Kano Set For N1trn Metro Rail Project As Yusuf-Tinubu Partnership Deepens

Kano State is set to benefit from a proposed metropolitan railway project estimated at more than N1 trillion, as the administration of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf deepens its collaboration with the Federal Government.

The proposed rail project is expected to significantly improve transportation within the Kano metropolis, ease traffic congestion and

CONTINUES ON P3

HBM Nigeria Commissions High-Capacity CNG Station In Cross River

HBM Nigeria Plc has commissioned a high-capacity Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) station at its Mfamosing Plant in Cross River State, as part of efforts to improve the efficiency and sustainability of its logistics operations.

The facility, inaugurated on Thursday, has an installed capacity of 144,000 standard cubic metres of CNG per day and can

CONTINUES ON P5

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E - NEWSPAPER

FG Unveils National Land Transport Policy, Targets Integrated Transport System

The Federal Government has unveiled Nigeria's first National Land Transport Policy, saying the initiative is aimed at developing an efficient and integrated transport system capable of driving economic growth and improving the movement of people and goods across the country.

Vice President Kashim Shettima disclosed this on Thursday in Abuja during the unveiling of the policy, describing transportation as a

CONTINUES ON P2

NCAA Approves eSIM Service For International Air Passengers P3

Lagos To Begin Gerard-Parkview Junction Upgrade September 14 P2

FG Moves To Strengthen Maritime Safety, Accident Reporting P2

Bola Ahmed Tinubu - President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Opebi Link Bridge To Open By Sept End, Sanwo-Olu Says

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has announced that the long-awaited Opebi Link Bridge will be opened to motorists before the end of September 2026.

The governor made the disclosure on Thursday while speaking as the keynote guest at the 7th Annual Lecture organised by Freedom Online Newspapers.

According to Sanwo-Olu, construction work on the bridge has reached the final stage, with workers currently carrying out finishing touches

CONTINUES ON P4

Oyetola Orders Transfer Of Inland Dry Ports To NPA P4

advert Space

Local Transport News

FG Moves To Strengthen Maritime Safety, Accident Reporting

Culled

The Federal Government has moved to strengthen Nigeria's maritime safety framework by clarifying the responsibilities of relevant agencies and improving the reporting and investigation of accidents on the nation's waterways.

The move followed discussions between the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy and the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) on a clearer framework for inter-agency collaboration, including a proposed protocol requiring marine casualties to be reported to investigators within one hour.

The Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Mrs Fatima Mahmood, made this known in Abuja when she received a delegation from the NSIB led by its Director-General, Capt. Alex Badeh Jr.

Mahmood said the ministry was conducting a comprehensive review of the marine and blue economy sector to ensure that government agencies were properly positioned to fulfil their statutory responsibilities and work towards common national objectives.

She stressed the need for clearly defined institutional responsibilities, particularly in maritime safety, accident investigation, regulation and enforcement.

According to her, the effectiveness of the country's waterways safety system would depend not only on the number of agencies involved but also on clear lines of responsibility and effective coordination.

Find Full Story In The Link

Tin Can Island

Lagos To Begin Gerard-Parkview Junction Upgrade September 14

Culled

The Lagos State Government will commence the improvement of the Turnbull–Parkview intersections along Gerrard Road, Ikoyi, on September 14, 2026, in a bid to ease persistent traffic congestion in the area.

The six-month project is designed to address bottlenecks around the Gerrard Road and Parkview corridor, improve the efficiency of the affected junctions and facilitate smoother movement of vehicles.

The Commissioner for Transportation, Oluwaseun Osiyemi, disclosed this on Thursday at a stakeholders' engagement held at Banana Island Estate, Ikoyi.

Osiyemi urged residents, estate managers, utility providers and other stakeholders to cooperate with the government and contractor to ensure the project is delivered on schedule.

He said the ministry would work with relevant stakeholders to prevent disruption to essential infrastructure, including electricity, water supply and fibre-optic cables, during construction.

