

NRC Opens National Rail Network To Private Train Operators

The Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has commenced the process of opening its national rail network to private train operators to increase investment, improve service delivery

and expand passenger and freight services across the country.

The Managing Director of NRC said the initiative is part of ongoing efforts to modernise the railway sector and attract private capital.

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SAHCO Secures Air Algérie Ground Handling Contract For Lagos, Abuja Airports

Skyway Aviation Handling Company (SAHCO) has secured a ground handling contract with Algeria's national carrier, Air Algérie, for its operations at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport,

Lagos, and the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.

The agreement is expected to strengthen cargo and passenger handling capabilities between Nigeria and Algeria.

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FEC Approves N594.49bn Road Projects, Nigeria Seeks AfDB Funding For Lagos-Abidjan Highway

By GTe-News Desk, Abuja

The Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved N594.49bn road projects across the country, while the Federal Government said it was seeking funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the Lagos-Abidjan Highway, a major regional project aimed at improving connectivity and boosting trade between Nigeria and other West African countries.

Briefing State House correspondents on Wednesday after the FEC meeting presided over by President Bola Tinubu at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, the Minister of Works, David Umahi, said the council approved the award of contracts for several road projects, including the reconstruction of the Enugu-Port Harcourt Expressway (Section II), the Suleja-Minna Road (Phase 2) and the rehabilitation of the Abuja-Kaduna-Zaria-Kano

According to him, the Lagos-Abidjan Highway forms part of the Trans-West African Coastal Highway, a continental initiative designed to enhance the movement of goods and people, support economic development and strengthen regional integration.

Umahi said discussions with the AfDB were at an advanced stage, with the bank expected to provide funding for key sections of the project.

He added that the federal government remains committed to developing a modern and efficient road network to support national development and improve the ease of doing business across the country.

The minister also said the approved projects include new construction, rehabilitation and expansion works in several states, with a focus on reducing travel time, enhancing road safety and supporting economic growth.



Construction work in progress on a federal highway project in Nigeria, on Wednesday.

Four Dead, 13 Critically Injured In Truck-Bus Collision On Epe Bridge

By Sodiq Omotoso, Lagos

Four people have been confirmed dead, while 13 others sustained serious injuries in a collision between a container-laden truck and a commercial bus on the Epe Bridge along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway on Wednesday morning.

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) said the accident occurred at about 8:20 a.m., involving a 40-foot container truck and a fully loaded commercial bus heading towards Lagos.

According to LASTMA, preliminary investigations indicated that the truck allegedly lost control while crossing the bridge, ramming into the bus, resulting in multiple casualties.

"Four people were confirmed dead on the spot, while 13 others sustained various degrees of injuries and have been taken to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) for treatment," LASTMA spokesperson, Adebayo Taofiq, said in a statement.

He added that emergency responders, including LASTMA officials, the

Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) and police officers, were deployed to the scene to rescue victims, clear the wreckage and restore traffic flow.

Taofiq said the accident caused significant traffic congestion on the axis for several hours, until the damaged vehicles were being removed.

He urged motorists to adhere to speed limits and ensure their vehicles are roadworthy to prevent similar incidents.



The commercial bus and container truck involved in the accident on Epe Bridge, Lagos, on Wednesday.

FEC Approves N594.49bn Road Projects, Nigeria Seeks AfDB Funding For Lagos-Abidjan Highway

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Four Dead, 13 Critically Injured In Truck-Bus Collision On Epe Bridge

By Chidi Ugwu, Lagos

Four people, including a commercial bus driver, have died, while 13 passengers sustained critical injuries in a fatal collision involving a truck and a fully loaded commercial bus on Alaro City Bridge, inward T-Junction, Epe, Lagos State.

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), which confirmed the incident in a statement, said the crash occurred when the truck rammed into the commercial bus while both vehicles were navigating the single-lane bridge.

The impact reportedly left several victims trapped in the wreckage of the two vehicles, necessitating an emergency rescue operation by traffic management and other emergency response agencies.

According to LASTMA, the four victims died at the scene,

while the truck driver sustained severe injuries, including the traumatic severance of both legs, which became trapped in the mangled wreckage.

Following the collision, LASTMA operatives, in collaboration with personnel of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), coordinated rescue efforts and evacuated the bodies of the deceased to the mortuary.

