LAMATA To Prosecute Commuters Paying Cash On Regulated Bus Services From Aug 1

The Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) has announced that commuters who pay cash to board regulated bus services in Lagos will face arrest and prosecution beginning August 1, 2026, as the agency intensifies enforcement of its cashless fare payment policy. LAMATA said the move expands existing enforcement

CONTINUES ON P7

Kano Approves Compensation For Over 1,400 Property Owners Affected By Road Projects

The Kano State Executive Council has approved compensation for more than 1,400 property owners whose lands and structures have been affected by ongoing road construction and dualisation projects across the state.

The approval formed part of decisions reached during the council's 40th meeting, chaired by Governor Abba Kabir

CONTINUES ON P2

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E - NEWSPAPER

Lagos Issues Traffic Advisory As Kara Bridge Repairs Begin July 28

The Lagos State Government has issued a traffic advisory ahead of the commencement of expansion joint replacement works on the Kara Bridge along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, warning motorists to expect partial traffic disruptions during the two-week rehabilitation exercise.

In a statement issued on Monday by the Lagos State Ministry of Transportation, the government said the Federal Ministry of Works will begin the

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Kara bridge repairs

NIMASA Reaffirms Commitment To Green Shipping, Maritime Decar'sation

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FG Targets Jobs, Investment Through Maritime Sector Reforms

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Senate Clarifies FRSC Bill On Preaching In Commercial Vehicles

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Abia Expands Electric Bus Fleet With 20 New Vehicles, Plans New Routes

The Abia State Government has taken delivery of 20 additional electric buses as part of efforts to expand its subsidised public transportation system across the state and beyond.

Governor Alex Otti announced the development during his monthly media briefing in Umuahia, stating that the newly delivered buses are part of the state's plan to procure about 100 electric buses to improve affordable and environmentally friendly transportation.

CONTINUES ON P3

Efficient Judiciary Critical To Attracting Port Investment - NSC

P7

Local Transport News

FG Targets Jobs, Investment Through Maritime Sector Reforms

Culled

The Federal Government has reaffirmed its commitment to unlocking the full potential of Nigeria's maritime sector as a key driver of employment, investment and economic diversification.

Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator George Akume, made this known during the 18th International Maritime Seminar for Judges, organised by the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) in Abuja.

Akume said a thriving maritime industry depends on a legal system that gives investors confidence that commercial disputes will be resolved fairly, promptly and transparently.

According to him, no serious investor will commit resources to maritime ventures without assurance that contractual disagreements will be handled efficiently by the courts.

He described Nigeria's maritime domain as more than just a trade corridor, stressing that it holds enormous potential to create jobs, attract investments and support the country's drive for economic diversification.

Also speaking at the seminar, the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, said the event's theme, "Advancing Maritime Justice, Strengthening Global Trade," highlights the vital role of a strong judicial system in building a competitive maritime economy.

Find Full Story In The Link



Akume

Lagos Issues Traffic Advisory As Kara Bridge Repairs Begin July 28

Culled

The Lagos State Government has issued a traffic advisory ahead of the commencement of expansion joint replacement works on the Kara Bridge along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, warning motorists to expect partial traffic disruptions during the two-week rehabilitation exercise.

In a statement issued on Monday by the Lagos State Ministry of Transportation, the government said the Federal Ministry of Works will begin the repair project on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, as part of ongoing efforts to improve the safety and durability of the bridge.

According to the ministry, the rehabilitation works will necessitate the temporary reduction of the existing four-lane carriageway to two lanes over a 1.5-kilometre stretch to create a safe working environment for construction personnel.

The government advised motorists plying the corridor to anticipate delays around the Kara axis and urged them to remain patient, obey traffic regulations and cooperate with traffic management officials who will be deployed to manage vehicular movement throughout the duration of the project.

The ministry noted that moderate traffic congestion is expected around the Fatgbems Turn as some motorists may make U-turns or divert to alternative routes to avoid delays. However, it assured commuters travelling towards Ibadan beyond the Fatgbems Turn that traffic is expected to flow with minimal disruption.

