

Airport Taxi Operators Seek Extension Of FAAN Vehicle Upgrade Deadline

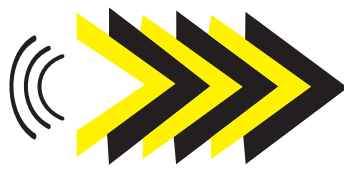
Airport taxi operators the mandatory outofbusiness. have appealed to the replacement of The operators, who Federal Airports vehicles manufactured spoke with Authority of Nigeria from 2012, saying the journalists in Abuja, (FAAN) to extend the policy could force said the cost of October deadline for many small operators acquiring vehicles

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One Dead As Suspected Drunk Driver Crashes Commercial Bus Into Median At Ojuelegba

A passenger lost his life on Sunday following a lone road crash involving a commercial Volks- wagen bus at the Ojuelegba area of the bus , with Surulere,Lagos. registration number L N D 1 3 0 X R , The accident occurred at Ogunlana Junction -reportedly veered off inward Ojuelegba, near the road and rammed the Fallout area, when into a median pole.

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FG Approves Upgrade Of Four Ports To Boost Maritime Capacity

The Federal Government has approved a comprehensive modernisation and upgrade programme for the Onne, Rivers, Delta and Calabar ports as part of Nigeria's maritime infrastructure and enhance the sector's contribution to economic growth. The Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, disclosed this in a statement issued by his Special Adviser, Bolaji

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Adegboyega Oyetola - Minister of Marine and Blue Economy

LASTMA Impounds 84 Vehicles In Cra'down On One-Way Driving, Illegal Garages

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) has impounded 84 commercial and private vehicles for various traffic offences during a weekend targeted one-way enforcement operation across Idumota, Iddo, parking, unauthorised garages and other traffic violations that have continued to disrupt traffic flow and endanger road users in the affected areas. According to LASTMA, the

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Local Transport News

States Roll Out CNG Buses As FG Targets Lower Transport Fares

Culled
Several state governments have commenced the deployment of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses and electric vehicles as part of efforts to reduce public transportation costs and cushion the impact of high fuel prices on commuters.

The development followed a directive by President Bola Tinubu on September 18, urging state governments to accelerate the deployment of CNG and electric mass transit systems ahead of the Federal Government's October 1 target for measurable reductions in transportation fares.

While Kano, Akwa Ibom and Cross River states have already deployed CNG buses, others, including Delta, Ondo and Edo, are preparing to receive or introduce additional vehicles. However, indications emerged that several states may not meet the October 1 deadline.

The President, in an update on the National Affordable CNG Transit Programme, said Nigeria must take

advantage of its abundant natural gas resources to develop cheaper domestic energy alternatives and reduce its exposure to fluctuations in international energy prices.

Tinubu said more than 120,000 vehicles had so far been converted to CNG under the programme, while over 400 certified conversion centres and more than 90 CNG refuelling stations were operational across the country and the Federal Capital Territory.

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CNG Buses

Nasarawa Gov Inaugurates 5.2km Akwanga-Jos Bypass, Other Roads

Culled
Nasarawa State Governor, Abdullahi Sule, has inaugurated the newly completed 5.2-kilometre Akwanga-Jos bypass in Akwanga Local Government Area of the state.

Sule also inaugurated one-kilometre roads constructed in Akwanga, Nasarawa-Eggon and Wamba Local Government Areas by the respective council chairmen as part of activities marking the 30th anniversary of the creation of Nasarawa State.

Speaking during the inauguration of the bypass on Saturday, the governor described the project as a strategic intervention aimed at easing traffic congestion in Akwanga and stimulating economic activities along the corridor.

According to him, the bypass would provide an alternative route for motorists travelling from Keffi or Gudi towards Jos, reducing travel time, minimising accidents in Akwanga town and prolonging the lifespan of township roads.