The Lagos State Ambulance Service (LASAMBUS) also responded promptly, conveying the 13 critically injured passengers to the nearest medical facility for urgent treatment.

Security personnel from the Epe Police Division provided security support throughout the rescue operation, helping to ensure the safety of emergency responders and the orderly management of the accident scene.

Reacting to the incident, LASTMA General Manager, Olalekan Bakare-Oki, expressed condolences to the families of the deceased and described the loss of lives as deeply distressing.

He also sympathised with the bereaved families and wished the injured victims a speedy and complete recovery.

Bakare-Oki called on motorists to exercise greater caution and demonstrate responsible driving, particularly when approaching bridges, narrow carriageways and other road sections where limited space increases the risk of serious collisions.

He emphasised the need for strict compliance with traffic regulations, including prescribed speed limits and safe following distances, warning that reckless



LASTMA officials and other emergency responders at the scene of the truck-bus collision on Epe Bridge in Lagos, on Wednesday.

driving could result in devastating consequences.

Meanwhile, LASTMA personnel deployed to the affected corridor implemented traffic management measures to ease congestion caused by the crash and restore normal vehicular movement.

This article is a continuation of...

response through collaboration with relevant security agencies and emergency management organisations.

It urged motorists to avoid dangerous driving manoeuvres and exercise maximum caution on bridges and other constricted roadways, stressing that a moment of negligence

Dockworkers Threaten Nationwide Port Shutdown Over Delayed Wage Negotiations

By Kingsley Benneth, Lagos

Dockworkers under the Maritime Workers' Union of Nigeria (MWUN) have threatened to shut down port operations across the country next week over the failure of terminal operators to commence negotiations on a new National Joint Industrial Council (NJIC) agreement.

The workers expressed growing frustration over what they described as persistent delays by terminal operators in negotiating revised employment rates, warning that the situation could trigger an industrial crisis in Nigeria's maritime sector if urgent steps are not taken to resolve the dispute.

President of the Dockworkers Branch of MWUN, Comrade Bolaji Agboola, disclosed this in Lagos on Wednesday, noting that the union's leadership was finding it increasingly difficult to contain workers' agitation over the prolonged delay.

According to Agboola, the previous NJIC agreement expired at the end of May 2026, with revised rates expected to take effect from June 1, 2026. However, negotiations on a new agreement have yet to commence.

He maintained that dockworkers should already be benefiting from the revised rates, stressing that the continued failure of terminal operators to begin discussions had heightened tensions among workers.

Agboola warned that unless the operators respond to the union's demands, port activities nationwide could be disrupted next week, with potential consequences for maritime operations and cargo-handling activities.

He explained that the branch leadership had continued engaging workers to prevent an escalation of the dispute but admitted that sustaining calm was becoming increasingly difficult as frustration mounted.

The union leader also accused operators of terminals and jetties covered by the NJIC agreement of delaying discussions on the review of workers' rates, insisting that negotiations must begin without further delay.

In a move to prevent a possible shutdown, Agboola called on the Federal Government to intervene through the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA).

He urged the agency to ensure that the affected terminal operators commence negotiations before the close of work this week, warning that failure to do so could leave the union with little room to prevent industrial action.

The threatened shutdown raises concerns over a possible disruption to port operations across Nigeria, particularly if the disagreement between dockworkers and terminal operators remains unresolved.

High Fares Drive Commuters Away From Lagos Water Transport

By Uche Nwosu, Lagos

Boat operators in Lagos have raised concerns over declining passenger patronage, blaming rising fuel prices, increasing operational costs and high fares for forcing commuters to abandon waterways in favour of cheaper road and rail alternatives.

The operators warned that the situation was threatening the survival of water transport businesses, with some services becoming inactive and others operating less frequently due to reduced demand.

Data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Transport Fare Watch showed that waterway passenger fares increased by 30.88 per cent year-on-year, with the average fare rising from N1,739.32 in May 2025 to N2,276.48 in May 2026.

The Secretary of the Association of Tourist Boat Operators and Water Transporters of Nigeria (ATBOWATON), Lagos Chapter, Ayomikun Aworetan, said the disparity in fares had



Commuters boarding a water transport ferry at a jetty in Lagos.

