

Boat Operators Seek Soft Loans As FG Approves N14.6bn For Ferry Acquisition

Boat operators have services, following the ferries. called for increased Federal Government's The funding, government support approval of N14.6 approved through and access to soft billion for the the Ministry of loans to strengthen procurement of Marine and Blue water transportation modern boats and Economy, is aimed at

CONTINUES ON P5

OYRTMA Train Officers On Intelligence Gathering To Boost Road Security In Oyo

The Oyo State Road Traffic Management Authority (OYRTMA) has trained its senior officers and personnel on intelligence

gathering, vigilance, programme, themed and public safety as "Eyes on the Road – Intelligence in Action," was held at the Oyo State House of Chiefs, Secretariat,

CONTINUES ON P2

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E-NEWSPAPER

NHIA To Partner FRSC To Improve Crash Victims' Healthcare Access

The Director-General of the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), Dr Kelechi Ohiri, has called

for a strategic partnership with the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) to

improve emergency healthcare access for road traffic crash victims and expand health

insurance coverage among road users. Dr Ohiri made the proposal during a visit to

the Corps Marshal of the FRSC, Mallam Shehu Mohammed, in

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Stakeholders Praise FG Over Bauchi-Gombe Road Recons'ction P7
FG Orders Contractors Not To Shut Roads Beyond 14 Days P2
Standard Bank Backs Dangote Refinery Expansion Plan P5



NHIA partners FRSC on crash victims' healthcare access

FG, Maritime S'holders Push For Green Port Investments Worth N450bn

The Federal Government and key stakeholders in Nigeria's maritime sector have intensified efforts to attract investments in

green port infrastructure and sustainable operations, with a proposed energy transition programme expected

to mobilise more than N450 billion in public and private sector funding. According to a policy bulletin by the Sea

Empowerment and Research Centre (SEREC), the proposed Nigeria Green Port Energy Transition and Marine Biomass Utilisation

CONTINUES ON P3

NRC To Audit Rail Tracks After Fatal Train Crash

P5

Local Transport News

NCAA Grounds Aircraft Over Asaba Landing Incident

Culled

The Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has grounded a privately operated aircraft and suspended the operator's Permit for Non-Commercial Flight (PNCF) following an incident involving an emergency landing near Asaba, Delta State.

In a statement issued on Wednesday by the NCAA's Director of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection, Michael Achimugu, the Authority disclosed that it had received preliminary reports concerning the occurrence, which happened on June 10, 2026.

According to the NCAA, the aircraft was attempting to land in Asaba when it conducted a missed approach at about 7:43 a.m. local time. The aircraft subsequently landed on a roadway in the Ogwashi-Uku area near Asaba.

The Authority said all four crew members on board safely evacuated the aircraft and were transported to Asaba by road. No injuries were reported.

However, the NCAA noted that

preliminary findings revealed that the aircraft later departed the location and returned to Lagos without obtaining the required regulatory clearance. The aircraft reportedly took off at about 11:02 GMT, while Air Traffic Control was informed only after it had become airborne.

The Authority described the action as a violation of the Nigeria Civil Aviation Regulations (Nig. CARs) and confirmed that an investigation had been launched.

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NCAA

FG Orders Contractors Not To Shut Roads Beyond 14 Days

Culled

The Federal Government has directed contractors handling road projects nationwide not to close roads to traffic for more than 14 days under any circumstance, as it intensifies efforts to ensure timely project delivery and reduce hardship for road users.

Minister of Works, David Umahi, issued the directive during an inspection tour of ongoing road and bridge projects in Kogi and Edo states. He also gave GELD Construction Company a 72-hour ultimatum to effectively utilise funds already released for the Abuja-Lokoja Expressway project and demonstrate visible progress on site.

Umahi warned contractors against arbitrary actions in the execution of projects, stressing that no contractor has the liberty to operate outside agreed standards and timelines.

The minister also criticised some officials of the Federal Ministry of Works for what he described as poor project supervision, accusing them of shielding

underperforming contractors and issuing certificates without adequate scrutiny while the public blames the administration for delays.

According to him, ministry officials must be able to defend projects under their supervision before the National Assembly and other stakeholders, warning that ineffective personnel would be sanctioned.

Expressing disappointment over the pace of work on sections of the Abuja-Lokoja Dual Carriageway and the Obajana Junction-Benin Road dualisation project, Umahi urged contractors not to rely solely on government releases before mobilising to site.

