

Delta Terminates Contracts Over Poor Performance, Approves Fresh Road Projects

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FCTA Probes Abuja Flooding, Threatens Demolition Of Structures On Waterways

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Ministry, NSIB Move To Strengthen Waterways Safety Collaboration

The Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy and the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) have commenced discussions on strengthening inter-agency collaboration to improve safety across Nigeria's waterways. The Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Mrs Fatima Sugra Tabi'a Mahmood, disclosed this on Wednesday in Abuja when she received a delegation from the NSIB, led by its

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Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, NSIB move to strengthen waterways safety

Lagos Taskforce Warns Okada Riders Against Plying Highways, BRT Corridors

The Lagos State Taskforce has warned commercial motorcycle operators, popularly known as Okada riders, against violating the corridors. The warning followed a public operating on highways, bridges, advocacy and walkways and Bus sensitisation exercise conducted by the agency in Ikorodu and its environs, amid growing concerns over the resurgence of Okada operations on restricted routes.

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FERMA Commends Tinubu’s Road Drive, Inspects Projects In Delta

Culled
The Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) has commended the administration of President Bola Tinubu for its renewed investment in road infrastructure, saying the interventions are gradually improving the condition of federal roads across the country.

FERMA also lauded the Minister of Works, David Umahi; Minister of State for Works, Bello Muhammad Goronyo; and its Managing Director, Chukwuemeka Agbasi, for their commitment to improving Nigeria's road network.

The commendation was made on Wednesday during an inspection of ongoing road maintenance and rehabilitation projects in Delta State by a management team led by the Special Assistant to the FERMA Managing Director, Engr. Dr Emeka Maduagwu. Maduagwu said the agency remained committed to its mandate of ensuring that federal roads were safe and

motorable, adding that the interventions in Delta were aimed at improving connectivity and facilitating the movement of people and goods.

He said the Federal Government had demonstrated the political will required to prioritise road infrastructure.

“What you see today is a clear demonstration of the will of Mr President, which he has shown through his investments in infrastructure and his commitment.



FERMA

Ministry, NSIB Move To Strengthen Waterways Safety Collaboration

Culled
The Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy and the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) have commenced discussions on strengthening inter-agency collaboration to improve safety across Nigeria's waterways.

The Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Mrs Fatima Sugra Tabi'a Mahmood, disclosed this on Wednesday in Abuja when she received a delegation from the NSIB, led by its Director-General, Capt. Alex Badeh Jnr., on a courtesy visit.

Mahmood said the engagement was aimed at clarifying the mandates of institutions operating within the marine and blue economy sector and improving coordination on waterways safety.

She explained that the ministry was undertaking a comprehensive review of the marine and blue economy ecosystem to ensure that relevant agencies were properly positioned to discharge their responsibilities and work towards common national objectives.

According to her, clearly defined roles backed by legal and statutory frameworks were essential, particularly in areas involving maritime safety, accident investigation, regulation and enforcement.

She said a coordinated approach would prevent overlapping responsibilities and enhance the effective implementation of government policies and programmes aimed at improving safety on the nation's waterways.

The permanent secretary assured the NSIB of the ministry's readiness to sustain engagement with the bureau and other relevant agencies, noting that effective inter-agency cooperation was critical to strengthening Nigeria's waterways safety framework.

Earlier, Badeh called for the integration of independent marine casualty investigations into ongoing reforms of the country's maritime policies.

He said the move would help prevent agencies from working at cross purposes and reduce avoidable deaths on Nigeria's inland waterways.

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Delta Terminates Contracts Over Poor Performance, Approves Fresh Road Projects

Culled
The Delta State Government has terminated contracts for several projects over poor performance, warning contractors against delays and abandonment of government-funded projects.

The Commissioner for Works (Rural Roads) and Public Information, Charles Aniagwu, disclosed this while briefing journalists on the resolutions of the State Executive Council meeting presided over by Governor Sheriff Oborevwori.