Aworetan cited the CMS-Badagry route as an example, explaining that commuters could travel by train from CMS to Ibeju-Lekki, then by bus to Badagry, a route that is significantly cheaper than the ferry service.

In contrast, he said a trip from CMS to Badagry by ferry costs N7,000, making road and rail transportation significantly cheaper. He said the disparity in fares had led to a significant decline in passenger patronage, with many commuters opting for road and rail alternatives.

Aworetan disclosed that Badagry and Lekki-Agbara routes had become largely inactive due to the rising costs of fuel and operations. He said regular boat services from Ibeju-Lekki to Badagry had been suspended for about 10 months.

The operators called on the government to introduce subsidies to cushion the impact of rising fuel costs, reduce passenger fares and encourage commuters to return to waterways.

Türkiye Ready To Sign Maritime Boundary Agreement With Egypt

By Our Correspondent

Türkiye has expressed readiness to sign an agreement with Egypt on the delimitation of maritime boundaries, saying a potential deal could offer Cairo greater maritime jurisdiction than an arrangement with Greece.

The Turkish Defence Ministry disclosed this on Wednesday, October 28, during its weekly press briefing in Ankara, where spokesperson Artur Dikmenç said.

Ankara, where spokesperson Zeki Aktürk reaffirmed the country's commitment to protecting its maritime interests in the eastern Mediterranean.

An agreement between Türkiye and Egypt could grant Egypt more than 15,000 square kilometres of additional maritime jurisdiction compared with a potential agreement with Greece, the ministry said.

rights and interests in the eastern Mediterranean in accordance with international law, while contributing to regional peace and stability.

The ministry also welcomed Libya's recent approval of a maritime delimitation memorandum signed with Türkiye in 2019 and announced that Turkish and Egyptian naval forces would participate in the Sea of Friendship exercise in Alexandria from November 4 to 9.

IMION Urges FG To Implement Maritime Treaties, Reforms

By Atabor Julius, Lagos

The International Maritime Institute of Nigeria (IMION) has urged the Federal Government to move beyond ratifying international maritime treaties and ensure their effective implementation across the country's ports, maritime domain and inland waterways.

The Director-General of IMION, Rear Admiral Thaddeus Udofo (rtd), said Nigeria's progress in the maritime sector should be

impact of its policies on port security, operational efficiency, digitalisation and regulatory compliance rather than the number of agreements signed.

Udofo said translating policies into practical action was essential to unlocking the economic benefits of the maritime industry.

He disclosed that IMION policies into practical action was essential to unlocking the economic benefits of the

He disclosed that IMION had developed a stakeholder-supported five-year port transformation plan to improve port logistics, strengthen trade corridors and reduce transaction costs. The institute is also conducting specialised workshops on maritime security and global trade, while aligning its training courses with the latest STCW standards to prepare Nigerian seafarers for emerging industry demands.

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Transportation News

Four Killed, Six Injured As Container Truck Overturns On Lagos Bridge

By Sodiq Omotoso, Lagos

Four people have been confirmed dead, while six others sustained critical injuries in an accident involving a container truck that overturned on a bridge in Lagos on Wednesday morning.

The incident occurred at about 8:15 a.m. on the Oworonshoki inward Third Mainland Bridge corridor, causing severe traffic congestion that lasted for several hours.

According to the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), the truck, which was conveying a 40-foot container, lost control while descending the bridge and collided with a commercial bus and two private vehicles before overturning.

The General Manager of LASTMA, Mr. Olalekan Bakare-Oki, said preliminary investigations indicated that brake failure may have contributed to the accident.

"A total of four persons were confirmed dead at the scene, while six others sustained serious injuries and were immediately rushed to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) for treatment," he said.

He added that emergency responders, including LASTMA officers, the Lagos State Ambulance Service (LASAMBUS), the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and police operatives, were deployed to the scene to evacuate the victims and remove the wreckage.

"Our men worked with other agencies to ensure a quick response, clear the obstructed lanes and restore traffic flow," Bakare-Oki stated.

The accident led to a major traffic gridlock on the Third Mainland Bridge and adjoining routes, with motorists stranded for several hours.

By 11:30 a.m., the stranded container and damaged vehicles had been evacuated, and traffic flow was gradually restored.

