

Poor Road Condition, Ongoing Recons'ction Blamed For Ota-Idiroko Expr'way Gridlock

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CONTINUES ON P5

TRACE Urges Motorists To Avoid Flooded Roads, Drive Safely During Rainy Season

The Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps (TRACE) has advised motorists to avoid driving through flooded roads and contained in a adhere to safe driving statement issued on practices to reduce Friday by the road crashes during the agency's Public rainy season. Relations Officer, The advisory was Babatunde Akinbiyi,

CONTINUES ON P3



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Monday, July 20th 2026

E - NEWSPAPER

FRSC Launches Nationwide Special Patrol To Reduce Road Crashes

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has launched a nationwide Zonal Special Intervention Patrol aimed at reducing road traffic crashes and improving compliance with road safety regulations across the country. The special patrol, scheduled to begin on July 20, will be implemented across the Corps' 12 Zonal Commands, with each zone deploying strategies tailored to address its unique road

CONTINUES ON P2

Abia Govt Promises Permanent Fix To Flooding On Owerri-Nta Road
A'Ibom To Register Keke, Minibus Operators In Digital Database
Broken-Down Truck Causes Hours Long Gridlock On Lagos-Ago Road

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Shehu Mohammed - FRSC Corps Marshal

FG Targets December Commissioning For Kaduna-Kano, Kano-Daura Rail Sections

The Federal Government has announced that the Kaduna-Kano and Kano-Daura-Katsina sections of the Kano-Maradi railway project are scheduled for commissioning in December 2026. Federal Ministry of Transportation, Engr. Funsho Adebisi, disclosed this during an inspection of the project by officials of the Debt Management Office (DMO), led by its Director-General, Patience Oniha. According to Adebisi,

CONTINUES ON P3

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The special patrol, scheduled to begin on July 20, will be implemented across the Corps' 12 Zonal Commands, with each zone deploying strategies tailored to address its unique road safety challenges.

According to a statement issued on Sunday by the Corps Public Education Officer, Deputy Corps Commander Osondu Ohaeri, the initiative was approved by the Corps Marshal, Shehu Mohammed, as part of efforts to strengthen road safety through intelligence-driven enforcement, public awareness campaigns, stakeholder engagement, emergency response readiness and increased operational visibility.

The 12 code-named operations include

Operation Fushin Zuma in Kaduna, Operation Ride Safe in Bauchi, Operation Shark Smile in Port Harcourt, Operation ABO (Safe Passage) in Lagos, Operation Sauka Lafia in Abuja, Operation Kasolayo in Ilorin, Operation Kwushi Ihe Mberede in Enugu, Operation Sanity in Osogbo, Operation Total Compliance in Benin, Operation Harbin Kunama (Scorpion Sting) in Yola, Operation Hadarin Kalangu in Jos and Operation Daidaita Loading in Zone 10.

Find Full Story In The Link



Shehu Mohammed

A’Ibom To Register Keke, Minibus Operations In Digital Database

Culled
Akwa Ibom State Governor, Umo Eno, has directed all commercial tricycle (keke) and minibuses operators in the state to register on the Ministry of Transport's digital database as part of efforts to strengthen security and improve public transportation.

Speaking during the July edition of the Government House Monthly Prayer Service at the Latter House Chapel in Uyo, the governor said the registration exercise would be free and warned that operators who fail to comply would have their vehicles impounded.

Eno explained that the initiative is designed to prevent criminals from posing as commercial transport operators to carry out unlawful activities.

According to him, from August, commuters will be able to verify the identity of drivers and riders operating commercial tricycles and minibuses across the state.

The governor said the measure is

necessary as Akwa Ibom continues to position itself as a major tourism destination, stressing that visitors and residents must have confidence in the safety of the state's transport system.

He also announced plans to introduce free internet service at the Victor Attah International Airport as part of efforts to enhance public services and expand digital infrastructure.

On environmental issues, Eno urged residents to stop dumping refuse into drainage channels, noting that while flash flooding is a natural occurrence, effective flood management requires both government action and public cooperation.

