expecting another 50 buses. Our target is 100 units of the 52-seater buses," he said.

According to him, the buses would help reduce transportation difficulties and improve mobility across the state.

"I don't want to unveil the distribution pattern yet, but we are going to distribute them across the three senatorial districts to ease transportation and minimise the stress



Governor Monday Okpebholo

people go through whenever they travel," he added.

The commissioner also stated that the government was working to create an investment-friendly environment capable of stimulating enterprise and economic growth.

He urged residents to support government policies and better understand the intentions behind them.

Speaking on the recurring flooding in Benin City and other parts of the state, Afegbua appealed to residents to stop indiscriminate dumping of refuse, especially in drainage channels, as the rainy season intensifies.

"They should take environmental sanitation seriously and dump refuse only at designated areas. When drains are blocked with waste, water cannot

flow freely, leading to flooding that damages homes and communities," he said.

He noted that both the Federal Government and the state government had issued flood alerts following environmental assessments.

Afegbua added that ongoing road construction projects in Benin City and other areas include side drains designed to channel rainwater safely and reduce flooding risks.

He cited the ongoing drainage infrastructure around the Ramat Park Flyover as part of the state government's flood control measures.

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Local Transport News

Rail Licence Not For Construction Of New Tracks - SWDC

Culled

The South-West Development Commission has clarified that its rail licence is for operations on existing rail tracks, not for the construction of new ones in the South-West.

The SWDC, in a statement on Tuesday, said the clarification followed interpretations that the licence was approval to build new rail tracks across the region.

Last week, the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of SWDC, Charles Akinola, announced that the commission had secured a provisional rail operating and track access licence from the Nigerian Railway Corporation, paving the way for SWDC-led passenger and freight rail services across existing rail corridors in the South-West.

Akinola explained that the licence was not for the construction of new rail lines, but for operating passenger and freight services on existing rail corridors linking communities, businesses, industrial hubs and economic centres across the South-

West.

While acknowledging the public interest and excitement that greeted the grant of the provisional licence, the commission stressed on Tuesday that it was only authorised to operate passenger and freight rail services on existing rail tracks. The statement read, "The South-West Development Commission acknowledges the public interest and excitement following the grant of a provisional licence to operate passenger and freight rail services in the South-West."

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



SWDC

Culled

The Federal Government has suspended the planned closure of the Eko Bridge in Lagos after a fresh technical assessment confirmed that the structure remains safe for use for now.

Minister of Works, David Umahi, disclosed this during an inspection of the bridge on Tuesday, saying the decision followed concerns raised by President Bola Tinubu over the potential hardship the closure could cause commuters and residents in Lagos.

Umahi explained that although the government had earlier directed that the bridge be shut due to structural concerns, the President ordered a second evaluation to determine whether the closure could be avoided.

According to the minister, engineers reassessed the bridge on Monday and found that the crack discovered on the structure had not worsened.

"We have done our technical evaluation in line with the President's directive. Putting safety above every decision, we have seen that, for now, the bridge is

FG Suspends Planned Closure Of Eko Bridge

safe," Umahi said.

He added that the government would continue to closely monitor the crack to ensure public safety, noting that another inspection would be carried out in due course.

The minister also announced plans for remedial works expected to last about four months. He said the repairs would involve additional piling and reinforcement to stabilise the affected section while allowing the bridge to remain open to traffic.

Umahi further stated that after the temporary repairs, a comprehensive reconstruction of the damaged section would be undertaken, including the removal and replacement of the affected slab.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Lagos CBD Prosecutes 859 Traffic Offenders, Suspends Seven Officers



Lagos State Government (LASG)

The Lagos State Government has announced plans to strengthen the management of Central Business Districts (CBDs) across the state through new legal reforms, improved infrastructure, enhanced security systems and stricter environmental enforcement.