Sule said, "This is more than a road. It is an economic corridor. For years, our people in Akwanga have suffered traffic gridlock and accidents because all vehicles going towards Jos must pass through the heart of the town.

"Today, we have provided an alternative route that will bring relief to our people and open up new areas for development."

The governor commended the contractor for completing the project on schedule and according to specifications, noting that the bypass was constructed to the same standard as the federal highway to withstand heavy-duty vehicles.

He also promised that solar-powered street lights would be installed along the road to improve visibility and enhance the safety of motorists at night.

Sule assured residents that his administration would continue to prioritise the development of urban and rural roads across the state's 13 local government areas.

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One Dead As Suspected Drunk Driver Crashes Commercial Bus Into Median At Ojuelegba

Culled
A passenger lost his life on Sunday following a lone road crash involving a commercial Volkswagen bus at the Ojuelegba area of Surulere, Lagos.

The accident occurred at Ogunlana Junction inward Ojuelegba, near the Fallout area, when the bus, with registration number LND 130 XR, reportedly veered off the road and rammed into a median pole.

According to the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), preliminary security reports indicated that the driver was allegedly under the influence of alcohol and had been driving recklessly moments before the crash. Motorists travelling behind the vehicle reportedly exercised caution in an attempt to avoid colliding with the erratically driven bus.

In the course of the incident, a male passenger reportedly jumped from the moving vehicle in an apparent bid to save himself. He sustained severe injuries after hitting the ground and was later confirmed dead.



a passenger dead on the median of Ojuelegba

LASTMA officials on routine traffic surveillance in the area responded immediately to the scene, secured the accident site, managed traffic and removed the damaged vehicle and the victim from the carriageway to prevent a secondary crash.

Personnel from the Area C Police Division, Ojuelegba, provided security at the scene, while officials of the State

Emergency Management Agency evacuated the deceased.

Reacting to the incident, LASTMA General Manager, Olalekan Bakare-Oki, described the crash as another tragic reminder of the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving and operating mechanically defective vehicles.

Bakare-Oki urged both commercial and

private motorists to carry out regular mechanical inspections of their vehicles, paying particular attention to brakes, tyres, steering systems and other critical safety components before embarking on any journey.

He also expressed condolences to the family of the deceased passenger and reaffirmed the agency's commitment to prompt emergency response.

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Lagos Taskforce Denies Demanding TRD Permit From Truck Driver

Culled
The Lagos State Environmental and Special Offences (Enforcement) Unit, popularly known as the Lagos State Taskforce, has denied demanding a permit from a truck driver for the inscription of “TRD” on his vehicle. The agency described the claim circulating on social media as false and misleading, stressing that requesting or enforcing permits for inscriptions on vehicles does not form part of its statutory or operational responsibilities. In a statement issued by its Director of Public Affairs, Gbadeyan Abdulraheem, the Taskforce said it had no basis to stop or accost any driver for the purpose of demanding such a permit. The agency also clarified that its personnel are no longer involved in traffic-related enforcement following a directive by the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Command, discontinuing such activities. According to the Taskforce, its

operatives have consequently ceased the arrest and enforcement of traffic offences and are not authorised to stop vehicles for traffic violations or conduct traffic enforcement operations. The agency urged members of the public to exercise caution when attributing the actions of uniformed personnel to the Lagos State Taskforce, noting that the presence of camouflage or a similar uniform does not necessarily mean that the individual is a Taskforce operative.