He said the state government would review its flood control strategies and enforce compliance with the monthly environmental sanitation exercise. The governor warned that movement would no longer be permitted during sanitation hours and that violators of sanitation regulations would be prosecuted.

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Adeleke Orders Urgent Rehabilitation Of Osogbo’s Olaiya Bridge

Culled
Osun State Governor, Ademola Adeleke, has directed the immediate rehabilitation of the Olaiya Bridge in Osogbo ahead of the commissioning of the newly completed Okefia Flyover.

The directive was issued during an inspection of the bridge on Sunday, where the governor expressed concern over its deteriorating condition and ordered swift intervention by the Ministry of Works.

According to a statement by the governor's spokesperson, Olawale Rasheed, Adeleke instructed the ministry to assess the bridge, carry out all necessary repairs, clean the structure, and address identified defects to ensure it aligns with the standard of the newly completed Okefia and Lameco flyover bridges.

He stressed the importance of preserving public infrastructure, describing the Olaiya Bridge as a vital state asset that requires proper maintenance.

The governor reaffirmed his



Senator Adeleke

administration's commitment to maintaining existing infrastructure while completing inherited projects.

According to him, governance is a continuous process, noting that viable projects inherited from previous administrations will be completed, while existing public assets will be adequately maintained for the benefit of residents.

The Olaiya Bridge is one of Osogbo's

key transport links, connecting several parts of the state capital and serving thousands of commuters daily.

The rehabilitation order comes as the state government prepares to inaugurate the Okefia Flyover, a major infrastructure project aimed at improving traffic flow and road connectivity within Osogbo. The Lameco Flyover is another road project undertaken by the Adeleke

administration to enhance transportation across the capital.

Since assuming office in November 2022, Adeleke has consistently maintained that his administration will complete viable inherited projects while initiating new infrastructure developments to stimulate economic activities and improve the quality of life for residents across Osun State.

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Veteran Actor Yinka Quadri Inducted As LASTMA Special Marshal

Culled
Troops of the Nigerian Army's 65 Battalion have dismantled a suspected illegal bunkering site in the Orile General Area of Lagos State, arresting six suspects and recovering vehicles and petroleum products linked to the operation.

The raid, carried out on July 16, followed credible intelligence on the activities of suspected economic saboteurs operating within the area.

The Acting Deputy Director of Army Public Relations, 81 Division Nigerian Army, Lieutenant Colonel Musa Yahaya, disclosed the development in a statement issued on Saturday.

According to Yahaya, troops launched a coordinated operation on the suspected illegal bunkering site, leading to the arrest of six individuals believed to be involved in the illicit activity.

Items recovered during the operation included four drums, two of which contained suspected illegally refined

petroleum products. Troops also seized a white Ford bus and a tanker allegedly used in transporting the products.

The suspects and all recovered exhibits were subsequently handed over to the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Lagos State Command, by the Commanding Officer of the 65 Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel S. Adejo, for further investigation and possible prosecution.

Reacting to the operation, the General Officer Commanding (GOC), 81

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Illegal bunkering

TRACE Urges Motorists To Avoid Flooded Roads, Drive Safely During Rainy Season

Culled
The Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps (TRACE) has advised motorists to avoid driving through flooded roads and adhere to safe driving practices to reduce road crashes during the rainy season.

The advisory was contained in a statement issued on Friday by the agency's Public Relations Officer, Babatunde Akinbiyi, during the unveiling of TRACE's Rainy Season Safe Motoring Guide themed, "Safe and Responsible Driving...AMUST!"

Akinbiyi noted that the rainy season is often accompanied by reduced visibility, slippery road surfaces, and longer stopping distances, making cautious driving essential.

He urged motorists to ensure they are mentally, physically, and emotionally fit before embarking on any journey. He also advised drivers to inspect their vehicles to confirm that critical components such as brakes, tyres, lights, batteries, and windscreen wipers

are in good working condition.

According to him, motorists should reduce speed on wet roads, switch on their headlights during rainfall, and maintain a safe following distance of between four and six seconds to minimise the risk of crashes.

"Wet roads reduce tyre grip and increase stopping distance. Motorists should adjust their speed to suit prevailing weather conditions," he said.