He also called on the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd.) to promptly meet funding obligations for projects financed through its intervention programmes.

The minister disclosed that funding constraints had compelled the government to reduce the scope of one

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OYRTMA Train Officers On Intelligence Gathering To Boost Road Security In Oyo

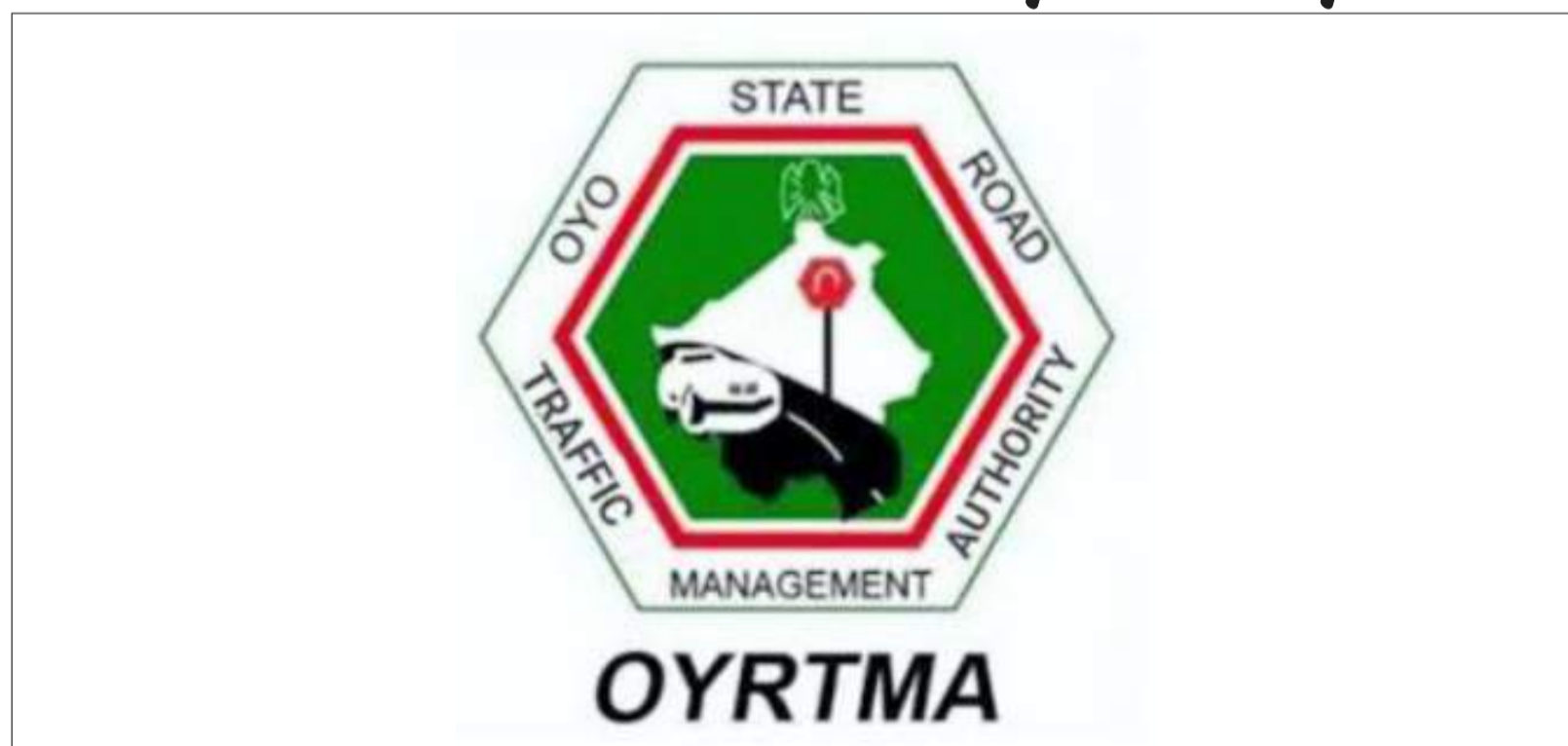
Culled

The Oyo State Road Traffic Management Authority (OYRTMA) has trained its senior officers and personnel on intelligence gathering, vigilance, and public safety as part of efforts to strengthen security across the state.

The one-day training programme, themed "Eyes on the Road – Intelligence in Action," was held at the Oyo State House of Chiefs, Secretariat, Agodi, Ibadan. The initiative was designed to equip traffic officers with skills in observation, surveillance, and prompt reporting of suspicious activities to support security agencies in crime prevention.