According to him, a detailed traffic management plan will also be implemented to minimise the impact of the construction on motorists and residents. He added that major construction activities would be scheduled during off-peak periods where possible.

The commissioner further assured property owners that appropriate compensation arrangements had been made where the project's right-of-way affects private properties or involves encroachment.

The Director of Transport Engineering in the Ministry of Transportation, Bolaji Bada, said the two intersections connect to major roads and regularly experience heavy congestion, particularly during peak periods.

He explained that the planned intervention would eliminate traffic bottlenecks, improve intersection efficiency and enhance the overall flow of traffic in the corridor.

Find Full Story In The Link

FG Unveils National Land Transport Policy, Targets Integrated Transport System

Culled

The Federal Government has unveiled Nigeria's first National Land Transport Policy, saying the initiative is aimed at developing an efficient and integrated transport system capable of driving economic growth and improving the movement of people and goods across the country.

Vice President Kashim Shettima disclosed this on Thursday in Abuja during the unveiling of the policy, describing transportation as a critical pillar of the national economy because of its role in connecting workers, families, businesses, markets and communities.

Represented at the event by his Special Adviser on General Duties, Aliyu Modibbo Umar, Shettima said the administration was committed to providing the infrastructure required to support a productive, competitive and interconnected economy.

He said the government was moving away from developing transportation projects in isolation towards an integrated national network where roads, railways, ports, inland waterways and aviation would complement one another.

President Bola Tinubu

According to him, the policy is designed to ensure that transport infrastructure effectively links production centres with markets, ports and consumers while facilitating the efficient movement of people and goods nationwide.

In his welcome address, the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Transportation, Engr. Olufunso Adebiyi, said the essence of integration was to ensure that the various modes of transportation operated as components of a single national system rather than developing independently.

Adebiyi said the government was also focused on connecting transport infrastructure to the country's major economic gateways.

He identified the rail connection to Apapa Port as an important foundation for more efficient cargo evacuation, adding that the ministry was pursuing further rail connectivity to Tin Can Island and other strategic port and industrial locations.

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Local Transport News

Lagos Maritime Week To Drive Policy Implementation, Industry Growth

Culled

Lagos is set to host key stakeholders in Nigeria's maritime industry and the international maritime community at the 11th International Maritime Business-to-Business Conference and Exhibition, organised as part of the Lagos International Maritime Week (LIMWEEK) 2026.

The three-day event, organised by Zoe Maritime Resources Limited, will be held at the Lagos Oriental Hotel, Victoria Island, under the theme, "From Policy to Practice – Powering Maritime Excellence."

The 2026 edition is designed to bridge the gap between maritime policy formulation and practical implementation, with particular emphasis on collaboration, innovation and measurable outcomes across Africa's maritime sector.

According to the organisers, the conference will provide a platform for stakeholders to engage in meaningful discussions, exchange knowledge, explore business opportunities and develop practical solutions to challenges confronting the maritime industry.

Government officials, regulators, maritime professionals, industry leaders, academics, investors, businesses, young professionals and representatives of international maritime organisations are expected to participate.

The organisers said participants would also examine emerging trends,

Find Full Story In The Link

Maritime Sector

NCAA Approves eSIM Service For International Air Passengers

Culled

The Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has approved the introduction of an eSIM internet service designed to help Nigerian air passengers remain connected while travelling to international destinations.

The authority gave a "no objection" to the service, introduced by Univasa Nigeria Limited, following an assessment of the platform and feedback from users.

The initiative is expected to address persistent internet connectivity challenges faced by Nigerian travellers, particularly passengers who often struggle to access mobile data or communicate immediately after arriving in foreign countries.

Speaking at a UNIVASA-NCAA stakeholders' engagement in Abuja on Wednesday, the Director of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at the NCAA, Michael Achimugu, said the authority's decision was driven by the need to improve passengers' overall travel experience.