Aniagwu said the affected projects include the Okerenkoko Township Road, Adjei Street and School Road in a new layout in Warri South, and the permanent office complex of the Delta State Independent Electoral Commission (DSIEC).

According to him, the contracts were terminated following recommendations by the State Tenders Board after the contractors failed to execute the projects at the expected pace.

He said the government would



Delta State Government

commence fresh procurement processes to re-award the projects to contractors with the capacity to deliver them.

The commissioner said the decision was part of the administration's efforts to ensure timely completion of public projects and prevent taxpayers' funds from being tied down in abandoned or poorly executed projects.

The council also approved the reconstruction of the 9.35-kilometre Ezhionum–Ogume Road at an estimated cost of more than N7 billion.

Aniagwu said the project would improve connectivity, open up rural communities and stimulate economic activities in the area.

Other road projects approved by the council include the reconstruction of

Uba Egbelemeji–Ugbenikoko Road in Warri North; rehabilitation and reconstruction of Mosogar Community Road Junction–Okwueka Road; and the rebuilding of the Old Ovorie–Agbarho–Eku Road.

The council further approved the completion of storm drainage works around the Specialist Hospital in Asaba to address flooding in the area.

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Local Transport News

Orile-Agege Council Begins Road Rehabilitation Projects Across LCDA

Culled

The Chairman of Orile-Agege Local Council Development Area (LCDA) in Lagos State, Akinola Idowu, has inaugurated the rehabilitation of roads across the council as part of efforts to improve infrastructure and living conditions for residents.

The rehabilitation projects were inaugurated on Tuesday at Owolewa Street, Ward C, Oko Oba, Orile-Agege. Speaking at the event, Idowu said the initiative was part of his administration's commitment to delivering the "right change" to residents within his first 365 days in office.

He pledged to ensure that roads across the council were rehabilitated, stressing that his administration would continue to identify and address roads requiring urgent attention.

"I will continue to strive to bring the right change and ensure that all roads within every nook and cranny are in good shape," Idowu said.

The council chairman also assured residents that other roads in need of rehabilitation would be attended to as part of the administration's broader development agenda.

"I pledge to bring the right change and improved standard of living to Orile-Agege LCDA," he added.

A resident of Owolewa Street, Michael Adetunji, commended the council chairman for commencing the project, saying residents had endured the poor condition of the road for several years.

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Hon. Idowu Abiodun

Cross River Transport Ministry Trains Staff For Improved Service Delivery

Culled

The Cross-River State Ministry of Transportation has concluded an in-house training and orientation programme for staff recruited between 2019 and 2026, as part of efforts to strengthen workforce capacity and improve service delivery.

The three-day programme, which ended on Monday, August 31, at the ministry's headquarters in Calabar, brought together officers across various cadres to enhance their understanding of the structure, mandate, operations, rules and regulations governing the public service.

The training was coordinated by the Director of Administration, Mrs Vanessa Inah, with the support of the Commissioner for Transportation, Hon. Kingsley Egumi, and the Permanent Secretary, Pastor Mrs Eme Affiah, who were absent due to other official engagements.

Inah said regular training and orientation were essential to ensuring effective and efficient service delivery, particularly with the continuous recruitment of personnel

across ministries, departments and agencies.

She urged the newly recruited officers to uphold the principles of contentment, anonymity and loyalty, while maintaining political neutrality and providing honest and professional advice to government.

Speaking during a session on Public Service Rules, Ethics, Discipline and Code of Conduct, Inah reminded the staff that the Public Service Rules, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct constituted the framework guiding their conduct and responsibilities.

She warned them against corruption, absenteeism, improper handling of official information and other practices capable of undermining the integrity of the public service.

The Chief Accountant of the ministry, Chief Julius Kekong, who spoke on Financial Regulations and Accountability, described the major regulatory documents guiding civil servants as essential references for their professional conduct.