The Lagos State Police Command confirmed the incident, saying an investigation had been opened to determine the exact cause of the crash.

The bodies of the deceased have been deposited at the General Hospital, Lagos.



LASTMA and other emergency responders at the scene of the container truck accident on the Third Mainland Bridge, Lagos, on Wednesday.

Nigerian Refineries Receive 127 Million Barrels Of Crude In Nine Months — NUPRC

By Chidi Ugwu, Abuja

Nigeria's refineries received a total of 127 million barrels of crude oil in the first nine months of 2026, the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) has disclosed.

The commission said the figure represented a significant increase compared to the corresponding period in 2025 and reflected the improving performance of domestic refineries.

In its latest monthly report on crude oil and condensate production for September 2026, the NUPRC said the 127 million barrels were supplied to the Dangote Petroleum Refinery, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) refineries in Port Harcourt, Warri and Kaduna, and modular

According to the report, the steady supply of crude to local refineries has supported higher domestic production of refined petroleum products and reduced the country's dependence on imports.

The commission noted that the improved volume of crude allocations was part of efforts to strengthen domestic refining capacity and enhance energy security.

It added that engagement with upstream operators had been intensified to ensure consistent supply of crude to local refineries in line with the Federal Government's policy on increased domestic refining.

The NUPRC said it would continue to monitor crude supply obligations and work with relevant stakeholders to sustain the growth in refinery feedstock supply.

Reps Approve ₦100.51bn Reimbursement To Yobe For Damaturu Cargo Airport

By Kingsley Benneth, Abuja

The House of Representatives has approved the reimbursement of ₦100.51 billion to the Yobe State Government for the construction of the Damaturu Cargo Airport.

The approval followed the adoption of a motion at plenary on Wednesday, which was moved by the Chairman of the House Committee on Aviation, Hon. Nnolim Nnaji, after the consideration of a report presented by the committee.

The house directed the Federal Ministry of Finance to release the approved amount to Yobe State within the 2026 fiscal year.

According to the lawmakers, the reimbursement is in line with the Federal Government's commitment to support critical aviation infrastructure and promote economic development across the country.

They noted that the completion of the Damaturu Cargo Airport would enhance air connectivity in the North-East, facilitate the movement of agricultural produce and other goods, and boost trade and investment in the region.

The House also urged the Federal Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development to ensure the airport is completed and operationalised within the agreed timeframe.

Lawmakers stressed that the project would create employment opportunities, improve logistics for businesses and contribute to the overall development of Yobe State and the surrounding communities.

They further directed the relevant agencies to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of the project, in line with extant laws and regulations.

The approval is expected to enable the state government to recover funds expended on the project and support the completion and effective operation of the cargo airport.

FEC Approves \$45.8m Biosecurity Upgrade For Five International Airports

By Our Correspondent

The Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved \$45.8 million for the upgrade of biosecurity infrastructure at five international airports across the country.

The Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, disclosed this while briefing State House correspondents after the FEC meeting presided over by President Bola Tinubu at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, on Wednesday.

Keyamo said the project is aimed at strengthening the country's capacity to prevent and respond to public health threats at

its international airports, in line with global aviation safety and health standards.

"The approval covers the upgrade of passenger screening facilities, laboratories, surveillance systems and other critical biosecurity infrastructure at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos, Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, and Port Harcourt and Enugu airports," he said.

According to him, the project will enhance Nigeria's compliance with International Health Regulations (IHR), improve early detection of diseases and strengthen coordination among relevant agencies at the airports.

agencies at the airports.

Keyamo added that the upgrade would also support safe international travel, facilitate trade and protect public health.

The minister said the funding, which is part of the government's broader efforts to modernise aviation infrastructure, will be implemented in phases in collaboration with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and other relevant stakeholders.

He assured that the project would be delivered in accordance with established procurement procedures and international best practices.

SAHCO Secures Air Algérie Ground Handling Contract For Lagos, Abuja Airports

By Uche Nwosu, Lagos

Skyway Aviation Handling Company (SAHCO) Plc has secured a ground handling contract with Algeria's national carrier, Air Algérie, for its operations at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos, and the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.