Speaking during the 2026 ministerial briefing commemorating the third year of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's second-term administration at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, Alausa, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Central Business Districts, Hon. Mrs Bola Olumegbon Lawal, said the state remained committed to transforming Lagos business districts into globally competitive

commercial centres.

Lawal said the vision of the CBD Office was to develop Lagos commercial corridors into "21st-century business precincts comparable with other major cities in the world", while ensuring a safe, stress-free and conducive environment for residents, investors, traders and visitors.

She explained that the agency currently oversees operations in Lagos Island, Ikoyi, Victoria Island, Ikeja and Apapa, with special focus on Apapa due to its strategic economic importance.

According to her, the activities of the CBD Office align with the state government's THEMES PLUS Agenda, particularly in the areas of traffic management, environmental sanitation, urban renewal and stakeholder engagement.

She listed some of the office's statutory responsibilities to include maintaining a business-friendly environment, promoting investments, coordinating development programmes, improving

infrastructure maintenance and collaborating with government agencies and stakeholders to ensure seamless operations in designated business districts.

Lawal said the agency had recorded notable improvements in traffic and waste management, infrastructural renewal, beautification of road setbacks, environmental sanitation and a reduction in illegal street trading activities.

She disclosed that the agency's 2025 Annual Summit, held at the MUSON Centre, Onikan, focused on strategies for rebranding and revitalising Lagos business districts for sustainable growth and development.

The summit, declared open by Deputy Governor Kadri Obafemi Hamzat on behalf of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, brought together government agencies, security organisations, traditional institutions, private sector operators, market leaders and community representatives.

Lawal said stakeholders at the summit recommended the enactment of a

comprehensive CBD law to provide stronger legal backing for district management and enforcement operations.

Other recommendations included the establishment of a centralised CBD coordinating authority, adoption of rights-based enforcement procedures, transition to a 24-hour mixed-use business model, deployment of smart security infrastructure such as CCTV and data analytics, improved infrastructure maintenance and stronger waste management systems. The summit also advocated improved data management for businesses and infrastructure assets, replication of collaborative governance models across districts and sustained public enlightenment campaigns.

On enforcement activities, Lawal revealed that 859 traffic offenders, including 24 tricycle operators, were arrested and prosecuted during the review period for offences such as illegal parking, traffic light violations, unlawful U-turns and driving against traffic.

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FG Signs N690bn Road Contracts For South-West, North-West Projects

Culled

The Federal Government has signed contracts valued at over N690 billion for the construction and rehabilitation of major road projects across the South-west and North-west regions as part of efforts to modernise Nigeria's transport infrastructure under the administration of President Bola Tinubu.

The contracts, signed at the headquarters of the Federal Ministry of Works in Mabushi, Abuja, cover four major road projects in Kaduna, Oyo, Ogun and Osun states. All the roads will be constructed using Continuously Reinforced Concrete Pavement (CRCP) technology.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, the Minister of Works, David Umahi, described the projects as strategic national infrastructure designed to improve connectivity, boost economic growth and enhance transportation efficiency across the country.

Umahi said the projects underscored the Federal Government's commitment to



Senator Umahi

delivering durable and sustainable infrastructure capable of serving Nigerians for decades. "Our vision is to build roads that will last for generations. Under the Renewed Hope administration, we are determined to deliver infrastructure that can serve Nigerians for up to 100 years through the adoption of rigid pavement (concrete) technology," he stated. The minister noted that

the reconstruction of the Mando-Birnin Gwari Road in Kaduna State was particularly important as it formed part of President Tinubu's campaign promises during the 2022/2023 election period.

He also commended the selected contractors for their competence and track record, expressing confidence in the growing capacity of indigenous construction firms. Umahi urged the companies to mobilise to site immediately and ensure timely execution of the projects.

The projects include the reconstruction of the 122-kilometre Mando-Birnin Gwari Road in Kaduna State, awarded to Messrs J. Patel and Sons Nigeria Limited at a cost of N178.1 billion.