Achimugu said internet connectivity had remained a recurring challenge for international travellers, especially those who need to purchase data upon arrival in another country.

He explained that the NCAA was willing to support solutions that addressed identified challenges affecting passengers, in line with the Federal Government's efforts to encourage local businesses providing practical solutions to Nigerians' needs.

According to him, the authority's position was straightforward: when a problem affecting passengers is identified, efforts should be made to provide a solution that would make air travel more convenient.

Achimugu also disclosed that the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, uses the service when travelling abroad, adding that some chief executives in the aviation industry also use it.

The NCAA's Special Adviser to the Director-General, Ifueko Abdulmalik, said the authority was particularly interested in the service because of its potential impact on passenger experience.

Find Full Story In The Link

Kano Set For N1trn Metro Rail Project As Yusuf-Tinubu Partnership Deepens

Culled

Kano State is set to benefit from a proposed metropolitan railway project estimated at more than N1 trillion, as the administration of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf deepens its collaboration with the Federal Government.

The proposed rail project is expected to significantly improve transportation within the Kano metropolis, ease traffic congestion and stimulate commercial activities across the state.

According to a statement by Abdulmalik Suleiman, the project is being regarded by supporters of the governor as one of the major outcomes of Yusuf's engagement with the Federal Government under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda.

The statement said the proposed investment would strengthen Kano's transportation infrastructure and improve connectivity across the metropolitan area when completed.

Supporters of the governor said the development demonstrated the benefits of cooperation between state and federal authorities, particularly in attracting large-scale infrastructure projects.

Governor Abba Yusuf, President Bola Tinubu

The proposed railway comes amid increased federal interventions in Kano, covering areas such as road infrastructure, education, healthcare, agriculture and social investment.

Yusuf, who recently defected to the All Progressives Congress (APC), has maintained closer ties with President Tinubu and other political stakeholders in the state.

His supporters have attributed the improved relationship to the emergence of a more favourable environment for federal projects and programmes in Kano.

Political observers also noted that Yusuf's engagement with political figures, including former governors Abdullahi Umar Ganduje and Ibrahim Shekarau, as well as serving and former senators, reflects a shift towards greater cooperation between Kano and the Federal Government.

They said the proposed railway could have significant economic benefits for commuters, traders and businesses, particularly by improving the movement of people and goods across the metropolis.

The project is also expected to create opportunities for businesses located along the proposed railway corridor and contribute to wider economic activities in the state.

The statement credited the Yusuf administration with supporting the Federal Government's Renewed Hope Agenda and seeking to implement relevant federal programmes in Kano.

It added that political differences should not be allowed to hinder projects and policies capable of improving the welfare of citizens.

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Local Transport News

Opebi Link Bridge To Open By September End, Sanwo-Olu Says

Culled

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has announced that the long-awaited Opebi Link Bridge will be opened to motorists before the end of September 2026.

The governor made the disclosure on Thursday while speaking as the keynote guest at the 7th Annual Lecture organised by Freedom Online Newspapers.

According to Sanwo-Olu, construction work on the bridge has reached the final stage, with workers currently carrying out finishing touches ahead of its commissioning and opening to motorists.

He said the state government was making efforts to ensure that the project was completed and put into use within the announced timeframe.

Sanwo-Olu also revealed that the government was planning to add an architectural feature to the bridge as part of efforts to enhance its appearance and potentially transform the structure into a tourist attraction.

"I want to assure you that the Opebi Link Bridge will be opened by the end of September. We are trying to install the ark on the bridge. We want to make it a tourist attraction," the governor said.

The Opebi Link Bridge is expected to strengthen road connectivity between Opebi and neighbouring areas when it becomes operational.

The project is also expected to provide an alternative route for motorists and improve traffic flow along the corridor, particularly for residents and commuters who rely on the area for their daily movement.