The TRACE spokesperson also warned against attempting to drive through flooded roads, stressing that floodwaters can be deceptive and may sweep vehicles away.

He further called on road users to obey traffic regulations and comply with directives from TRACE officers, reaffirming the agency's commitment to ensuring safer roads across Ogun State throughout the rainy season.

For emergencies, TRACE advised motorists and other road users to contact the agency through its emergency lines, 112 or 0806 270 3568.

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FG Targets December Commissioning For Kaduna-Kano, Kano-Daura Rail Sections

Culled
The Federal Government has announced that the Kaduna–Kano and Kano–Daura–Katsina sections of the Kano–Maradi railway project are scheduled for commissioning in December 2026.

The Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Transportation, Engr. Funsho Adebisi, disclosed this during an inspection of the project by officials of the Debt Management Office (DMO), led by its Director-General, Patience Oniha.

According to Adebisi, construction is progressing steadily, with rail laying already underway and most of the required construction materials delivered to project yards in Kazaure and Katsina.

He said geotechnical investigations and laboratory testing of construction materials are being carried out to ensure compliance with international engineering standards and global best practices.

A statement issued by the Ministry's



The Kaduna-kano Railway inspection

Assistant Director of Information and Public Relations, Gift Seddon, said the overall project has reached between 70 and 75 per cent completion since work commenced in 2021.

The Permanent Secretary added that the Kaduna–Zaria–Kano section is between 80 and 85 per cent complete and is currently undergoing finishing works.

He further disclosed that more than 500,000 of the estimated 800,000 track sleepers have been produced, while all the required rail tracks have already been procured.

Adebisi noted that the project has generated employment for more than 4,500 workers, including about 200 expatriates, while also facilitating technology transfer through the training of Nigerian engineers and

technicians in specialised railway construction.

He identified the procurement of rolling stock as the next major milestone towards achieving the December commissioning target.

Highlighting some of the challenges affecting the project, Adebisi cited vandalism of construction materials, land access constraints in some urban areas and illegal laterite mining along the Kano–Dutse corridor.

He said the Ministry would strengthen collaboration with security agencies to safeguard project assets and continue engaging the Kano State Government and other relevant authorities to tackle illegal mining activities.

The Permanent Secretary also commended the support of traditional rulers and host communities, noting that sustained stakeholder engagement has improved access to project sites. He added that several communities had withdrawn court cases after recognising the project's economic and social benefits.

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Local Transport News

Broken-Down Truck Causes Hours-Long Gridlock On Lagos’ Ago Road

Culled
Hundreds of commuters and motorists were left stranded for several hours on Sunday after a broken-down truck caused a major traffic gridlock at the SIFAX Terminal Bus Stop along Ago Road in Lagos.

The truck reportedly developed a mechanical fault after hitting deep potholes at the bus stop, blocking a section of the road and creating a lengthy traffic queue that stretched across the busy corridor.

As of about 2:15 p.m., the congestion had persisted, with many road users expressing frustration over the prolonged delay and the slow movement of vehicles. The gridlock disrupted normal movement, forcing several passengers to abandon commercial vehicles and continue their journeys on foot, while others remained trapped in the traffic for hours.

The incident has again highlighted concerns over the poor state of Ago Road, particularly around the SIFAX Terminal Bus Stop, where motorists have

repeatedly complained about deteriorating road conditions. Residents noted that the damaged road surface, coupled with inadequate maintenance, has continued to contribute to frequent traffic disruptions along the route.

They called on the relevant authorities to urgently rehabilitate the affected sections of the road and strengthen traffic management measures to prevent similar incidents and ease the hardship faced by commuters.

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The broken-down truck

Culled

The Nigeria Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) and the Benue State Government have begun discussions to establish a long-term partnership aimed at improving transport safety and building institutional capacity to support the safe development of the state's maritime and blue economy.

The commitment was reached during a meeting in Abuja between the Director-General of the NSIB, Captain Alex Badeh Jr., and the Benue State Commissioner for Maritime and Blue Economy, Denis Ter lyaghigba.