To minimise inconvenience, motorists were encouraged to plan their journeys ahead, explore alternative routes where feasible and comply with all traffic advisories issued during the repair period.

The Lagos State Ministry of Transportation expressed appreciation to members of the public for their anticipated understanding and cooperation, stressing that the rehabilitation work is designed to enhance the structural integrity of the bridge and ensure safer travel for all road users.

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Kano Approves Compensation For Over 1,400 Property Owners Affected By Road Projects

Culled

The Kano State Executive Council has approved compensation for more than 1,400 property owners whose lands and structures have been affected by ongoing road construction and dualisation projects across the state.

The approval formed part of decisions reached during the council's 40th meeting, chaired by Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf at the Government House in Kano, where projects and programmes valued at ₦55.48 billion were approved across key sectors.

According to the council, ₦3.18 billion was approved as compensation for owners of 361 properties impacted by the Kano Northern Bypass Road Project.

Similarly, the state government approved ₦2.94 billion for 1,113 property owners affected by the ongoing five-kilometre dualised road project in Gaya Local Government Area.

The council also approved ₦247.07 million as compensation for individuals and filling station owners affected by the Kano–Dawakin Tofa–Gwarzo–Dayi dualisation project.



Governor Abba Yusuf

In addition, ₦213.74 million was earmarked for compensation to owners of farmlands and economic trees affected by the rehabilitation of the Tamburawa Raw Water Intake Station in Kura Local Government Area.

The approvals, made under the Ministry of Land and Physical Planning, are aimed at ensuring the smooth implementation of critical infrastructure projects while providing compensation to residents whose properties have been acquired for public use.

The state government said the compensation underscores its commitment to balancing infrastructure development with the protection of the rights and interests of affected communities.

Similarly, the state government approved ₦2.94 billion for 1,113 property owners affected by the ongoing five-kilometre dualised road project in Gaya Local Government Area.

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Local Transport News

Senate Clarifies FRSC Bill On Preaching In Commercial Vehicles

Culled

The Senate has clarified that the ongoing amendment to the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) Act does not introduce a fresh ban on preaching or hawking in commercial vehicles, but merely reaffirms an existing provision already contained in the law.

In a statement issued on Monday by the Directorate of Media and Public Affairs in the Office of the Senate Leader, the upper legislative chamber said it was responding to public concerns and misconceptions surrounding the proposed amendment.

According to the Senate, the prohibition on preaching and hawking inside commercial vehicles has been part of Nigeria's road safety regulations for years. It explained that Section 10(4) of the FRSC (Establishment) Act, 2007, alongside Regulation 220 of the National Road Traffic Regulations, 2012, already classifies such activities as offences.

The statement noted that the provision was originally listed as Item 36 in the Second Schedule of the 2007 Act and has remained in force for nearly two decades. Under the proposed amendment, the same provision has simply been renumbered as Item 49 in the Second Schedule without altering its substance.

The Senate stressed that the amendment should not be interpreted as an attempt to outlaw street preaching or restrict religious activities in public spaces.

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Senate

Wike Pledges Completion Of Up To 10 Major FCT Roads Before Year-End

Culled

The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, has assured residents that between eight and 10 major road projects across the territory will be completed and commissioned before the end of 2026.

Wike gave the assurance on Monday while inspecting ongoing road construction projects in different parts of the FCT, reaffirming the administration's commitment to delivering critical infrastructure and fulfilling promises made to residents.

The minister expressed satisfaction with the pace of work on the long-delayed Apo–Karshi road and the Bwari–Kubwa road corridor, describing the progress as encouraging.

Responding to questions on whether political activities ahead of the 2027 general elections could affect project delivery, Wike dismissed the suggestion, insisting that governance would continue uninterrupted under President Bola Tinubu's administration.

He noted that the President's current tenure runs until May 29, 2027, stressing that the government remains focused on executing developmental projects throughout the period.