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FCTA Probes Abuja Flooding, Threatens Demolition Of Structures On Waterways

Culled

The Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) has commenced an investigation into recent flooding along the Airport Road corridor and Lokogoma District in Abuja, with the administration warning that structures obstructing waterways or violating the Abuja Masterplan will be demolished.

FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike, disclosed this on Wednesday during a media chat in Abuja.

Wike said the Executive Secretary of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) and the Director of Development Control had been deployed to assess the affected areas, including communities along the Airport Road such as Lugbe and Lokogoma.

According to him, the investigation would determine whether the flooding was caused by natural factors or human activities.

He said while the recent rainfall in the FCT had been unusually heavy, preliminary findings suggested that violations of the Abuja Masterplan may have worsened the situation.



Wike

Wike accused some residents and developers of constructing buildings without approval and blocking waterways and designated road corridors.

He said the administration would remove any structure found to have been built on waterways or other protected areas.

"From our studies, Lugbe has always been violating the Abuja Masterplan. All

over the years, you see people building without approval and blocking where is supposed to be a roadway.

"As an administration, we are not taking it lightly," the minister said.

Wike also disclosed that disciplinary measures had been taken against officials allegedly involved in approving or facilitating illegal developments.

He said a director had recently been suspended for allegedly issuing

unauthorised temporary approvals to commercial operators on designated green areas, while another official was sanctioned for allegedly reallocating park lands under the guise of security clearing.

The minister maintained that previous government approvals would not protect structures built contrary to established government policies.

"You got approval to do something wrong. Sometimes, it is under influence," he said, stressing that government policy prohibited development on green areas.

Wike further disclosed that 76 of the 107 road projects awarded under President Bola Tinubu's administration in the FCT had been completed, while 10 others were expected to be completed before the forthcoming elections.

He added that 23 of the 25 road projects inherited from the Muhammadu Buhari administration had been completed, alongside six of the eight projects inherited from the Goodluck Jonathan administration.

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Local Transport News

NAF, AUST Begin Talks On Aviation, ICT, Defence Technology

Culled
The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) and the African University of Science and Technology (AUST) have commenced discussions on possible collaboration in aviation, information and communication technology (ICT), research and innovation to strengthen Nigeria's national security capabilities.

The development followed a courtesy visit by AUST President, Professor Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, and his delegation to the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Sunday Kelvin Aneke, at the NAF Headquarters in Abuja.

During the meeting, Onwualu commended the NAF for its efforts in safeguarding Nigeria's airspace and highlighted the university's expanding academic programmes, covering undergraduate, postgraduate and professional studies.

The discussions centred on how AUST's academic and technical expertise could support the NAF's manpower development and knowledge requirements, particularly in specialised

education, research and technological innovation.

According to the NAF, the proposed partnership could provide opportunities for personnel development while promoting the application of contemporary scientific and technological knowledge to aviation and modern airpower.

Aneke welcomed the engagement, stressing the importance of credible academic institutions in advancing the professional and technological development of the Service.

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NAF, AUST begins talks on aviation

Culled

United Nigeria Airlines has grounded one of its aircraft after it was involved in a bird strike at the Murtala Muhammed Airport, Lagos.

The airline disclosed this in a statement posted on its X page on Wednesday, noting that the incident occurred on September 1, 2026, involving an Embraer 190 aircraft operating Flight UN0523.

According to the airline, a post-flight inspection conducted by its maintenance team revealed evidence of a bird strike on the aircraft's right engine at about 21:40 UTC.

The affected aircraft has since been withdrawn from service in line with the airline's safety procedures to allow for further inspection and necessary maintenance.

United Nigeria Airlines said the development would affect its flight schedule and result in disruptions to some scheduled services.

“We are deeply sorry for the inconvenience this has caused to our valued passengers. Be rest assured that

Bird Strike Grounds United Nigeria Airline Aircraft In Lagos

those affected are provided with full support,” the airline said.