Lagos Taskforce

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NIHTE Seeks AI-Powered Traffic Enforcement To Curb Road Violations

Culled
The Nigerian Institution of Highway and Transportation Engineers (NIHTE), Ibadan Chapter, has called for the deployment of artificial intelligence and intelligent transport systems to strengthen traffic enforcement, improve road safety and reduce violations across the country. The call was made by the Chairman of the Ibadan Chapter, Lawal Sulaiman Olalekan, during his inauguration as the fourth chairman of the chapter at its sixth annual conference held in Ibadan, Oyo State, on Saturday. The conference, themed, “Drivers' Traffic Violations and Their Impact on Highway Performance: Empirical Evidence from AI-Based System in Nigeria,” also featured the inauguration of the chapter's new executive members. Olalekan said the adoption of AI-powered cameras, automated number plate recognition (ANPR) and other smart traffic management technologies would enhance compliance with traffic

regulations while improving safety, efficiency and sustainability across Nigeria's road networks. He explained that intelligent traffic control systems could analyse real-time data generated from cameras, sensors and GPS devices to detect traffic violations, ease congestion, predict traffic build-ups and automatically adjust traffic signals. According to him, the technology would not only reduce travel time and fuel consumption but also help prevent accidents associated with human error and poor coordination of traffic. Olalekan further noted that automated enforcement could provide an additional source of revenue for governments through fines imposed on motorists who violate traffic regulations. He said, “It will also lead to massive revenue generation for the government through fines from traffic violations and enforcement of road regulations. “So, it is going to be a win-win for the government and citizens who will enjoy good traffic coordination.”

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LASTMA Impounds 84 Vehicles In Crackdown On One-Way Driving, Illegal Garages

Culled
The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) has impounded 84 commercial and private vehicles for various traffic offences during a weekend enforcement operation across Idumota, Iddo, Ijora-Olopa, Costain and Onipanu. The exercise targeted one-way driving, illegal parking, unauthorised garages and other traffic violations that have continued to disrupt traffic flow and endanger road users in the affected areas. According to LASTMA, the operation was aimed at restoring order and ensuring compliance with traffic regulations along critical corridors where persistent violations by commercial bus operators and other motorists have become commonplace. The agency expressed particular concern over the growing practice of commercial buses reversing against traffic from Iddo to Idumota through Carter Bridge, describing the act as highly dangerous and capable of



Bakare-Oki

causing fatal crashes. LASTMA noted that unsuspecting motorists, commuters and pedestrians approaching the bridge could be caught off guard by vehicles reversing against the designated direction of traffic, thereby increasing the risk of collisions and injuries. The enforcement exercise, however, turned violent as some suspected

hoodlums and miscreants allegedly attacked LASTMA officials, injuring some personnel and damaging operational vehicles while officers carried out their duties. The agency said some of the suspects involved in the attacks were arrested. LASTMA General Manager, Olalekan Bakare-Oki, described the operation as a necessary intervention to address what he called the growing culture of

impunity among road users. He reiterated that the agency had repeatedly warned transport operators and commercial bus drivers against converting under-bridge spaces, road setbacks and other unauthorised locations into illegal garages, stressing that such activities obstruct traffic and pose serious safety risks. Bakare-Oki said the enforcement campaign would continue to ensure compliance with traffic laws, discourage dangerous driving practices and protect the lives and property of residents. He warned that no individual or group would be allowed to use public roads, bridges or under-bridge spaces for illegal loading, parking, vehicle repairs or garage operations. The agency urged commercial bus operators, motorists, transport unions and other stakeholders to desist from one-way driving, dangerous reversing, illegal parking, indiscriminate loading and the occupation of unauthorised garages.

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Local Transport News

Jet A1 Shortage Disrupts Air Peace, Other Flights In Abuja

Culled
Flight operations at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, were disrupted on Saturday following a shortage of Jet A1 aviation fuel, affecting Air Peace and other airlines operating from the airport.

Air Peace, in a statement issued by its management, said the initial delays to its Abuja operations were caused by the unavailability of aviation fuel at the airport.

The airline explained that the affected flights could only commence operations after JetA1 became available.

However, Air Peace said its Abuja-Maiduguri service was unable to operate as scheduled despite the subsequent availability of fuel, citing another operational challenge.

According to the airline, an extension had initially been granted for the flight, but the arrangement became untenable by the time the aircraft was ready for boarding due to prevailing Visual Flight Rules (VFR) conditions.