Speaking during the training, the Chairman of OYRTMA, Major Adekoya Adesagba, said traffic officers occupy a strategic position in public security due to their daily interactions with motorists and road users.

According to him, the responsibilities of traffic personnel extend beyond traffic control, road decongestion, and the removal of road obstructions.



OYRTMA

"Officers are strategically positioned to contribute to public security because of their daily interactions with thousands of motorists and road users across the state," Adesagba said.

Delivering lectures on the role of traffic officers in enhancing public security and intelligence gathering, he stressed the importance of vigilance and information gathering in preventing

crime.

He cited recent security challenges in parts of the state, including cases of banditry in Ogbomoso and kidnappings in Ibadan, urging officers to remain alert while carrying out their duties.

Adesagba also reminded participants of the state government's restriction on the movement of commercial motorcycles and tricycles between 10:30 p.m. and

5:30 a.m., noting that the measure was introduced to curb criminal activities such as robbery, kidnapping, and banditry.

He said OYRTMA continues to collaborate with the Nigeria Police Force, Operation Burst, and the Oyo State Security Network Agency (Amotekun Corps) to improve security across the state.

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Local Transport News

NHIA To Partner FRSC To Improve Crash Victims' Healthcare Access

Culled

The Director-General of the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), Dr Kelechi Ohiri, has called for a strategic partnership with the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) to improve emergency healthcare access for road traffic crash victims and expand health insurance coverage among road users. Dr Ohiri made the proposal during a visit to the Corps Marshal of the FRSC, Mallam Shehu Mohammed, in Abuja.

He explained that the collaboration would facilitate prompt identification of crash victims' health insurance status and eliminate bureaucratic delays often associated with accessing emergency medical services.

According to Dr Ohiri, the initiative would ensure that road crash victims receive timely medical attention without financial constraints at the point of rescue and treatment.

He noted that integrating health insurance information into driver's licence and vehicle registration

processes would significantly improve emergency response and healthcare delivery.

The NHIA boss said the partnership aligns with ongoing efforts to strengthen universal health coverage and improve access to quality healthcare services for Nigerians.

Responding, the Corps Marshal, Mallam Shehu Mohammed, welcomed the proposal and commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for appointing Dr. Ohiri as NHIA Director-General.

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NHIA partners FRSC

Abia Hosts S'East Transport Conference On Green Mobility Solutions

Culled

Abia State is set to host transport experts, policymakers, investors, researchers, regulators and industry stakeholders from across Nigeria for the South-East Zonal Transport Conference 2026, a gathering aimed at promoting sustainable urban mobility and green energy solutions in the transportation sector.

The conference is being organized by the Chartered Institute of Transport Administration of Nigeria (CIOTA) in partnership with the Abia State Government, to be held from June 17 to 19, with the official opening ceremony scheduled for June 18 at the International Conference Centre (ICC), Umuahia.

Addressing journalists during a media briefing on Wednesday, the South-East Zonal Coordinator of CIOTA and Chairman of the Planning Committee, Mrs Ijeoma Okere, described the conference as a strategic platform designed to tackle emerging

transportation challenges and explore innovative solutions capable of driving economic growth while addressing environmental concerns.

The conference is themed: "Advancing Urban Transport Through Sustainable Urban Mobility and Green Energy Solution."

According to Okere, the theme reflects the urgent need for Nigerian cities and urban centres to embrace transportation systems that are innovative, environmentally responsible and economically sustainable.

"The theme reflects the urgent need for Nigerian cities and urban centres to embrace innovative, environmentally sustainable and economically viable transportation systems capable of meeting the mobility needs of our growing population while contributing to national development and environmental sustainability," she said.

She noted that despite the South-East's position as one of Nigeria's most vibrant

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FG, Maritime Stakeholders Push For Green Port Investments Worth N450bn

Culled

The Federal Government and key stakeholders in Nigeria's maritime sector have intensified efforts to attract investments in green port infrastructure and sustainable operations, with a proposed energy transition programme expected to mobilise more than N450 billion in public and private sector funding.

According to a policy bulletin by the Sea Empowerment and Research Centre (SEREC), the proposed Nigeria Green Port Energy Transition and Marine Biomass Utilisation Programme could create over 50,000 jobs and unlock significant economic opportunities within three to five years.