The carrier advised passengers requiring further assistance to contact its customer service team.

Bird strikes remain a recurring operational challenge for airlines, particularly at airports where aircraft movements bring them into contact with birds and other wildlife.

United Nigeria Airlines has recorded several bird-strike incidents in 2026, some of which resulted in temporary aircraft withdrawals and adjustments to scheduled flights.

United Nigeria Airlines said the development would affect its flight schedule and result in disruptions to some scheduled services.

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Illegal Parking, Roadside Trading Undermine Abuja Road Expansion



Illegal trading on the road

Illegal parking, roadside trading and indiscriminate passenger loading are undermining the gains of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Administration's ongoing road expansion and rehabilitation projects, with commuters facing prolonged traffic gridlocks across several major corridors.

Despite the expansion and rehabilitation of roads in areas such as Nyanya, Karu, Orozo, Lugbe, Kubwa, Gwagwalada, Kuje and Bwari, traffic congestion remains a major challenge, particularly during evening peak periods.

At Jikwoyi Junction along the Nyanya-Karu corridor, commuters reportedly spend up to an hour or more navigating the area as commercial

vehicles stop on the highway to pick up passengers, while traders occupy road shoulders and motorists park indiscriminately.

A commuter, Innocent Oweh, said the situation had become frustrating, noting that motorists heading towards CBN Junction could spend one or two hours on the route during peak periods.

Oweh attributed the worsening congestion less to inadequate road infrastructure and more to poor use of available road space. He also called for the construction of a pedestrian bridge at Jikwoyi Junction to separate pedestrian and vehicular movement.

The development is raising concerns that the benefits of the FCT's massive road renewal programme could be eroded if traffic management and enforcement are not strengthened.

Three years into the tenure of FCT Minister Nyesom Wike, several major roads and bridges have been expanded, rehabilitated or restored, while drainage infrastructure has also received attention.

However, roadside trading, illegal parking, pedestrian encroachment and unauthorised loading and dropping off of passengers have become common on some of the newly improved corridors.

Along the Nyanya-Karu-Orozo axis, traders display goods close to major roads, while road shoulders meant to provide safety buffers and emergency access are increasingly being used for trading and parking.

Similar challenges have been reported around parts of the Kubwa Expressway and Lugbe-Airport Road, particularly around busy communities and junctions.

A senior official of the FCT Development Control Department, who spoke anonymously, attributed some of the enforcement difficulties to the approaching political season, saying authorities were cautious about taking actions that could generate public resentment.

The official also linked the situation to the withdrawal of a task force previously deployed to enforce traffic and development-control regulations.

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has also raised concerns over the encroachment of improved road corridors.

The FRSC Corps Commander, Tijjani Iliyasu, commended the FCT Administration for its infrastructure projects but warned that roadside traders and commercial transport operators were increasingly occupying spaces meant to facilitate smooth traffic flow.

According to him, illegal parking, roadside trading and indiscriminate passenger loading are major causes of traffic bottlenecks, especially during evening rush hours.

Iliyasu said the FRSC had engaged the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) over the practice of commercial vehicles stopping on carriageways and had established a task force to address the problem.

He, however, noted that regulating roadside trading was more complex because the FRSC does not license markets or determine where traders operate.

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Lagos Taskforce Warns Okada Riders Against Plying Highways, BRT Corridors

Culled

The Lagos State Taskforce has warned commercial motorcycle operators, popularly known as Okada riders, against violating the state's traffic laws by operating on highways, bridges, walkways and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors.

The warning followed a public advocacy and sensitisation exercise conducted by the agency in Ikorodu and its environs, amid growing concerns over the resurgence of Okada operations on restricted routes.

The exercise, led by the Chairman of the Lagos State Taskforce, CSP Adetayo Akerele, was targeted at members and leadership of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and the Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN), particularly the MOALS branches operating in Ikorodu, Ogolonto and Majidun.