The engagement follows the Bureau's earlier visit to Makurdi after a boat accident on the River Benue that claimed 11 lives. During the visit, NSIB officials conducted safety assessments, met with Governor Hyacinth Alia, community leaders and boat operators, and pledged support for strengthening safety on the state's inland waterways.

Speaking during the meeting, Captain Badeh said the Bureau was focused on preventing accidents through strategic partnerships, technical cooperation and capacity development.

NSIB, Benue Partner To Strengthen Inland Waterway Safety

He noted that while the Makurdi visit was prompted by a tragic incident, it created an opportunity for meaningful collaboration with the Benue State Government.

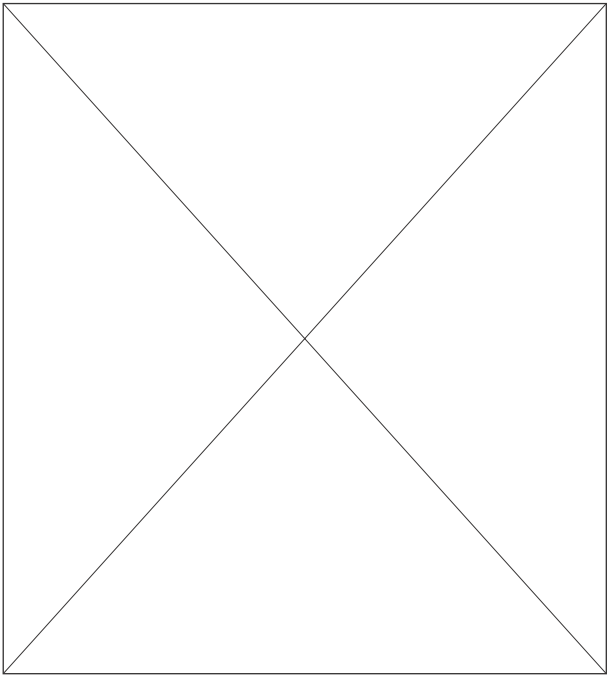
According to him, the NSIB's mandate goes beyond investigating transport accidents to promoting preventive measures through knowledge sharing, institutional strengthening and the adoption of global safety standards.

"The Bureau remains committed to working with governments and stakeholders that are determined to build safer transportation systems," he said.

On his part, Commissioner lyaghigba described the partnership as a significant step toward developing Benue's inland waterways while ensuring the safety of commuters and operators.

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Poor Road Condition, Ongoing Recon’tion Blamed For Ota-Idiroko E’way Gridlock



Keyamo

The persistent traffic congestion along the Ota-Goro-Atan-Idiroko Expressway has been attributed mainly to the poor condition of the road and the slow pace of its ongoing reconstruction, residents and motorists have said.

The Federal Government awarded the reconstruction of the highway in 2023, but several sections remain under construction, forcing motorists to navigate narrow and damaged portions of the road that have become major traffic bottlenecks.

Daily commuters along the corridor said the prolonged construction has resulted in hours of gridlock, increased transport fares and

significant economic hardship. While residents initially welcomed the reconstruction project, many said the slow pace of work has diminished confidence in its timely completion.

Some also raised concerns about the drainage system being constructed, describing parts of it as too shallow for a major highway and warning that it could contribute to flooding and further damage to the road.

They urged the Federal Ministry of Works to intensify supervision of the project and called on the Minister of Works, Dave Umahi, to conduct regular inspections to ensure the contractor adheres to approved specifications and completes the project on schedule.

Although construction work on the Oju Ore and Winners flyovers has recorded visible progress, residents maintained that other sections of the expressway require greater urgency due to the road's strategic importance.

The Ota-Atan-Idiroko Expressway serves as a major economic corridor

linking Ogun State with the Republic of Benin and carries heavy commercial and cross-border traffic daily.

Residents also dismissed claims that the gridlock was primarily caused by the activities of non-state actors, including smugglers, insisting that the poor state of the road and ongoing reconstruction remain the major causes of the congestion.

A resident of Atan, Kolade Balogun, called on the government to expedite the project, recalling that heavy rainfall recently left commuters stranded for several hours.

"During last week's downpour, economic activities were disrupted because people could not reach their destinations. We spent several hours in traffic due to the poor condition of the road," he said.