Speaking at the 2026 Dockworkers Day celebration organised by the Shipping Correspondents Association of Nigeria (SCAN) in Lagos, the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, said sustainable port development is crucial to strengthening Nigeria's competitiveness in global trade.



Oyetola

Represented by the Head of Corporate and Strategic Communications of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Ikechukwu Onyemakara, the minister said the transition to greener ports would require substantial investments in clean energy, modern waste management systems and environmentally responsible operational practices.

He stressed the need to prioritise

workers' welfare and safety during the transition, warning that the government would not tolerate employers who fail to safeguard the rights and wellbeing of dockworkers.

The Managing Director of the NPA, Abubakar Dantsoho, described dockworkers as vital to efficient port operations and trade facilitation, reaffirming the authority's commitment to improving working conditions across

the country's ports.

Industry stakeholders also highlighted the growing influence of sustainability on global investment and trade competitiveness.

President of the Nigerian Chamber of Shipping, Aminu Umar, represented by the chamber's Director-General, Vivian Chimezie Azubuike, urged stakeholders to incorporate renewable energy systems, smart technologies and climate-resilient infrastructure into ongoing port rehabilitation projects.

He noted that investments in human capital development would be critical to equipping Nigerian dockworkers with the skills needed for emerging green technologies and modern port operations.

Also speaking, President of the National Association of Stevedoring Operators (NASO), Bolaji Sunmola, said the International Maritime Organisation's greenhouse gas reduction targets present both challenges and opportunities for Nigerian ports.

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Local Transport News

Standard Bank Backs Dangote Refinery Expansion Plan

Culled

The planned Initial Public Offering (IPO) of the Dangote Petroleum Refinery has received a major boost as Standard Bank Group pledged its support for the listing and expressed readiness to finance future expansion projects of Dangote Industries Limited across Africa.

The commitment was made during a strategic visit by the chief executive of Standard Bank Group, Sim Tshabalala, alongside senior executives of the bank, to the Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Dangote Fertiliser complex in Lagos.

Speaking after touring the facilities, Tshabalala described the refinery as a transformational industrial project with far-reaching benefits for Nigeria and the African continent, reaffirming the bank's commitment to supporting the group's long-term growth ambitions.

"We are here because the Dangote Group is a large and important global player and a significant force on the African continent," he said.

According to him, Standard Bank, as

Africa's largest financial institution, has partnered with Dangote Industries on several strategic initiatives and remains committed to strengthening the relationship.

"Standard Bank is the largest financial institution in Africa and we have partnered with Dangote on a variety of initiatives. We are here to lend support, to see this magnificent refinery and to discuss Vision 2030 and how we can continue supporting the Group's growth ambitions," Tshabalala stated.

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Dangote

Culled

The Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) said it would undertake a comprehensive audit of its rail tracks following the train accident that claimed five lives and left about 40 passengers injured.

Managing Director of the corporation, Dr. Kayode Opeifa, disclosed this during an interview on TVC, where he provided updates on the casualty figures, ongoing investigations and measures being considered to prevent a recurrence.

According to him, five passengers were confirmed dead in the accident, while about 40 others sustained varying degrees of injuries. He said approximately 25 of the injured victims suffered serious traumatic injuries.

Opeifa added that some of the injured had since been treated and discharged, while others remained under medical care.

Giving an account of those on board the train, the NRC boss said a total of 482 persons were on the service at the time of the incident, comprising 442 passengers and 40 crew members and

NRC To Audit Rail Tracks After Fatal Train Crash

support personnel.

He said all passengers and crew members had been accounted for, adding that the corporation had commenced contact tracing using passenger manifests and ticketing records to reach affected individuals and their families.

Opeifa said the NRC, in collaboration with investigators from the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB), had begun a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding the crash.

He urged Nigerians to refrain from speculation while the investigation was ongoing, noting that the findings would provide the basis for corrective measures and future safety improvements.

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Boat Operators Seek Soft Loans As FG Approves N14.6bn Ferry Acquisition



WABOTAN

Boat operators have called for increased government support and access to soft loans to strengthen water transportation services, following the Federal Government's approval of N14.6 billion for the procurement of modern boats and ferries.

The funding, approved through the Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, is aimed at enhancing passenger and cargo transportation, particularly in riverine states where waterways serve as critical transport routes.

Former Managing Director of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), Bola Oyebamiji, disclosed that the funds would be

used to acquire standard boats and ferries for transporting agricultural produce and passengers in states including Niger, Benue, Kogi, Kwara and Kebbi.