Also approved is the dualisation of the Ibadan-Ijebu Ode Road linking Oyo and Ogun states, awarded to Messrs JRB Construction Company Limited for N295.9 billion. The project covers 114.5 kilometres in single carriageway equivalent.

In Osun State, Messrs Truecrete Solutions Limited secured the contract for the construction of the Osogbo-Ikirun-Akoda Road valued at N101.8 billion, spanning 70 kilometres.

Similarly, Messrs Peculiar Ultimate Concerns Limited will handle the construction of the Osogbo-Iwo-Ibadan Road at a cost of N114.8 billion over a stretch of 73 kilometres.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

ONSA Seeks Stronger Transport Safety Coordination



ONSA

The Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) has canvassed stronger coordination between transportation safety oversight and national security response mechanisms as the Federal Government concluded the relocation of the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) to the presidency.

The new arrangement, approved by President Bola Tinubu in March 2026, removed the NSIB from the supervisory control of the Federal Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development to the Presidency through the ONSA.

A statement yesterday by the NSIB said that the ONSA made the statement last Thursday

at a high-level stakeholder meeting held at the Joint Intelligence Board Hall in Abuja.

According to the statement, apart from the ONSA, government officials and transport sector regulators also described the move as a strategic step aimed at strengthening investigative independence, improving emergency coordination and addressing growing national security concerns linked to transportation incidents.

The meeting, chaired by the National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, drew participation from top officials across the aviation, maritime, rail, road transport, finance, justice, and emergency response sectors, the statement said.

Among agencies represented were the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Nigerian Airspace Management Agency

(NAMA), Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC), National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Nigeria Police Force, the Armed Forces, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL).

Stakeholders at the meeting said the increasing complexity of transportation accidents and emergencies now requires stronger collaboration between safety regulators, intelligence agencies, and emergency responders.

Speaking during the engagement, Director-General of the NSIB, Alex Badeh Jr., said the new reporting structure would strengthen operational independence and eliminate delays often encountered during accident investigations.

"Our responsibility remains preventive, not punitive. The Bureau

determines probable causes of accidents, identifies systemic safety gaps, and issues recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. We do not regulate, prosecute, or apportion blame," he said.

Badeh Jr. noted that previous investigations in late 2025 and early 2026 were affected by jurisdictional overlaps and delays in accessing critical operational data, stressing that the new framework would improve evidence preservation, occurrence notification and coordinated response among agencies.

In his remarks, Ribadu said the presidency approved the reform to remove bureaucratic bottlenecks and improve investigative neutrality. According to him, the ONSA would provide institutional coordination and oversight support, particularly in cases involving systemic failures or incidents linked to operational lapses within sectoral agencies.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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

US Agencies Backs Rollout Of 1,500 Mobile Base Stations In Nigeria, Others

Culled:
The US Trade and Development Agency has unveiled plans to support the deployment of about 1,500 mobile communications base stations across Nigeria, Benin, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire to improve internet access in underserved communities.

The agency disclosed this in a statement released on Tuesday, saying the project would deploy wireless infrastructure developed by U.S.-based Vanu Inc. in areas with limited connectivity, particularly off-grid communities.

According to the statement, the initiative is aimed at strengthening digital infrastructure and expanding access to reliable internet services in parts of West Africa where many communities still rely on outdated 2G and 3G networks.

USTDA Deputy Director, Thomas Hardy, said the project would provide an alternative to what he described as insecure infrastructure while also creating export opportunities for American companies.

He said, "USTDA is bringing private sector solutions to unlock widespread, affordable, trusted internet access in off-grid



U.S Trade and Development Agency (USTDA)

communities across West Africa."

The statement added that they "are offering an alternative to insecure infrastructure while creating export opportunities that make America more prosperous."

The agency said it had funded a feasibility study for the project, which would be carried out for Vanu Côte d'Ivoire, with technical support from Georgia-based Vernonburg Group LLC.

According to the statement, the study will assess the project's commercial viability, review regulatory frameworks in the four countries, evaluate existing telecommunications infrastructure and develop a financing plan for the rollout.