It said the prevailing conditions meant the aircraft could not operate beyond sunset, forcing the cancellation of the Abuja-Maiduguri flight.

The disruption reportedly sparked frustration among some passengers, with a video showing their reaction to the delays circulating on social media.

Air Peace said it kept affected passengers informed throughout the disruption and provided refreshments while efforts were made to resolve the situation.

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Air Peace

Culled

Lagos State Deputy Governor and All Progressives Congress governorship candidate for the 2027 election, Obafemi Hamzat, has described the persistent traffic congestion in Lagos as more than a transportation challenge, saying it has become an integral part of life in the state.

Hamzat stated this while speaking at PODFEST Naija, where he reflected on the experiences and characteristics that have shaped Lagos, as well as their influence on the city's creative and entertainment industries.

The deputy governor, who spoke on Friday, said Lagos had long been portrayed through stories centred on its heavy traffic, large population and chaotic urban environment.

“Not long ago, the story of Lagos was often told by other people; it was told in headlines about traffic, crowds and chaos. Some of those stories are not entirely wrong,” he said.

Hamzat noted that residents had become accustomed to the city's notorious traffic, using the experience as

Hamzat: Lagos Traffic Has Become Part Of Our Lifestyle

part of their daily routine.

“Anyone who has crossed Third Mainland Bridge at 6 p.m. knows that Lagos traffic is not a problem; it's just a lifestyle,” he said.

He further linked the city's traffic situation to the growth of the entertainment and creative industries, noting that many Lagos residents consume music, films and other forms of digital content while spending long hours on the roads.

“I suspect that many of us in this room produce things that are consumed episode by episode between Ojota and Obalende. In a way, traffic has been the patron of your industry,” Hamzat said.

The deputy governor urged members of the creative industry to look beyond the challenges associated with Lagos traffic.

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LSSTF Donates Security Gear To Maritime Police, Promises Patrol Vehicle



LSSTF donates security gear to Maritime Police

The Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF) has donated operational and protective equipment to the Nigeria Police Maritime Command as part of efforts to strengthen security along the state's waterways.

The Fund donated 30 ballistic helmets, 30 bulletproof vests, 30 pairs of operational boots and 30 raincoats to the command, while also promising to provide a new patrol pickup vehicle within the next month.

The Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of LSSTF, Dr Ayodele Ogunsan, announced the support during his maiden official visit to the Assistant

Inspector-General of Police in charge of the Maritime Command, AIG Ronke Nurat Okunade, at the Force Headquarters Annex in Lagos. Ogunsan said the intervention was aimed at enhancing the operational capacity of the Maritime Police, which he commended for its role in protecting Lagos waterways.

He noted that the command was saddled with the responsibility of securing the nation's maritime domain, combating maritime crimes and economic sabotage, as well as supporting the operations of agencies including the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA).

According to him, the intervention is particularly important as the country approaches the 2027 general elections and the ember months, when security agencies are expected to intensify operations.

He noted that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) had scheduled the presidential and National Assembly elections for January 16, 2027, while the governorship and state Houses of Assembly elections would hold on February 6, 2027.

Ogunsan said the sensitive nature of the period required increased attention to the security of Lagos waterways, adding that the LSSTF would continue to support security agencies in bridging their operational and logistical gaps.

He disclosed that the latest donation was part of the Fund's ongoing support for the Lagos Marine Police, which had previously included the provision of fuel for gunboats and repairs of marine assets.

He added that plans were also underway to procure new gunboats for the command.

The LSSTF, established in September 2007 through a Lagos State law as a public-private partnership, provides operational

support to security agencies through the provision of patrol vehicles, marine crafts, protective equipment and training.

Responding, AIG Okunade expressed appreciation to the LSSTF for the donation and continued partnership with the Nigeria Police.

She assured that the equipment would be deployed professionally and that the command would remain accountable in the discharge of its responsibilities.