Speaking on the Apo–Karshi road project, Wike recalled that the contract was initially awarded in 2010 but suffered years of delays due to the poor performance of the former contractor. He explained that the contract had since been terminated and re-awarded to a new contractor, leading to significant progress on the project.

At the Bwari–Kubwa road project, the minister acknowledged the challenging terrain being encountered by engineers but urged contractors to adhere to the agreed completion timeline.

He assured them that the FCT Administration would continue to release funds promptly to support the timely completion of the projects, particularly before the peak of the rainy season.

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Abia Expands Electric Bus Fleet With 20 New Vehicles, Plans More Routes

Culled

The Abia State Government has taken delivery of 20 additional electric buses as part of efforts to expand its subsidised public transportation system across the state and beyond.

Governor Alex Otti announced the development during his monthly media briefing in Umuahia, stating that the newly delivered buses are part of the state's plan to procure about 100 electric buses to improve affordable and environmentally friendly transportation.

According to the governor, the new buses will be deployed on additional routes to increase access to the state's transport service while maintaining subsidised fares. The electric buses, which began operations earlier this year, currently offer fares that are approximately 60 per cent lower than those charged by conventional commercial transport operators.

Otti said the expansion would extend services to several new routes, including Umuahia–Bende–Arochukwu, Umuahia–Uturu, Umuahia–Umudike–Ikwuano, Aba–Owerri in neighbouring Imo State, and Aba–Ukwa, among others.



Governor Alex Otti

He explained that commuters seeking to use the buses must meet certain eligibility requirements, including registration as government statutory levy payers.

The governor also disclosed that surveillance systems have been installed in all the buses to monitor operations and ensure accountability among personnel. He revealed that a bus pilot and co-pilot were recently dismissed after they were found to have engaged in misconduct, warning other staff against similar actions.

Providing updates on other infrastructure projects, Otti said construction of the Aba Bus Terminal, which is modelled after the Umuahia terminal, is progressing steadily. He added that the first phase of the redevelopment of Aba's Ekeoha Market is nearing completion and will soon be commissioned.

The expansion of the electric bus programme forms part of the Abia State Government's broader strategy to improve urban mobility, reduce transport costs for residents and promote cleaner, more sustainable public transportation.

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Providing updates on other infrastructure projects, Otti said

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Local Transport News

NIMASA Reaffirms Commitment To Green Shipping Maritime Deca'nisation

Culled

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting green shipping, maritime decarbonisation, and environmental sustainability as part of efforts to align Nigeria's maritime sector with global climate goals.

The Director General of NIMASA, Dr. Dayo Mobereola, gave the assurance during a strategic meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of Natural Eco Capital Limited, Dr. Eugene Itua, where both parties discussed initiatives aimed at accelerating the country's transition to a cleaner and more sustainable maritime industry.

According to Mobereola, the agency remains focused on advancing policies and partnerships that will reduce carbon emissions, strengthen marine environmental protection, and support sustainable growth across Nigeria's maritime sector.

During the engagement, Itua presented the Nigerian Green Shipping Excellence Programme (NGSEP) and the Green Maritime Recognition Scheme (GMRS), describing them as initiatives designed to promote maritime decarbonisation, encourage the adoption of cleaner technologies, attract climate-related investments, and position Nigeria as a leading hub for sustainable shipping in the region.

Responding, the NIMASA Director General commended the proposals, stressing that collaboration between

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Mobereola

Efficient Judiciary Critical To Attracting Port Investment - NSC

Culled

The Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC), Dr. Akutah Pius, has said that an efficient judicial system is essential to attracting investment into Nigeria's port sector, warning that prolonged delays in resolving maritime disputes discourage both local and foreign investors.

Akutah made the remarks during a technical session at the 18th International Maritime Seminar for Judges in Abuja, where he stressed the importance of speedy adjudication of maritime cases and stronger collaboration among agencies operating within the nation's ports.

According to him, investors are reluctant to commit capital in countries where confidence in the judicial system is weak, noting that maritime disputes are often complex, costly and time-consuming to resolve.