Chief Executive Officer of Vanu Inc., Andrew Beard, said the company's systems were designed to help mobile network operators provide broadband and voice services in

economically challenging areas. "Vanu is proud to partner with USTDA to demonstrate how our systems enable mobile network operators in West Africa to deliver broadband Internet and voice services in some of the most economically and operationally challenging markets and prove that connectivity in these markets can be profitable, sustainable and scalable," he said.

[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 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](#)

Stakeholder Seeks End To Nigeria's Drug Import Dependency



Henrietta Ukwu

Culled:
A leading global biopharmaceutical executive, Henrietta Ukwu, has called for Nigeria to urgently end its overwhelming dependence on imported medicines, describing the country's estimated 70 per

cent reliance on foreign drugs as both worrisome and unfortunate.

Speaking at the 29th Annual National Conference of the Association of Industrial Pharmacists of Nigeria in Ilorin, Kwara State, themed, 'Collaboration and Innovation to Build Local Solutions for

the Future of the Nigerian Pharmaceutical Industry,' Dr. Ukwu urged the federal government under president Bola Ahmed Tinubu to aggressively deepen support for local pharmaceutical manufacturing as a strategic pathway to national health security, economic prosperity, and industrial independence.

She stated that Nigeria cannot continue to rely on foreign nations for medicines, vaccines, and essential medical products if it truly seeks sovereignty in healthcare delivery.

She insisting that local manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, vaccines, and medical devices remains the surest route to medicine security and sustainable national development.

According to her, any nation that remains heavily dependent on imported healthcare products risks falling behind in the global economic and healthcare landscape.

Ukwu noted that Nigeria possesses abundant natural and human resources capable of driving a globally competitive pharmaceutical industry but lamented that these advantages remain largely underutilized.

"We have incredible expertise and all it takes to move the pharmaceutical industry forward, but we are not fully harnessing the natural resources Nigeria is endowed with. The Federal Government is making efforts and progress is being recorded, but there is still significant room for improvement," she stated.

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Taiwo Oyedele

Nigeria Launches Tax Ombud Digital Platforms To Protect Taxpayers

Culled:
 The Federal Government has taken a significant step in its ongoing fiscal reform agenda with the unveiling of the official website of the Office of the Tax Ombud, the launch of a toll-free taxpayer call centre, and the deployment of a digital case management portal — platforms designed to give Nigerians free, accessible, and timely mechanisms for resolving tax disputes.

Speaking at the landmark event Monday in Abuja, the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr. Taiwo Oyedele, described the occasion as a

milestone in Nigeria's fiscal reform journey.

“A modern tax system must be built not only on efficient revenue collection, but also on fairness, accountability, transparency, and trust,” Oyedele said. “Taxpayers must have confidence that when these disputes arise because they will always arise, they will be handled fairly, treated respectfully, and provided with accessible and affordable timely resolution mechanisms.”

The minister stressed that the virtual platforms being commissioned leverage technology to bridge gaps

in accessibility, efficiency, and responsiveness.

“Taxpayers, regardless of location, can now engage more easily with the dispute resolution process without unnecessary delays, and the good news is that it is entirely free,” he said.

Oyedele noted that the initiative aligns with the broader objectives of the government's ongoing tax reforms, including simplifying tax administration, reducing arbitrariness, protecting taxpayers' rights, and encouraging voluntary compliance.

He formally unveiled the Office of the

Tax Ombud's official website, describing the moment as the dawn of “a new era in tax administration in Nigeria, one where taxpayers are treated not as adversaries but as partners in national development.”

Delivering his high-level remarks, the Tax Ombud and Chief Executive of the Office of the Tax Ombud, Dr. John Nwabueze, said the event marked far more than a technology launch.

“Today is more than a technology launch. It is the activation of a new public service architecture designed around accessibility, responsiveness, and citizen confidence,” he declared.

[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

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

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