Find Full Story In The Link

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu

FERMA Rehabilitates Roads, Restores Erosion-Hit Bridge In Delta

Culled

The Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) has rehabilitated failed sections of federal roads and restored an erosion-threatened bridge in Delta State as part of efforts to improve road safety and connectivity.

The interventions include repairs on the 38-kilometre Kwale-Ebedei-Umutu Road and restoration work at the Okumeshi Bridge section.

The development was disclosed on Wednesday during a monitoring visit to ongoing FERMA projects in the state, led by the agency's Special Assistant to the Managing Director, Dr Emeka Maduagwu.

Speaking on the Kwale-Ebedei-Umutu Road, FERMA's Federal Roads Maintenance Engineer in Delta State, Kingsley Oshewe, said rehabilitation had been carried out on sections between kilometres 21+000 and 24+000.

He explained that the work involved scarification, removal of failed pavement materials, filling with sharp sand and laterite, compaction, stone-base application, priming and asphalt surfacing.

Oshewe said several portions of the affected road had been successfully restored.

The monitoring team also inspected the Okumeshi Bridge section at kilometre 15 between Ebedei and Umukuata communities in Ukwuani Local Government Area.

An embankment washout had threatened the bridge approach and posed a risk of cutting off the carriageway.

In response, FERMA constructed a reinforced concrete retaining wall, backfilled the affected area with laterite and protected the embankment with stone pitching to prevent further erosion.

Find Full Story In The Link

Oyetola Orders Transfer Of Inland Dry Ports To NPA

Oyetola

The Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, has directed the transfer of inland dry port (IDP) functions currently handled by the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) to the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA).

Oyetola also ordered the immediate constitution of a ministerial committee to oversee the transition of the Nigerian Shippers' Council into the newly established Nigeria Ports Economic Regulatory Agency (NPERA).

The directives followed President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's assent to the NPERA Act, 2026, which formally establishes a substantive economic regulator for Nigeria's port sector.

In a statement issued by his Special Adviser, Bolaji Akinola, in Abuja on Thursday, the minister said the measures were aimed at creating a clear separation between port economic regulation, development and operations.

The NPERA Act brings to an end a two-decade wait for a dedicated statutory economic regulator for the nation's port sector. Under the new framework, the NSC, which has served as Nigeria's interim port economic regulator since 2014, will transition into NPERA.

The new agency is expected to focus on economic regulatory functions, including tariff and charge regulation, promotion of competition, licensing, service standards, commercial dispute resolution and protection of port users.

Oyetola said the transition presented an opportunity to establish an independent regulator free from operational, developmental and promotional responsibilities that could create actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

"We must get the transition right. The establishment of NPERA is a landmark reform, and the process of moving from the Nigerian Shippers' Council to the Nigeria Ports Economic Regulatory Agency must be carefully managed," he said.

According to the minister, the committee would provide the necessary oversight to ensure a seamless transition and ensure that functions are assigned to institutions with appropriate mandates.

He stressed that the credibility and effectiveness of an economic regulator depended partly on its ability to operate as an impartial referee without responsibilities that could compromise public confidence in its neutrality.

"A regulator cannot function as an operator and, at the same time, be expected to be perceived as an unbiased referee," Oyetola said.

He added that clearly defined responsibilities would strengthen confidence in the regulatory framework, improve transparency and provide a more predictable operating environment for port users, investors, terminal operators, shipping companies and other stakeholders.

The minister, however, assured stakeholders that the transfer of IDP functions from the NSC to the NPA should not be seen as a reduction in the Federal Government's commitment to developing inland dry ports.

Rather, he said, the move was designed to strengthen the IDP programme by placing its promotion under an institution with the operational and infrastructure mandate to integrate the facilities into the country's broader port network.

"We are committed to strengthening the development of the Inland Dry Ports by placing their promotion within the agency with the appropriate operational and infrastructure mandate," Oyetola said.