He said one of the major objectives of the seminar is to promote Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms that will enable faster settlement of maritime disputes, improve investor confidence and enhance the competitiveness of Nigeria's maritime industry.

Akutah also called for improved synergy among government agencies involved in port operations, saying poor inter-agency coordination continues to create bottlenecks that slow cargo clearance, increase costs and lead to cargo deterioration.

He explained that operational inefficiencies often result in avoidable delays, cargo damage and prolonged legal disputes, all of which undermine the efficiency of Nigeria's seaports and affect the ease of doing business.

The NSC boss expressed optimism that the proposed Nigerian Port Economic Regulatory Agency (NPERA) Bill, which seeks to designate the Nigerian Shippers'

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Nigeria Ends Aviation Fuel Imports As Local Refineries Meet Demand



aviation

Nigeria has gone 13 consecutive months without importing Aviation Turbine Kerosene (ATK), commonly known as Jet A-1, as domestic refineries fully supplied the country's aviation fuel market during the period.

Official data from the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) showed that between June 2025 and June 2026, Oil Marketing Companies recorded no imports of aviation fuel, marking a major shift from the country's long-standing dependence on imported Jet A-1.

The development reflects growing domestic refining capacity following the commencement and expansion of operations at new and rehabilitated refineries, with local producers now serving as the sole source of aviation fuel supply.

According to the NMDPRA's latest petroleum supply statistics, domestic refinery receipts fluctuated throughout the 13-month period. Supply rose from 1.3 million litres per day in June 2025 to 1.5 million litres in July before climbing to 3.5 million litres in August. Receipts later dropped to 1.6 million litres in September, recovered to 2.7 million litres in October and fell to zero in November.

Supply rebounded strongly in December 2025, reaching a record 14 million litres per day, the highest level recorded during the review period.

In 2026, refinery receipts declined to six million litres per day in January, dropped further to 1.6 million litres in February and gradually recovered to 4.3 million litres in May before easing to 2.5 million litres per day in June.

The June figure represented a decline of about 31 per cent from the 3.6 million litres per day recorded in May.

Despite the fluctuations in refinery output, aviation fuel consumption remained relatively stable. Daily demand stood at 3.5 million litres in January, declined to 2.9 million litres in February, fell to 2.1 million litres in March, and later recovered to 3.1 million litres in May before moderating to 2.9 million litres in June.

The regulator said average daily aviation fuel consumption remained close to Nigeria's benchmark demand of three million litres, adding that the figures were based on volumes trucked into the domestic market.

The elimination of aviation fuel imports is expected to reduce the aviation industry's exposure to foreign exchange volatility, lower logistics costs and improve product availability across the country.

For years, Nigeria relied heavily on imported Jet A-1 due to limited domestic refining capacity, leaving airlines vulnerable to supply disruptions and fluctuations in global oil prices.

The latest figures align with the Federal Government's drive to strengthen energy security through increased local refining while reducing foreign exchange spent on importing refined petroleum products.

However, the data also highlighted persistent supply volatility, with refinery receipts ranging from a peak of 14 million litres per day in December 2025 to 2.5 million litres per day in June 2026, indicating that maintaining stable production remains critical despite the country's success in eliminating imports.

The development comes months after a sharp rise in Jet A-1 prices pushed up airfares across Nigeria. In March 2026, aviation fuel prices surged from about N900 per litre in January to as high as N2,557 per litre, increasing operating costs for airlines, where fuel accounts for about 40 per cent of total expenses.

Although domestic production is expected to cushion the industry against external shocks, sustained and consistent refinery output will be key to ensuring stable supply and more predictable aviation fuel prices.

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Local Transport News

LAMATA To Prosecute Commuters Paying Cash On Regulated Bus Services From Aug 1

Culled

The Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) has announced that commuters who pay cash to board regulated bus services in Lagos will face arrest and prosecution beginning August 1, 2026, as the agency intensifies enforcement of its cashless fare payment policy.