The agreement was disclosed in a statement by SAHCO on Wednesday, which said the contract would cover passenger handling, baggage services, ramp operations, cargo handling and other ground support services for Air Algérie's flights in Nigeria.



SAHCO ground handling personnel servicing an Air Algérie aircraft at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos.

SAHCO said the contract further strengthens its position as a leading ground handling service provider in Africa and reflects the confidence of international airlines in the company's operational standards and service

The company added that it remains committed to providing safe, efficient and world-class ground handling services to its clients and supporting the growth of air transport in Nigeria.

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Tinubu's Aides Highlight Road Projects Across Six Geopolitical Zones

By Chidi Ugwu, Abuja

Presidential aides have outlined ongoing road construction and rehabilitation projects across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones, urging Nigerians to support the infrastructure development agenda of President Bola Tinubu's administration ahead of the 2027 general elections.

The aides made this known during a media briefing at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, where they highlighted projects designed to improve connectivity, boost economic activities, create employment opportunities and address longstanding infrastructure deficits across the country.

The officials, who serve as Senior Special Assistants to

the President on Community Engagement, are Abiodun Essiet, Abdullahi Tanko Yakasai, Abdulhameed Abba, Gift Johnbull, Barrister Chioma Nweze and Moremi Ojodu.

In the North-Central, Essiet highlighted the Abuja-Lokoja Road and about 1,200 ongoing projects, including a 78-kilometre road in Kogi State.

In the North-West, Yakasai identified the Abuja-Kaduna Road, Kano-Kaduna Road, Sokoto-Badagry Superhighway and the Kaduna-Kano railway project.

For the North-East, Abba outlined the Akwanga-Bauchi-Gombe-Biu-Maiduguri Superhighway, while in the South-South, Johnbull highlighted the East-West

Highway and Benin-Agbor Road.

In the South-East, Nweze highlighted the Enugu-Onitsha Road and Enugu-Port Harcourt Road, and in the South-West, Ojodu identified the Apapa-Oworonshoki-Ojota-Oshodi Expressway, Lagos-Ibadan Expressway and Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway.

The aides maintained that road infrastructure remains central to the administration's development agenda, arguing that sustained investment would strengthen trade, improve mobility and support long-term economic growth.

They called on Nigerians to support the President's infrastructure agenda as the country prepares for the 2027 general elections.



Road construction works on a federal highway section in Nigeria.

FEC Approves N594.49bn Road Projects, Nigeria Seeks AfDB Funding For Lagos-Abidjan Highway

By Kingsley Benneth, Abuja

The Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved eight road projects valued at N594.49 billion across Nigeria, while the Federal Government is pursuing financing from the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the country's section of the proposed 1,028-kilometre Lagos-Abidjan highway.

Minister of Works, Senator Dave Umahi, disclosed this on Wednesday while briefing State House correspondents after the FEC meeting.

He said Nigeria and four other countries would meet on Friday to discuss financing arrangements for the regional highway, which will cover 79 kilometres from Tincan Island in Lagos

to the Seme border.

Among the approved projects is the 18-kilometre Amasari Road in Enugu (N20.257bn), the third phase of the Umuahia-Bende-Afikpo Road in Abia (N11.33bn), the 95-kilometre E2K-Okey-Ampa-Otopa Road in Kogi (N160bn) and the 81.1-kilometre Ado-Ekiti-Ijan-Ilumoba-Ikole Road in Ekiti (N209bn).

Others include the 17-kilometre Sokoto-Ilella Road (N28.218bn), a 30-kilometre Adamawa-Taraba link road (N62bn), the 47-kilometre Bichi Ring Road in Kano (N89.2bn) and the eight-kilometre Dikko-Maje link road (N14.486bn).

The council also considered remedial works on sections of the East-West Road and commended the President over the completion of Lot One of the Abuja-Kaduna-Zaria highway.

Umahi added that the entire 375-kilometre Abuja-Kaduna-Zaria-Kano corridor would be equipped with solar-powered streetlights, describing it as the longest route in the country to benefit from the programme.

The approvals and the proposed financing discussions underscore the Federal Government's commitment to expanding transport infrastructure and enhancing regional connectivity.