Also speaking, commercial bus driver Ibrahim Saheed blamed frequent vehicle breakdowns, particularly around the Goro axis, for worsening the traffic situation.

"It is always one broken-down vehicle or another, especially around Goro.

Last week, I spent more than six hours in traffic after trucks from the Agbara Industrial Estate broke down. I only managed to work for half a day because the gridlock was so severe," he said.

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Ondo Community Protests Over Deplorable Roads, Seeks Aiyedatiwa’s Intervention

Culled

Residents of Iku Quarters in Ikare-Akoko, Akoko North East Local Government Area of Ondo State, on Sunday staged a peaceful protest over the deteriorating condition of roads linking the community, calling on Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa to urgently intervene.

The protesters described the roads as death traps, saying years of neglect have resulted in avoidable accidents, loss of lives, and severe hardship for residents and farmers.

Carrying placards with inscriptions such as "Mr Governor, We Are Dying. Our People Can No Longer Go To Farm Due To Bad Road," "Awara/Ikare-Akoko Stadium Road Has Become A Death Trap," and "We Need Urgent Government Intervention," the demonstrators appealed to the state government to rehabilitate the roads.



Deplorable roads in Ondo State

Speaking during the protest, the traditional ruler of the community, the Oniku of Iku, Chief Mukaila Bello, said the poor state of the roads has crippled economic activities by making it difficult for farmers to transport their produce to markets during the rainy season.

He noted that the roads have become increasingly impassable due to deep potholes, erosion, and years of neglect, with the situation worsening

motorists and residents to constant danger.

He appealed to Governor Aiyedatiwa to prioritise the rehabilitation of the Awara Water Works/Ikare-Akoko Stadium Road, while also calling on members of the National Assembly representing the area, local government authorities, and other political leaders to support efforts to restore the road network.

Also speaking, President of the Iku Elite Association, Mr. Adiamo Usman, urged the government to respond to the community's long-standing appeals, stressing that residents have consistently supported the state's development through active participation in elections.

Usman said the community was not asking for luxury but for safe and motorable roads that would improve livelihoods, enhance economic activities, and ensure the safety and well-being of residents.

He expressed confidence that the government would heed the community's call and take prompt action to address the deteriorating road infrastructure.

Find Full Story In The Link

Communities Seek Urgent Repairs On Asaba-Illah-Edo Fed Highway



Governor Alex Otti

The Abia State Government has assured residents and motorists that it will provide a lasting solution to the flooding challenges along the Owerri-Nta Road in Isiala Ngwa South Local Government Area as reconstruction of the road continues.

The assurance followed the circulation of a video on social media showing floodwater inundating a residential compound located along the ongoing road project.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the Commissioner for Information, Prince Okey Kanu, said preliminary findings showed that the affected area has a long-standing topographical challenge due to its naturally undulating terrain.

According to him, the compound is situated on a downward slope from the main road, making it vulnerable to water accumulation and flooding during periods of heavy rainfall, even before the commencement of the reconstruction work.

Kanu acknowledged that the ongoing construction activities had temporarily worsened the situation but stressed that the issue would be addressed before the project is completed.

He explained that engineers from the Ministry of Works and the project contractor would further assess the drainage pattern and implement necessary engineering adjustments to ensure the completed road effectively resolves the flooding concerns.

The commissioner urged residents not to politicise the incident, stating that the government remains focused on protecting residents' welfare and delivering quality infrastructure.

He noted that similar drainage challenges encountered during the

reconstruction of the Onuimo-Umuahia Road corridor were successfully resolved and expressed confidence that the same level of professionalism would be applied to the Owerri-Nta project.

Kanu also attributed the recent flooding to unusually heavy rainfall recorded over the past two days, describing the weather conditions as an opportunity for engineers to identify and correct drainage deficiencies before the road is completed.

He reaffirmed that the objective of the road reconstruction and dualisation project is to improve road safety, enhance economic activities and improve the quality of life of residents without creating avoidable environmental challenges.

The Abia State Government, he added, will continue to work closely with the Ministry of Works and the contractor to ensure the flooding issue is comprehensively resolved, while calling on residents to remain calm.

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