On security preparations for the ember months and the 2027 elections, Okunade said the coastal environment remained safe under the command's watch, adding that the new equipment would further strengthen its operations.

She stressed the importance of local knowledge of the waterways and operating terrain in effective maritime policing, assuring that the command would continue to collaborate with relevant agencies to maintain security across Lagos waterways.

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Airport Taxi Operators Seek Extension Of FAAN Vehicle Upgrade Deadline

Culled

Airport taxi operators have appealed to the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) to extend the October deadline for the mandatory replacement of vehicles manufactured from 2012, saying the policy could force many small operators out of business. The operators, who spoke with journalists in Abuja, said the cost of acquiring vehicles that meet the new requirements, estimated at between N15 million and N18 million for some models, was beyond the financial capacity of many drivers and small car-hire companies. The Chairman of the airport cab operators, Prince Amao Sola, said operators were not opposed to the upgrade but needed additional time to mobilise funds for the replacement of their vehicles. He said, "We have been struggling to acquire vehicles that meet the requirement, putting the cost of some



Airport taxi operators

replacement cars at the nation's airports. said the cost of between N15 million The Authority replacing their vehicles and N18 million." subsequently extended was difficult to recover FAAN introduced the the compliance deadline from the limited number vehicle upgrade to January 2026, and of airport passengers directive in 2024 as later to June, before and the high cost of After expenses for vehicle washing, maintenance and repairs, Aliu said an operator could be left with only about N4,000 and service delivery at However, the operators Another operator, from the fare.

Ekwuemeaku Alex of Edom Comfort Auto Lease Ltd, said operators could charge between N20,000 and N25,000 for a trip, but their actual earnings were significantly lower after fuel and other operational expenses. He explained that some drivers could wait for several days before getting passengers, making it difficult to generate enough income to finance new vehicles. Aliu Abdulazee Aliu of Gentle Drive also said operators who acquired their existing vehicles through hire-purchase arrangements were particularly affected because the cost of the vehicles could be significantly higher under such arrangements. According to him, a typical airport-to-town trip costing about N25,000 could consume between N15,000 and N17,000 in fuel for the journey and return, while FAAN charges an additional N1,500 operational fee. After expenses for vehicle washing, maintenance and repairs, Aliu said an operator could be left with only about N4,000 from the fare.

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FG Approves Upgrade Of Four Ports To Boost Maritime Capacity



Dr. Oyetola

The Federal Government has approved a comprehensive modernisation and upgrade programme for the Onne, Rivers, Delta and Calabar ports as part of efforts to strengthen Nigeria's maritime infrastructure and enhance the sector's contribution to economic growth. The Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, disclosed this in a statement issued by his Special Adviser, Bolaji Ajibola. Oyetola said the latest approval complemented the earlier approval for the modernisation and upgrade of the Apapa and Tin Can Island ports in Lagos. According to him, the initiative is designed to

improve port infrastructure, enhance operational efficiency and strengthen the competitiveness of Nigeria's maritime industry. The minister said the Federal Government's decision to extend the modernisation programme beyond Lagos was also aimed at creating a more balanced national port system and reducing the concentration of cargo traffic around the Lagos ports. He noted that improved infrastructure at the Onne, Rivers, Delta and Calabar ports would increase cargo-handling capacity, reduce vessel turnaround time, improve regional connectivity and make the movement of goods more predictable and cost-effective. Oyetola said the ports had strategic importance to Nigeria's trade, industrial development and regional economy, stressing that the government was determined to equip them to meet the demands of a growing economy. He said the approval was part of the administration's broader strategy to

reposition the maritime sector as a major driver of trade, investment, employment and economic diversification. "This approval marks another important step in our determination to transform Nigeria's maritime infrastructure and unlock the enormous economic potential of our ports," Oyetola said. The minister added that President Bola Tinubu had identified infrastructure renewal and economic diversification as key components of the nation's economic growth strategy, noting that efficient and competitive ports were essential to facilitating trade, supporting industries, attracting investment and creating jobs. Beyond the modernisation of existing ports, Oyetola said the Federal Government had also approved the development of several new deep seaports across the country. They include the Ibom Deep Seaport in Akwa Ibom State, Bakassi Deep Seaport in Cross River State, Agge