Despite the initiative, operators say rising operational costs and limited access to finance continue to hinder investment in modern vessels and business expansion.

President of the Waterfront Boat Owners and Transporters Association of Nigeria (WABOTAN), Tope Fajemirokun, urged the government to make part of the approved funds available as soft loans to operators to facilitate the acquisition of safer and more efficient boats.

He noted that soaring fuel prices have placed significant pressure on operators, increasing the cost of water transportation and affecting profitability. Fajemirokun also called for greater government intervention to support compliance with the directive of the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy to phase out unsafe wooden and banana

boats from the nation's waterways.

According to him, increased investment by federal and state governments would accelerate the development of the sector and improve access to affordable water transportation.

He cited the cost of travel between Badagry and CMS in Lagos, where commuters pay about N5,000 per trip, as evidence that water transportation remains beyond the reach of many Nigerians.

"The high cost of water transportation is discouraging passengers from using the waterways. Governments at all levels need to invest more in the sector to make it affordable and accessible," he said.

Fajemirokun commended NIWA and the Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA) for their efforts to improve safety and security on inland waterways. He also urged operators and passengers to prioritise the use of life jackets during all journeys.

Maritime and tourism expert Frank Meke said while the government's investment plan is a positive step, more

comprehensive measures are needed to unlock the full potential of water transportation in Nigeria.

He identified states such as Kwara, Niger, Benue and Taraba as areas where waterways could provide a cost-effective means of moving agricultural produce and improving market access for farmers.

Meke called on the government to declare a state of emergency in the water transportation sector and provide affordable financing options for operators seeking to modernise their fleets.

He added that investments should also focus on training boat captains, crew members and passengers, while strengthening emergency preparedness ahead of the rainy season.

Industry stakeholders maintain that sustained investment in vessels, infrastructure, safety programmes and operator financing will be crucial to developing a safer, more efficient and economically viable inland waterways transportation system.

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QUALITY EMULSION

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Stakeholders Praise FG Over Bauchi-Gombe Road Reconstruction

Culled

Stakeholders in the transport sector have commended the Federal Government for the ongoing rehabilitation and reconstruction of major highways linking Bauchi and Gombe states, describing the projects as critical to economic growth, safer travel, and regional integration in the North-East.

Speaking in separate interviews with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Wednesday, transport operators, road safety officials, commuters, and business owners said the road projects would improve the movement of people and goods, enhance security, and stimulate socio-economic development across the region.

The Organising Secretary of the Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN) in Gombe State, Salisu Umar, described the reconstruction of the Gombe-Bauchi and Gombe-Yola highways as a significant intervention, given the heavy traffic on both routes.



The Bauchi-Gombe road reconstruction

According to him, more accidents.

than 120 kilometres of

the 156-kilometre

Gombe-Bauchi

highway are already in

good condition, leading

to safer and more

comfortable travel while

reducing road

Umar said.

“The improvement of the

road has made travelling

the 240-kilometre

Gombe-Yola road,

noting that less than 30

kilometres remain to be

completed.

Umar further applauded

substantial progress had

also been recorded on

the 240-kilometre

Gombe-Yola road,

noting that less than 30

kilometres remain to be

completed.

Umar further applauded

the administration of

President Bola Tinubu for commencing the reconstruction of the 125-kilometre Gombe-Biu road, which he said had deteriorated over the years despite its strategic importance to the region's economy.

He noted that motorists currently spend up to three hours on a journey that should ordinarily take about one hour due to the poor condition of the road, but expressed optimism that the newly inaugurated N1.25 trillion reconstruction project would address the challenge.

Also speaking, the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Sector Commander in Gombe State, Samson Kaura, praised the government's road infrastructure efforts but called for the installation of additional safety facilities along the Gombe-Yola highway.

Kaura observed that some sections of the road lack road furniture and warning signs, particularly in accident-prone areas.

“There are no road signs to indicate danger zones. There is a need for contractors to install appropriate signage and other road safety infrastructure to protect lives and property,” he said.

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Truckers' Failure To Utilise Transit Park Worsens Port Congestion



Trucks with containers

There are growing concerns over the continuous underutilisation of approved truck transit parks at the Lagos port access roads by truck operators, contributing to the persistent traffic congestion across the country's maritime corridor.

The Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) introduced the Electronic Truck Call-Up System (ETO) in 2021 and designated several transit parks and pre-gates for trucks to pass in accessing the ports, to eliminate the notorious gridlock that had crippled economic activities around the Apapa and Tin Can ports corridor for decades. Stakeholders, however, alleged that many of these facilities are underutilised and bypassed

entirely by some truck operators, contributing to the persistent traffic congestion around the Lagos port corridor.

Major parks include the Lilypond Container Terminal in Ijora, which serves as a central pre-gate and staging facility for trucks and other facilities referenced as holding and transit points along the Orile-Ijora axis, Oshodi-Apapa corridor, Mile 2 axis and privately operated parks in Kirikiri, Ojo, and Amuwo-Odofin areas, which are used as waiting zones for trucks before being scheduled into the ports.

Stakeholders in the logistics chain are calling for a comprehensive audit of all approved truck transit parks and pre-gates, including a verification of their capacities, utilisation levels and compliance with operational guidelines.

Chief of the Lagos State Truck and Cargo Operators Committee (LASTCOC), Seyi Adeganbi, said the state has more truck transit parks, yet

many remain practically unused.

He stressed that truck operators knowingly bypass these facilities to get to the ports, creating gridlock.

According to him, while authorities continue to approve new facilities, several of the existing parks receive truck bookings electronically without the trucks physically entering the premises.

“When the transit park system started, only a few parks existed and trucks were properly controlled. Today, there are hundreds of approved parks, but many are not being utilised.

Trucks are booked into these facilities on paper, but they never enter them,” he alleged.

The LASTCOC Chief of the Lagos State Truck and Cargo Operators Committee (LASTCOC) alleged that some truck operators merely select a transit park on the electronic platform, obtain the necessary clearance and proceed towards the ports without stopping at the designated location.

“The question is not whether transit

parks exist. The real question is whether the trucks are actually using them. Many are not,” he stated.

Adeganbi further claimed that some facilities approved as transit parks lacked the capacity to accommodate the volume of trucks assigned to them, raising questions about the criteria used for their approval.

Also expressing concerns on compliance, the General Secretary of the Association of Maritime Truck Owners (AMATO), Bala Muhammad, stated that existing truck parks are adequate for current operations, but argued that enforcement failures and abuse of standard operating procedures remain major challenges.

According to him, some truck operators circumvent approved transit parks by obtaining what industry players describe as “direct call-ups,” enabling them to proceed directly to the ports without passing through the designated holding facilities.

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Türkiye, Saudi Arabia Sign Landmark Rail, Transport Cooperation Agreements

Culled

Türkiye and Saudi Arabia have signed two landmark agreements aimed at strengthening cooperation in transportation, logistics, and railway development, marking a significant step in efforts to enhance regional connectivity and trade.

The agreements were signed on Tuesday by Turkish Transport and Infrastructure Minister Abdulkadir Uraloglu and Saudi Arabia's Minister of Transport and Logistic Services, Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser.

Announcing the development, Uraloglu described the accords as the beginning of a new phase in bilateral relations, focused on expanding technical cooperation and knowledge exchange in key transport sectors.

According to the Turkish minister, the agreements will facilitate collaboration in



areas including logistics centres, modern transport applications, railway technology, infrastructure development, workforce training, and human

resource capacity building. "In this context, we are launching a new phase that will strengthen the exchange of expertise and technical

cooperation across a wide range of areas, from logistics centres to modern applications," Uraloglu said. He added that both countries were working to

establish a stronger and more sustainable framework for cooperation in the railway sector, with the goal of supporting regional development, trade, and

connectivity.

One of the agreements, the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Logistics Services, is designed to support the construction and management of logistics centres, facilitate the sharing of expertise, and promote joint projects.

The second agreement, the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Railway Sector, seeks to encourage collaboration across all areas of railway development and operations. Uraloglu noted that Türkiye and Saudi Arabia were also exploring alternative regional trade routes, particularly through Syria, Jordan, and Iraq. He said recent test runs from Türkiye through Iraq to Saudi Arabia had demonstrated the viability of the corridor.

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Culled

Kenya Airways (KQ, Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta) is preparing a plan to operate another country's national airline as part of a broader growth strategy aimed at strengthening its long-term recovery, according to chairman Kiprono Kittony.

"There is a plan, and you're going to see a stronger and more robust airline. We are planning to bid for becoming a national airline for another country," Kittony told a news conference in Mombasa on May 28, as quoted by Kenya's Citizen Digital.