LAMATA said the move expands existing enforcement measures, which have previously targeted bus drivers and ground staff caught collecting cash fares. According to the agency, several offenders have already been arrested, prosecuted, and, in some cases, convicted for violating the policy.

The authority explained that the collection of cash fares within the regulated bus system constitutes an economic crime against the state because it undermines the integrity of the electronic fare collection system, deprives operators of legitimate revenue, and threatens the sustainability of public transport services.



LAMATA

LAMATA noted that regulated bus operators have consistently raised concerns over the financial impact of cash fare collections, stating that revenue losses have affected their ability to purchase spare parts, maintain buses, restore grounded vehicles to operation, and meet critical obligations, including the payment of workers' salaries.

To support compliance with the policy, the agency said commuters can obtain the Cowry Card at designated bus terminals as well as at the Blue and Red Line train stations, where electronic fare payments are accepted.

The authority reaffirmed its commitment to improving public transportation across Lagos by ensuring that more buses remain operational and that commuters enjoy safer, more reliable, and efficient transport services.

According to LAMATA, protecting fare revenue is essential for operators to recover operating costs, maintain serviceable fleets, and improve service delivery across the regulated transport network.

The agency urged all passengers to comply with the cashless payment system by using only approved electronic payment channels and encouraged commuters to report any driver or transport staff who requests or accepts cash payments.

The authority explained that the collection of cash fares within the regulated bus system constitutes an economic crime against the state because it undermines the integrity of the electronic fare collection system, deprives operators of legitimate revenue, and threatens the sustainability of public transport services.

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S'holders Demand Independent Review Of NUPRC's 2025 Licensing Round



NUPRC

A coalition of stakeholders in Nigeria's oil and gas industry has called on President Bola Tinubu to order an independent review of the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) 2025 Licensing Round, citing concerns over the implementation of qualification requirements during the bidding process.

The group said the review would strengthen confidence in Nigeria's upstream licensing framework and assure investors that the published rules guiding the exercise were applied fairly to all participants.

In a statement signed by the Chairman of the Coalition of Concerned Stakeholders in Nigeria's Oil and Gas Industry, Dele Olasile, the coalition said concerns had emerged from companies that participated in the licensing exercise, particularly over the mandatory purchase of proprietary geological and subsurface datasets required for qualification.

According to the coalition, both indigenous and international firms invested significant resources to acquire the required data packages after the commission made compliance a prerequisite for participation.

However, the group alleged that reports suggested some applicants progressed through the licensing process without purchasing the same datasets, raising concerns over whether the qualification requirements were applied uniformly.

The coalition urged the NUPRC to clarify the reports, including whether any waivers, exemptions, or alternative arrangements were granted during the qualification stage and the basis for such decisions.

It warned that any perception of inconsistent application of the rules could undermine investor confidence and discourage participation in future licensing rounds.

The stakeholders also called on the Presidency to establish an independent panel to determine whether the 2025 Licensing Round was conducted strictly in line with the commission's published guidelines.

They further urged relevant oversight institutions to review the exercise and provide necessary clarification, stressing that a transparent assessment would reinforce accountability, fairness, and regulatory certainty in Nigeria's petroleum sector.

Meanwhile, environmental experts have called for an urgent review of Nigeria's 34-year-old Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act, describing the existing framework as inadequate to address emerging environmental and social challenges associated with the country's transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

The call was made during a two-day policy laboratory organised by the Cleen Foundation in Port Harcourt to assess Nigeria's preparedness for a just energy transition.

Speaking at the event, the foundation's Programme Director, Salaudeen Hashim, said the current EIA process had become outdated and was contributing to weaknesses in Nigeria's response to environmental degradation.

Hashim stressed that Nigeria's shift to cleaner energy must avoid repeating the environmental failures associated with decades of fossil fuel exploitation, particularly in the Niger Delta.

He emphasized the need for host communities to actively participate in the energy transition process and benefit from renewable energy opportunities, while ensuring renewable energy remains accessible, affordable, and widely available.

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