He said the ultimate goal was to build a more efficient and integrated port system capable of serving businesses

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Local Transport News

HBM Nigeria Commissions High-Capacity CNG Station In Cross River

Culled

HBM Nigeria Plc has commissioned a high-capacity Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) station at its Mfamosing Plant in Cross River State, as part of efforts to improve the efficiency and sustainability of its logistics operations.

The facility, inaugurated on Thursday, has an installed capacity of 144,000 standard cubic metres of CNG per day and can initially refuel up to 150 trucks daily.

Equipped with two pumps and four dispensing points, the station is designed to operate around the clock, reducing refuelling queues and truck waiting times while improving fleet availability and turnaround time across the company's logistics network.

The company said the second phase of the project is expected to become operational by October 2026, raising the facility's capacity to approximately 250 trucks per day.

HBM Nigeria

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, Cross River State Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Pastor Ekpeyong EneCobhams, congratulated HBM Nigeria on the project and reaffirmed the state government's commitment to creating an investment-friendly environment.

EneCobhams said the adoption of cleaner energy sources for transportation and logistics was increasingly important to improving efficiency in the movement of goods and services.

He also commended HBM Nigeria for its investment and corporate social responsibility initiatives in the state.

The Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of HBM Nigeria Plc, Lolu Alade-Akinyemi, described the facility as a major milestone in the company's commitment to operational efficiency, sustainability and cost reduction.

He said energy and logistics remained significant cost drivers across the company's operations and value chain, adding that increased reliance on CNG would help make its operations more efficient and cost-effective.

According to him, the investment also supports the Federal Government's drive to promote CNG as a cleaner alternative energy source.

"With this facility, we will utilise cleaner, environmentally friendly, more efficient and effective energy sources," Alade-Akinyemi said.

He added that the project would create opportunities for communities, customers, contractors and transporters in Cross River State and beyond.

The Logistics Director of HBM Nigeria, Osaze Aghatise, said the company had used CNG in its logistics operations for about nine years, but the new facility represented a major expansion in the scale of deployment.

Find Full Story In The Link

Sokoto Commissions N5.6bn Rural Roads, Bridge In Silame

Sokoto commissions N5.6bn rural roads

The Sokoto State Government has commissioned two major rural infrastructure projects valued at N5.6 billion in Silame Local Government Area, in a move aimed at improving connectivity and stimulating economic activities in rural communities.

The projects comprise the N2.4 billion Silame Bridge and the 9.4-kilometre Garin Magaji-Gittarana rural road.

The projects were commissioned by Nasarawa State Governor, Abdullahi Sule, during activities marking the third anniversary of the administration of Sokoto State Governor, Ahmed Aliyu.

Speaking at the commissioning, Sule commended the Sokoto government for prioritising rural infrastructure, describing roads and bridges as essential to economic growth and improved living conditions.

He said the projects would facilitate the movement of people and agricultural produce while improving access to schools, healthcare facilities, markets and other commercial centres.

According to him, the infrastructure would also boost trade, create employment and strengthen farming and livestock production, which are major sources of livelihood for residents of Silame.

Sule urged the state government to sustain its road construction programme and called for stronger collaboration among northern governors to address the region's infrastructure and socio-economic challenges.

He also appealed to residents to protect public infrastructure from vandalism and deliberate destruction.

Earlier, Governor Aliyu said the projects were part of his administration's commitment to providing infrastructure capable of transforming rural communities and expanding economic opportunities across the state.

He explained that the Silame Bridge, constructed at a cost of N2.4 billion, comprises two six-cell box culverts, a retaining wall and an asphalt overlay extending from the Silame Police Station to the bridge.

Aliyu said the bridge was strategically important to residents of Silame, Wamakko, Bodinga and Kware local government areas because of the concentration of agricultural and commercial activities along the corridor.

He added that the project would improve connectivity between Sokoto and neighbouring Kebbi State and complement the Federal Government's ongoing Illela-Badagry Superhighway.