Addressing the transport union members, Akerele said the agency had previously reduced enforcement activities in the



CSP Akerele

areas due to the routes by some Okada education while relatively high level of riders, particularly reminding operators and compliance among highways, walkways and transport unions of the law. commercial motorcycle BRT corridors. provisions of the Lagos operators. According to him, the State Transport Sector He, however, noted that sensitisation exercise ReformLaw, 2018. The law stipulates the recent observations had was aimed at addressing The law stipulates the shown a resurgence in the development through routes and areas where enforcement was aimed at maintaining order, the use of prohibited dialogue and public commercial motorcycles safety and sanity on roads across Lagos State.

are permitted to operate within the state.

Following the engagement, the transport unions agreed to collaborate with the Taskforce to ensure that their members operate within the confines of the law.

As part of the resolutions reached, the unions agreed to establish an internal taskforce comprising their members to monitor commercial motorcycle operations in Ikorodu, Ogolonto and Majidun and ensure compliance with approved operational guidelines.

The Lagos State Taskforce also reiterated that while advocacy and sensitisation would continue to complement its enforcement activities, operators found plying prohibited highways, bridges, BRT corridors or other restricted routes would be arrested and their motorcycles impounded in accordance with the law.

The agency urged commercial motorcycle operators to comply with the applicable regulations, stressing that its balanced approach of advocacy, public education and enforcement was aimed at maintaining order, safety and sanity on roads across Lagos State.

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FCFMT Repositions To Boost Students' Sea-Time, Job Prospects



Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology (FCFMT)

The Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology (FCFMT), Lagos, is repositioning its academic programmes to equip students with practical skills and improve their employment prospects in Nigeria's maritime sector.

The Provost of the institution, Dr Chukwudi Onuoha, disclosed this while receiving members of the Maritime Correspondents' Organisation of Nigeria (MARCON) during an official visit to the college.

Onuoha, who was represented by the Deputy Provost, Academics, DrAdebowaleAderonke, said the college's transition from the former Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of Marine

and Blue Economy had enhanced its visibility and recognition within Nigeria and across the African maritime industry.

He cited the visit of officials from The Gambia, who came to Nigeria in search of a suitable institution to train their students, noting that they eventually selected FCFMT after assessing its facilities and human resources.

The Provost also said the college's approval and accreditation by the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) as a Maritime Education and Training Institution (METI) had strengthened its integration into the maritime industry and enabled it to offer professional maritime programmes.

According to him, FCFMT has expanded beyond its traditional fisheries and maritime programmes to meet emerging industry demands. The institution currently offers programmes in maritime transport and business management, marine

engineering, nautical science, mechanical engineering, computer science, hydrology and water resources management, fisheries, oceanography and fisheries technology, industrial and labour relations, as well as public administration.

Onuoha identified access to sea-time training as one of the major challenges confronting maritime education in Nigeria, expressing optimism that the college's new METI status would help address the problem.

He, however, acknowledged that the employment opportunities available to maritime graduates remained limited by the country's inadequate indigenous shipping capacity.

He explained that although there were employment opportunities for trained Nigerians, the number of locally owned ships and trawlers was insufficient to absorb the growing number of qualified graduates.

"The problem is not necessarily the shortage of trained manpower, but the shortage of vessels and corresponding employment opportunities," he said.

Onuoha noted that Nigerian maritime institutions could continue to produce qualified marine engineers, navigators and other professionals, but the limited number of vessels in the domestic fleet continued to restrict their absorption into the industry.

He said FCFMT was therefore placing greater emphasis on practical and entrepreneurial skills, enabling graduates to create businesses and employment opportunities for themselves where conventional jobs were unavailable.

The Provost said the objective was to ensure that graduates who could not immediately secure placements aboard vessels would still be able to apply their training to create value, establish businesses and earn a sustainable livelihood.