Reps Seek Road Concessioning, Reintroduction Of Tollgates On Federal Highways

By Sodiq Omotoso, Abuja

The House of Representatives has urged the Federal Ministry of Works to develop a framework for concessioning eligible federal roads to private investors and reintroducing tollgates on selected highways to ensure sustainable funding and maintenance.

The resolution followed the adoption of a motion sponsored by Esosa Iyawe, Olusola Fatoba, Abdulmaleek Danga and Uche Okonkwo, who highlighted the deteriorating condition of federal roads.

The House also directed its Committees on Public Assets, Works and Finance to engage relevant agencies on the proposed framework and monitor its implementation.

Moving the motion, Iyawe said several federal roads have deteriorated due to neglect and inadequate maintenance funding, leading to accidents, high transport costs and economic losses.

He particularly cited the Benin-Lagos, Benin-Asaba, Benin-Warri and Benin-Okene routes in Edo State.

The lawmakers argued that concessioning through Public-Private Partnerships could attract private capital, reduce the financial burden on government and improve road management.

They stressed that any tolling arrangement must be transparent, affordable and technologically efficient, with enforcing service standards.

NRC Opens National Rail Network To Private Train Operators

By Uche Nwosu, Lagos

The Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has invited private companies to operate passenger and freight services across its 4,000-kilometre rail network under a track-access arrangement.

Managing Director, Dr Kayode Opeifa, said operators would provide their own locomotives and wagons while paying fees to access the tracks.

He said the NRC was no longer interested in being the sole operator, noting that the model would maximise existing infrastructure and attract private investment.

the sole operator, noting that the model would maximise existing infrastructure and attract private investment.

Opeifa cited the Lagos State Government and the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation as early participants, with the latter securing a three-year licence to operate freight services.

He also disclosed plans to rehabilitate the Lagos-Kano narrow-gauge railway, expand to Nguru and Kaura Namoda, and grow the network to 10,000 kilometres by 2028 and 20,000 kilometres in the long term.

He also disclosed, Dr to rehabilitate the Lagos-Kano narrow-gauge railway, expand to Nguru and Kaura Namoda, and grow the network to 10,000 kilometres by 2028 and 20,000 kilometres in the long term.

Proposed new standard-gauge links to Apapa, Tin Can Island and Lekki Deep Sea Port are expected to improve freight movement and strengthen the country's transport system.

AbdulRazaq Flags Off Construction Of 31km Rural Roads In Kwara

By Atabor Julius, Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, has flagged off the construction of two rural roads covering a combined 31 kilometres in Ilorin East Local Government Area.

The projects comprise the 21-kilometre Larwa-Oke-Oyi Road and the 10-kilometre Oke-Ose-Maya Ile Apa-Lajiki Road.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, the governor said the roads would improve connectivity, ease transport and boost economic activities in rural communities.

He said the Larwa-Oke-Oyi Road, awarded to Threem Plus Integrated Enterprise Limited, would be constructed to a width of 7.3 metres, adding that the projects reflect his administration's commitment to improving residents' welfare.

AbdulRazaq noted that the roads would enhance access to markets, support agriculture and strengthen economic linkages between communities.

He assured residents that the government would continue to invest in rural infrastructure to drive development across the state.



Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, flagging off the construction of rural roads in Ilorin East, Kwara State, on Wednesday.

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Transportation News

Benue Must Unite For Greater Political Role – Showunmi

By Chidi Ugwu, Makurdi

The Alternative Movement has urged political leaders in Benue State to close ranks, resolve their differences and unite ahead of the 2027 general elections, saying the state must position itself to play a greater role in Nigeria's political future.

The convener of the movement, Otunba Showunmi, made the call at a town hall meeting in Makurdi on Wednesday, themed "Bridging the Divide, Building Trust Through Shared Purpose."

Showunmi warned that political rivalries must not overshadow the urgent need to tackle insecurity, youth unemployment and other challenges confronting the state.

He urged leaders to place the collective interest of Benue above personal ambitions and partisan differences.

On security, Showunmi said the Federal Government had reorganised the country's security architecture and established military formations in the region to strengthen protection for residents. He urged the people to remain hopeful, noting that the challenges facing Benue had attracted wider national and international attention.

Showunmi stressed that external interventions must be matched with collective efforts by political leaders, families and community stakeholders to restore peace, improve security and advance the state's political fortunes.