On the Garin Magaji-Gittarana road, the governor said the 9.4-kilometre project was executed in partnership with the Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP).

He said the road would connect farming communities to markets and essential services, reduce travel time, improve road safety and ease the transportation of agricultural produce.

Aliyu listed other rural roads executed by his administration to include Buzallega, Lukuwa, Yar Gaga-Malakawa Shellar, Kakatuku-Dandamu, Unguwar Midaji-Kaurare-Gwagwar Yaya-Gwagwar Dikko and Gande-Mali-Gwahitto-Fakko.

He disclosed that additional road projects had been awarded, with some completed and commissioned while others were at various stages of construction.

The governor commended the state Ministry of Works, contractors, community leaders and residents for their contributions to the successful delivery of the projects.

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Foreign Transport News

Quectel Develops 5G Module For Next-Generation Railway Communications

Culled

Quectel has developed a new variant of its RG660Qx 5G module to support early testing of the Future Railway Mobile Communication System (FRMCS), the next-generation communications technology being developed to replace GSM-R in railway operations.

The company said the new LGA version of the module supports the n100 and n101 frequency bands associated with FRMCS and is accompanied by an evaluation environment comprising an adaptor board and evaluation board (EVB) kit.

FRMCS is designed to use 5G technology to support critical railway functions, including train control, signalling, operational communications and other mission-critical applications.

According to Quectel, the new module is primarily aimed at railway equipment manufacturers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), system integrators and other technology companies that need to begin evaluating FRMCS-compatible hardware ahead of wider deployment.

The company said the module and evaluation kit would be made available to customers requesting them after validation has been completed. Quectel also plans to collaborate with industry stakeholders on early-stage testing and interoperability activities.

The development is expected to enable railway technology suppliers to conduct device-level testing and assess how future FRMCS equipment will integrate with antennas, processors and other onboard or trackside systems.

Rather than representing a completed commercial railway communications platform, the new RG660Qx variant provides developers with hardware on which they can begin exploring the requirements associated with the transition from GSM-R to FRMCS.

The railway-focused module builds on Quectel's existing RG660Qx family, which is based on Qualcomm Technologies' X85 and X82 5G Modem-RF systems. The platform supports Sub-6GHz 5G, Ethernet speeds of up to 10Gbps and Power Class 1.5 for extended coverage.

Find Full Story In The Link

Iran, Oman Discuss Strait Of Hormuz Maritime Service Fees

Culled

Iran and Oman will study the costs to be charged for services provided in administering the Strait of Hormuz, the two countries said Tuesday, insisting they held sovereignty over the waterway.

Tehran has repeatedly said it plans to charge what it calls maritime service fees for crossing the strait, as opposed to tolls, a plan fiercely opposed by the United States.

In a joint statement on Tuesday, Iran and Oman emphasised their "sovereign rights over their territorial waters", but Muscat's foreign minister said on X that both sides were committed to "toll-free safe passage".

They "agreed to maintain their dialogue on this issue through a joint working group between the two foreign ministries", the statement said.

The working group was aimed at reaching "agreement on the future administration of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the services that will be provided in this regard and the costs associated with them in accordance with international standards", they said.

The statement followed meetings in Muscat between top officials from the two nations. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf met Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi.

Last week, Iran's foreign ministry said the country would impose what it called maritime service fees for crossing the strait.

Ghalibaf has said the fees will come into effect after a 60-day period without charges that is stipulated in a memorandum of understanding signed with the United States.

The MOU states that Iran and Oman, which border the strait, will discuss its "future administration and maritime services" alongside other Gulf countries.

The strait, through which roughly 20 percent of the world's crude oil and liquified natural gas normally transits, was closed by Iran after it came under fire from the United States and Israel.

But Iran has since lifted its blockade as part of the deal signed with the US last week.

Prior to the memorandum of understanding, Oman had come under fire from US officials over reports it planned to charge joint tolls with Iran.