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FG Makes Tertiary Institution Ranking Compulsory For Uni, Polys, CoE

Culled:
The Federal Government has made participation in Nigeria's national tertiary education ranking exercise compulsory for all universities, polytechnics and colleges of education.

The Minister of Education, Dr Tunji Alausa, disclosed this on Tuesday in Abuja during a meeting with the Nigerian Universities Ranking Advisory Committee, which has now been expanded and renamed the Nigerian Tertiary Education Ranking Advisory Committee.

Alausa said the expanded ranking framework was aimed at improving quality, accountability, institutional performance and global competitiveness across Nigeria's tertiary education sector.

According to him, the ranking exercise will provide institutions with benchmarks for evaluating their performance, identifying areas for improvement and measuring progress, while also promoting healthy competition.

Under the new framework, universities, polytechnics and colleges of education will participate in a unified national ranking system. The Federal Government is expected to fund



Dr. Tunji Alausa

the exercise through the Tertiary Education Trust Fund.

The minister said the 2026/2027 ranking exercise for universities would commence in September, while the committee would determine when the exercise would be extended to polytechnics and colleges of education.

He added that the government would develop guidelines to institutionalise the ranking system and formally communicate the compulsory participation requirement to vice-chancellors and heads of other tertiary institutions.

Alausa said the policy formed part of the education reforms of the President Bola Tinubu administration under the Renewed Hope Agenda and the Nigeria Education Sector Renewal Initiative.

He also pledged that the Federal Ministry of Education would provide policy direction, funding and capacity-building support to ensure the ranking exercise remained credible and sustainable.

The Minister of State for Education, Prof. Suwaiba Ahmad, described the initiative as an important step towards strengthening accountability and quality across the tertiary education system.

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Nigeria Calls For Stronger African Action On Insecurity, Xenophobia

Culled:
Nigeria has called for stronger and more coordinated African action to tackle conflicts, insecurity and xenophobic attacks across the continent.

Vice President Kashim Shettima made the call while representing President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the 21st Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) in Luanda, Angola.

Shettima urged AU member states to take greater collective responsibility for peace and stability by strengthening African-led mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution.

Nigeria also raised concerns over recurring xenophobic and Afrophobic attacks against Africans and other nationals in South Africa, calling for urgent continental measures to protect Africans and uphold solidarity among member states.

The country backed the Luanda Action Plan and advocated sustainable financing for Africa's peace and security architecture.

Nigeria maintained that Africa should reduce its dependence on external support and develop stronger indigenous capacity to address the continent's security challenges.

Shettima further called for greater African ownership of conflict-resolution initiatives, stressing the need for the AU and regional organisations to improve their capacity to anticipate, prevent and resolve conflicts before they escalate into major humanitarian and security crises.

Nigeria's position comes amid persistent conflicts, terrorism, political instability and cross-border security threats across several parts of the continent.

The Vice President returned to Abuja after concluding his official engagements in Angola.

His return coincided with President Tinubu's departure for Europe on Sunday, August 30, for a three-week annual vacation.

Find Full Story In The Link

Police Launch Vigilant App To Help Nigerians Report Fraud



Olatunji Disu

Culled:
The Nigeria Police Force has launched a new digital platform, the NPF Vigilant App, to enable Nigerians to report suspected financial fraud, submit evidence and monitor the progress of their cases.

The Inspector-General of Police, Olatunji Disu, unveiled the application alongside the NPF–MTN Closed User Group Network on Tuesday at the NPF Conference Centre in Jabi, Abuja.

The Vigilant App, developed by the Force ICT Department in collaboration with

stakeholders in the financial services sector, is designed to provide citizens with a direct channel for reporting suspected fraud.

Through the platform, users can submit complaints, upload supporting evidence, track reported cases and receive feedback from the relevant authorities.

The police said the application would also facilitate coordination with relevant institutions in accordance with existing laws and procedures.