Kenya Airways Eyes Bid To Operate Another Airline

A Kenya Airways spokesman verified the quote to ch-aviation but provided no further insight into the identity of the country or the nature of the proposed arrangement.

The disclosure comes as the Nairobi-listed carrier pursues a recovery strategy following years of financial instability, leadership turnover, and mounting debt pressures.

Kittony said the airline was focused on securing short-term emergency funding to meet immediate operational requirements, while leveraging its status as a publicly listed company to attract fresh investment through capital markets.

He linked Kenya Airways' recovery prospects to Kenya's broader economic ambitions, including plans to expand exports of agricultural produce and other goods, a move expected to support cargo demand. He also pointed to airport expansion plans that could boost tourism and passenger traffic.

Acting group managing director and CEO George Kamal reiterated that Kenya Airways remains a strategic national asset and is focused on restoring customer confidence

and financial stability.

Kenya Airways is seeking USD1.5 billion to USD2 billion from strategic investors, and talks with four potential partners have advanced to the due diligence stage, Kamal told ch-aviation in a recent interview. It is weighing a range of financing structures including equity, debt, cash injections, and aircraft-backed arrangements. The Kenyan government retains the option to convert KES132 billion shillings (USD1.02 billion) of Kenya Airways' debt into equity.

Kenya Airways' after-tax loss of KES17.2 billion (USD133 million) in 2025, despite its second-highest revenue on record, was blamed on the lengthy grounding of three B787-8s due to engine maintenance shortages and global supply chain issues.

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General News

FG, Ethiopia To Sign Agreement For Transfer Of Nigerian Prisoners

Culled:

The Federal Government is set to sign an agreement with the Government of Ethiopia to transfer over 100 Nigerian prisoners who are currently languishing in their prisons back to Nigeria.

According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, the Nigerians are in Kaliti Prisons and AbaSamuel Prisons, Ethiopia.

She revealed that the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Agreement is a bilateral agreement between the two nations of Ethiopia and Nigeria. The signature ceremony takes place this afternoon.

“On behalf of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for whom the welfare and protection of Nigerian citizens abroad remains a priority, I wish to convey our sincere appreciation to the Government and People of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for this important milestone,” Odumegwu-Ojukwu said.

She revealed that four Nigerian prisoners have died within the time frame it has taken for the negotiations, judicial vetting and the final ratification process. She said Nigeria cannot afford to lose any



Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu

more precious lives, stressing that the country is determined to bring home the living.

The minister revealed that the agreement to be signed is rooted in the principles of humanity, justice and cooperation between our two nations.

“While we continue to encourage our citizens living and travelling abroad to respect the laws of their host countries, and uphold the good name of our nation, we

also remain committed to ensuring that those who find themselves in conflict with the law are treated with dignity and accorded their rights under applicable legal frameworks,” she said.

“On behalf of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for whom the welfare and protection of Nigerian citizens abroad remains a priority, I wish to convey our sincere appreciation to the

Government and People of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for this important milestone,” Odumegwu-Ojukwu said.

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Find Full Story In The Link

IMF Warns Nigeria Against Fresh \$5bn UAE Loan Deal

Culled:

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has discouraged Nigeria from proceeding with a proposed \$5 billion financing arrangement with First Abu Dhabi Bank of the United Arab Emirates, warning that the deal could expose the country to financial and transparency risks.

Christian Ebeke, the IMF resident representative in Nigeria, said the planned transaction, structured as a derivatives-based financing instrument, belongs to a category of deals that are often complex and opaque.

Speaking to journalists on Tuesday, Ebeke said the IMF's assessment of similar transactions in other countries showed that their terms were not always transparent, making it difficult to properly evaluate the risks involved.

“Our view is that transactions in these types of structures carry risks. Usually they are opaque, so the terms are not always very transparent when we review these instruments across countries,” he said.

The IMF official urged Nigeria to explore alternative sources of financing, including Eurobond issuances and concessional loans, rather than relying on complex derivative-backed arrangements.

The warning follows the National Assembly's approval of President Bola Tinubu's request to secure \$6 billion in external borrowing to support government spending and infrastructure development.

As part of the package, Tinubu sought approval for a structured total return swap (TRS) financing programme of up to \$5 billion from First Abu Dhabi Bank.

The president said the proceeds would be used to implement the 2026 budget, fund priority infrastructure projects and refinance existing domestic and external debts.

Tinubu also noted that the proposed borrowing would add to Nigeria's public debt stock, which stood at \$110.3 billion, or about N159.2 trillion, at the end of December 2025.