US President Donald Trump has threatened that if Oman tries to control the waterway alongside Iran he will "blow them up".

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has also said he will sanction Muscat if it helps impose a tolling system.

On Tuesday, Omani Foreign Minister Albusaidi said on X following his meeting with Araghchi and Ghalibaf that "we affirmed commitment to international law and toll-free safe passage".

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General News

Security, Infrastructure Key To Unlocking Nigeria's Economic Potential - Daniel

Gbenga Daniel

Culled:

Former Ogun State Governor and Senator representing Ogun East, Gbenga Daniel, has said Nigeria's economic growth cannot be sustained without adequate security and infrastructure.

Daniel made the remarks on Thursday while delivering his preliminary address as Special Guest of Honour at the 7th Freedom Online Yearly Lecture held at the Sheraton Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos.

The lecture, themed "2027 Elections: Economy, Security and Nigeria's Future," featured Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, as Special Guest Speaker, while former Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed, served as chairman.

Daniel said recent improvements in the economy, including the reported 4.43 per cent growth recorded in real Gross Domestic Product in the second quarter of 2026, would only be meaningful if they translated into improved living conditions for Nigerians.

He stressed that economic development and national security were closely connected, noting that insecurity affects food production, transportation, investment and the ability of businesses to operate competitively.

«"Nigeria cannot have a strong economy without security, and it cannot have lasting security without a strong economy. The two are inseparable," he said.»

According to him, the performance of the economy should not be measured solely by GDP figures but also by the ability of Nigerians to secure decent jobs, farmers to access their farms safely, manufacturers to produce competitively and small businesses to cope with the rising costs of power, transportation and finance.

Daniel described security as more than a responsibility of the military, police and other security agencies, arguing that it should be regarded as an essential component of the nation's economic infrastructure.

He said insecurity imposes additional costs on businesses and discourages investment, while farmers who are unable to safely access their farmlands are prevented from contributing fully to food production.

The former governor cited reports of more than 7,800 abductions between July 2025 and June 2026 as an indication of the economic consequences of insecurity.

«"The reported abduction of more than 7,800 people between July 2025 and June 2026 is therefore not only a security statistic.

Find Full Story In The Link

Dangote Cement Takes Investment Drive To London

Dangote Cement

Culled:

Dangote Cement Plc is set to engage international investors in London as Nigeria regains its position on the FTSE Russell Frontier Market indices, a development expected to renew global interest in the country's capital market.

The cement manufacturer will host a Capital Market Day in London on September 21, where its management is expected to present the company's financial performance, business strategy and expansion plans to international investors.

The event comes at a significant time for Nigeria's capital market following the country's return to the FTSE Russell Frontier Market indices. The development is expected to improve the visibility of Nigerian equities and potentially stimulate renewed foreign investment in the market.

As one of the largest companies listed on the Nigerian Exchange, Dangote Cement is positioned to benefit from increased international attention on Nigerian assets.

The company is also advancing plans for a secondary listing on the London Stock Exchange after shareholders approved the proposal. The planned listing is expected to strengthen Dangote Cement's access to international capital and broaden its investor base.

The London engagement comes on the back of strong financial performance by the company in the first half of 2026.

Dangote Cement reported revenue of N2.51 trillion for the six-month period, representing a 21.4 per cent increase from the N2.07 trillion recorded in the corresponding period of 2025.

Profit before tax rose by 34.4 per cent to N981.39 billion, while earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation increased by 25.8 per cent to N1.19 trillion.

The company's earnings per share also grew by 24.3 per cent to N38.22 during the period.

Find Full Story In The Link

S'holders Target 25m Nigerians In New Insurance Literacy Drive

Culled:

Stakeholders in Nigeria's insurance industry have launched a new initiative aimed at reaching 25 million Nigerians with insurance literacy and financial education as part of efforts to deepen insurance penetration and restore public confidence in the sector.