Speaking at the launch, Disu described the initiatives as practical steps towards advancing the digital transformation of the police force.

He said the Vigilant App would strengthen engagement between the police and members of the public, while the NPF–MTN CUG Network would enhance communication among police personnel across the country.

According to him, the improved communication network would provide officers with secure and affordable on-net communication, particularly for emergency coordination and operational response.

Disu stressed that technology must be deployed lawfully, ethically and responsibly, with due regard for citizens' rights, privacy, data protection and accountability.

The Deputy Inspector-General of Police in charge of Information and Communication Technology, Fayoadé Mustapha, said the initiatives demonstrated the

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NSIA

NSIA: Healthcare Investments Save Nigeria \$200m In Medical Tourism

Culled:
The Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) says its investments in the healthcare sector have helped Nigeria save about \$200 million in foreign exchange that would have been spent on medical treatment abroad. The Managing Director of NSIA, Aminu Umar-Sadiq, disclosed this in a statement on Monday, explaining that the Authority's healthcare interventions had strengthened local capacity while reducing the need for Nigerians to seek specialised treatment overseas. According to him, the initiative led to

the establishment of NSIA Advanced Medical Services Limited (MedServe), the Authority's healthcare subsidiary, with an initial focus on oncology and diagnostics. Umar-Sadiq said the MedServe-LUTH Cancer Centre (MLCC) in Lagos had, since its establishment, provided more than 25,000 radiotherapy sessions and 10,000 chemotherapy treatments to about 15,000 patients. He noted that the centre had also recorded cases of "reversed medical tourism," with some Nigerians being referred back from overseas providers because of the quality and cost-

effectiveness of treatment available locally. "Treatment costs remain significantly below comparable international services, in many cases at less than half the cost of treatment abroad," he said. He added that the interventions had prevented more than \$200 million in foreign exchange outflows that would otherwise have been spent on overseas medical treatment and related expenses. The NSIA boss said the MLCC, commissioned in May 2019, became the first oncology centre in Nigeria to offer 3D conformal radiotherapy and

currently houses the largest concentration of radiotherapy equipment in West Africa. He said the importance of the facility became particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, when international travel restrictions disrupted access to overseas medical treatment. Umar-Sadiq explained that NSIA had also expanded its healthcare investments through the MedServe Kano Diagnostic Centre and MedServe Umuahia Diagnostic Centre, providing advanced radiology and pathology services in areas where such facilities were previously limited. *Find Full Story In The Link*

Nigeria, Spain Seek Stronger Ties In Tourism, Trade, Air Connectivity

Nigeria and Spain are exploring fresh opportunities to strengthen bilateral relations, with tourism, direct air connectivity, trade and investment identified as key areas for deeper cooperation. Nigeria's Ambassador to Spain, Dr Okezie Ikpeazu, made this known in an interview with journalists on Tuesday, stressing the need to expand collaboration between both countries across various sectors.

Ikpeazu, a former governor of Abia State, described Spain as a strategic gateway between Europe and Africa and said Nigeria could leverage the relationship to attract more Spanish and European tourists, investors and businesses. He identified tourism, trade, commerce, culture, security, education, agriculture and renewable energy, as well as critical minerals such as lithium, as areas with significant potential for

cooperation. The ambassador said the restoration of direct air services between Nigeria and Spain would be crucial to achieving these objectives, noting that improved connectivity would reduce travel time and facilitate the movement of tourists, investors, businesspeople and government officials. According to him, stronger air links would also promote people-to-people relations and provide a stronger

foundation for increased trade, tourism and commerce. Ikpeazu, however, stressed that efforts to develop Nigeria's tourism sector must be linked to broader improvements in security and transportation. He said increased cooperation with Spain in maritime security and naval defence could help strengthen Nigeria's security architecture and create a safer environment for tourism and economic activities. *Find Full Story In The Link*

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