Find Full Story In The Link

GHC Mobilises Nigerian Students For Anti-Malaria Competition



Geneith Health Competition (GHC)

Culled:

As part of efforts to eradicate malaria and promote a healthier future for Nigerians, the Geneith Health Competition

(GHC) has launched a nationwide campaign aimed at engaging

secondary school and tertiary institution students in the fight against the disease.

The organisers announced that registration for the forthcoming competition has officially commenced, calling on students across the country to participate in

the initiative designed to raise awareness, encourage innovation, and support malaria prevention efforts.

The competition organized by CEOAFRICA, Sponsored by Geneith Pharmaceutical Limited and powered by Coatal Forte Softgel in partnership with the Department of Public Health of the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, represents a bold and innovative response to Nigeria's persistent malaria burden by transforming young Nigerians into active agents of public health change.

Announcing the opening of the registration portal, the initiator of the competition and Managing Director of CEOAFRICA, Prince Cletus Sunday Iloabanafor, described the initiative as a

historic opportunity for students, parents, educational institutions, and communities across the federation to participate in a movement that could redefine Nigeria's public health landscape.

According to him, the GHC is not merely another awareness campaign but a national call to action that places young people at the center of the fight against one of the country's most devastating diseases.

Prince Iloabanafor urged Nigerians to embrace the initiative with confidence and determination, drawing inspiration from nations that have successfully overcome malaria through coordinated public health efforts and citizen participation.

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Tax compliance

FG Unveils New Platform To Boost Tax Compliance

Culled:
The Federal Government on Wednesday launched Rev360, a digital tax administration platform designed to improve tax compliance, simplify taxpayer interactions and strengthen revenue collection as part of ongoing reforms to modernise Nigeria's tax system.

The platform was unveiled at the headquarters of the Nigeria Revenue Service in Abuja during an event attended by senior government officials, development partners, professional bodies, business associations, tax consultants and taxpayers.

Representing the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr Taiwo Oyedele, the Permanent Secretary (Special Duties) in the ministry, Mohammed Danjuma, described the platform as a major step in the modernisation of the country's revenue administration architecture.

He said efficient tax administration was critical to economic growth because it encourages voluntary compliance, improves transparency and boosts investor confidence.

Oyedele said, "When tax administration becomes more efficient, compliance becomes easier.

When compliance becomes easier, businesses can focus more on growth and productivity.

"As Nigeria continues its journey towards greater economic competitiveness and sustainable growth, initiatives such as Rev360 will play an important role in strengthening governance, supporting voluntary compliance, improving transparency, and creating a more enabling environment for business to thrive."

According to him, the federal government's economic reforms agenda is anchored on strong institutions, improved fiscal

management, digital transformation and greater efficiency in public sector operations.

Also speaking, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr Jumoke Oduwole, said the platform would support the government's efforts to improve the ease of doing business and achieve its ambition of building a \$1tn economy.

Oduwole recalled earlier attempts to automate tax administration processes and noted that the revenue agency had made significant progress in responding to stakeholder concerns and improving service delivery.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

NDPC, Meta Partner On Data Protection In Nigeria

The Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC) has launched the Meta Supported Initiatives for Data Protection (M-SIDP), a two-year strategic program to strengthen data safeguards for Nigerian users.

Announcing the initiative on Monday via a press release signed by Head, Media Unit, Itunu Dosekun, the NDPC said it is in connection with the commission's regulatory process involving Meta Platforms, Inc.,

following investigations into the company's data processing practices in Nigeria.

"The initiative stems from a 2025 court-approved settlement after NDPC investigated Meta's data processing practices, with Meta committing support aligned to the Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023 and related directives," Dosekun said.

"The matter was concluded in 2025 through a court-approved settlement.

As part of the settlement, Meta committed to supporting a two-year programme of public facing data protection measures that aligns with the objectives of the Nigeria Data Protection Act, 2023 (NDP Act), the NDP Act General Application and Implementation Directive (GAID) and the NDPC Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP) 2023-2027."

Dosekun explained that the M-SIDP targets governance and research,

ecosystem safety, capacity building for data protection officers, and awareness campaigns focused on vulnerable groups, while NDPC retains full independent regulatory authority.

"The M-SIDP programme is structured around the following strategic areas: « Governance, Research and Development; Fostering Safety and Sustainability Mechanisms for Ecosystem & [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



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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.

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