The Insurance Sector Strengthening Programme (ISSP), launched in Abuja on Thursday, also targets an increase in Nigeria's insurance penetration from about 0.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2028.

The programme is designed to expand access to insurance among women, young people and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), while improving the capacity of insurance professionals and promoting greater use of digital platforms.

The initiative is structured around six pillars: advocacy and policy support; awareness and education; capacity building; gender inclusion; youth engagement and innovation; and MSME and value-chain strengthening.

Speaking at the launch, the Commissioner for Insurance and Chief Executive Officer of the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM), Olusegun Omosehin, described the programme as a major step towards building an insurance industry that better responds to the needs of Nigerians and the wider economy.

He said low public awareness, limited coverage, distribution challenges, inadequate opportunities for women and young people, capacity gaps and declining consumer trust remained major obstacles to the growth of the sector.

According to figures presented at the event, only about five per cent of Nigeria's estimated 220 million population currently has insurance coverage, while 78 per cent of Nigerians lack a basic understanding of insurance products.

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General News

Shettima

Nigeria-IEA Pact Validates Tinubu's Economic Reforms - Shettima

Culled:

Nigeria's formal admission into the International Energy Agency (IEA) as an Association Country has been described by Vice President Kashim Shettima as a significant milestone and a validation of the economic and energy reforms being implemented by President Bola Tinubu's administration.

Shettima made the remarks on Thursday in Abuja while speaking at the signing of a Joint Work Programme between Nigeria and the IEA, aimed at strengthening energy data, policymaking and investment across the country's energy value chain.

Representing President Tinubu, the Vice President said Nigeria's admission into the Paris-based energy organisation demonstrated the country's strategic importance in the global energy landscape and reflected international confidence in its commitment to energy cooperation.

According to him, the development further justified the administration's decision to leverage Nigeria's abundant energy resources to drive economic growth and improve energy security.

He said the partnership would provide Nigeria with access to the IEA's institutional knowledge, technical expertise, data and global network, which could support the country's ambitions in the energy sector.

"Given our potential, the country will benefit from IEA's institutional knowledge, intellectual resources, reach and expertise to support our nation's ambitions in this sector," Shettima said.

The Vice President also highlighted Nigeria's significant renewable energy potential, saying the administration remained committed to repositioning the economy by harnessing the country's available resources.

He assured the IEA delegation that Nigeria would continue to work with international and domestic stakeholders to contribute meaningfully to the global conversation on energy security and a fair and just energy transition.

Earlier, the IEA Executive Director, Dr Fatih Birol, explained that the agency works with governments across various energy and technology fields, including oil and gas, solar power, nuclear energy, artificial intelligence and electric vehicles.

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ICC Dismisses Petition Seeking Probe Into Nigeria Kidnapping

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has dismissed an anonymous petition seeking an investigation into alleged systemic kidnappings in Nigeria as crimes against humanity.

The petition, titled "Formal Communication Requesting Investigation into Systemic Kidnappings in Nigeria as Crimes Against Humanity," was filed under Document No. ICC-RoC46(3)-01/26.

The petition was dismissed in limine, meaning at the threshold, by Pre-Trial Chamber II on September 1, 2026, after the chamber determined that the request was not properly before the court and lacked a legal basis.

The development was disclosed on Thursday by the Office of the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi (SAN).

Fagbemi welcomed the decision but expressed concern over the manner in which the anonymous filing was initially processed by the ICC.

According to the Attorney-General, the petition was submitted by an "unknown submitter" and subsequently assigned to Pre-Trial Chamber II by the President of the Pre-Trial Division on August 26, 2026.

He argued that the assignment occurred without a prior determination of whether the communication met the required legal threshold or whether the filing was manifestly frivolous.

In a statement signed by Kamarudeen Ogundele, Special Adviser to the Attorney-General on Communication and Publicity, the Federal Government described the initial handling of the petition as a departure from established ICC procedures.

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