Deep Seaport in Bayelsa State, Gateway Deep Seaport in Ogun State, Ondo Deep Seaport in Ondo State and Bonny Deep Seaport in Rivers State. According to him, the combination of upgrading existing ports and developing new deep seaports would significantly expand Nigeria's maritime capacity and create stronger economic corridors across different regions. "Our approach is comprehensive. We are modernising existing ports while facilitating the development of new deep seaports. This will give Nigeria greater capacity to handle increasing volumes of trade, attract investment and position our country as a major maritime and logistics hub in Africa," he said. Oyetola further said the Federal Government was working towards an integrated maritime and logistics system in which ports would be effectively connected with roads, railways, inland waterways and other transport infrastructure. Find Full Story In The Link

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Adamu Adaji

Nigeria Seeks Balance Between ECOWAS Free Movement, Border Security

Culled:
The Federal Government has called for a balance between the ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement and national security interests through improved profiling, documentation and monitoring of people entering and leaving the country.
The Director-General of the National Boundary Commission, Adamu Adaji, made this known in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria in Abuja on Sunday.
Adaji said the principle of free movement should not prevent Nigerian authorities from knowing the identities and activities of people

crossing the country's borders.
He explained that although the ECOWAS protocol guarantees the movement of persons and goods across member states, relevant border agencies remained responsible for monitoring activities within Nigeria's territorial boundaries.
According to him, travellers entering or leaving the country should be properly profiled and documented, including information on their identities and reasons for travelling.
He said stronger monitoring along border corridors was necessary to ensure that legitimate cross-border

movement was not exploited by criminal elements.
The NBC boss identified terrorism, kidnapping and arms smuggling among the security threats associated with Nigeria's border areas.
He also raised concerns over the continued use of illegal routes, urging authorities to identify, profile and monitor people using such crossings.
Adaji called for intensified efforts to reduce and eventually eliminate illegal border crossings through improved surveillance and stronger cooperation among relevant government agencies.

He said the Federal Government had established a Cross-Border Cooperation Platform to enhance collaboration, information sharing and intelligence exchange between Nigeria and neighbouring countries.
According to him, the initiative is aimed at strengthening joint efforts by Nigeria and its neighbours to secure their respective territories while facilitating legitimate cross-border activities.
He further advocated the deployment of modern technology, including surveillance systems and cameras, to monitor difficult and inaccessible border terrains.

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Nigeria's Investment Level Inadequate To Drive Job Creation

The Nigerian Economic Summit Group has raised concerns over Nigeria's current level of investment, saying it remains inadequate to generate the jobs, productivity gains and broad-based prosperity required to meet the needs of the country's rapidly growing population.
The private sector-led policy advocacy organisation made the assessment in a statement issued on Sunday by its Head of Strategic

Communication and Advocacy, Ayanyinka Ayanlowo, ahead of the 32nd Nigerian Economic Summit scheduled to hold on October 26 and 27, 2026, at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja.
The NESG stressed that sustainable economic transformation depends heavily on increased investment in businesses, industries, infrastructure, innovation and human capital.

It, however, noted that despite Nigeria's significant economic potential, productive investment remained below the level required to expand businesses, create employment opportunities and raise living standards.
According to the organisation, persistent infrastructure deficits, limited access to long-term financing, regulatory uncertainty and high operating costs have continued to

discourage productive investment in the country.
The NESG said the challenge had become more urgent amid growing global competition for investment capital, with countries increasingly competing to attract funds capable of supporting economic expansion and job creation.
It acknowledged that recent economic reforms aimed at stabilising the macroeconomic
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