He also urged residents to assess the performance of the current administration against previous governments, citing roads that had remained unattended for years but were now receiving attention.

Similarly, the state coordinator of the movement, Adai Edwin Adai, called on Governor Hyacinth Alia, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Senator George Akume, and other political leaders to embrace dialogue and reconcile their differences in the interest of peace and a successful 2027 election.

He urged political actors to strengthen democracy by maintaining peace despite their differences and ensuring that governance translated into tangible benefits for the people.



Convener of the Alternative Movement, Otunba Showunmi, speaking at a town hall meeting in Makurdi on Wednesday.

EFCC: Court Jails FCDA Official 25 Years for Land Fraud

By Atabor Julius, Abuja

A staff member of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), Kinsley Eselebor, has been sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment for defrauding a land buyer in Abuja through the use of forged documents and obtaining money under false pretences.

Justice A.O. Musa of the Federal Capital Territory High Court, Abuja, delivered the judgment on Wednesday after finding Eselebor guilty on all five counts brought against him by the EFCC.

The court imposed seven years' imprisonment on each of the first three counts and

two years on each of the remaining two counts. The sentences are to run concurrently, without an option of fine.

Eselebor, who worked in the FCDA's Department of Urban and Regional Planning, was prosecuted over money he collected from Moses Osinachi for two plots of land at Kubwa District Central Annex, Abuja.

The fraud came to light when Osinachi attempted to take possession of the properties and discovered that Eselebor had no valid title to transfer to him.

Reacting to the judgment, EFCC counsel, Joshua Saidi, said the conviction should serve as a warning to those who exploit land transactions

FEC Approves \$45.8m Biosecurity Upgrade For Five International Airports

By Our Correspondent, Abuja

The Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved a \$45.8 million biosecurity and disease-response project for five major international airports in Nigeria to strengthen the country's capacity to detect, prevent and respond to infectious disease threats.

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof. Muhammad Ali Pate, disclosed this while briefing journalists after the council meeting at the State House.

The airports to benefit are Murtala Muhammed Int'l Airport (Lagos), Nnamdi Azikiwe Int'l Airport (Abuja), Mallam Aminu Kano Int'l Airport (Kano), Akanu Ibiam Int'l Airport (Enugu) and Port Harcourt Int'l Airport (Omagwa).

He said the project would be implemented through a 20-year Public-Private Partnership arrangement, with modern facilities, portable laboratories and data-sharing systems to improve surveillance and response at Nigeria's entry points.

Pate noted that the initiative was informed by lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and would enhance coordination among agencies such as the NCDC, Customs, Immigration and NAFDAC.

The project is expected to strengthen disease surveillance, improve inter-agency collaboration and enhance Nigeria's preparedness for public health emergencies.



Ground handling operations at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos.

High Fares Drive Commuters Away From Lagos Water Transport

By Uche Nwosu, Lagos

Boat operators in Lagos have raised concerns over declining passenger patronage, blaming rising fuel prices, increasing operational costs and high fares for forcing commuters to abandon waterways in favour of cheaper road and rail alternatives.

Data from the NBS Transport Fare Watch showed that waterway passenger fares increased by 30.88 per cent year-on-year, with the average fare rising from ₦1,739.32 in May 2025 to ₦2,276.48 in May 2026.

The Secretary of ATBOWATON Lagos Chapter, Ayomikun Aworetan, said a boat trip from

CMS to Badagry now costs about ₦7,000, compared with about ₦3,000 by road and rail, making water transport less competitive.

He noted that while some commuters still rely on waterways to avoid traffic, patronage has dropped significantly, with services on the Liverpool-Badagry and Liverpool-Agbara routes largely inactive.

Operators called on the government to introduce subsidies to reduce fuel costs, lower fares and encourage commuters to return to waterways to sustain the sector and protect jobs.

Türkiye Ready To Sign Maritime Boundary Agreement With Egypt

By Our Correspondent

Türkiye has expressed readiness to sign an agreement with Egypt on the delimitation of maritime boundaries, saying a potential deal could grant Egypt more than 15,000 square kilometres of additional maritime jurisdiction compared with a deal with Greece.

The Turkish Defence Ministry made the disclosure on Wednesday during its weekly press briefing in Ankara, where spokesperson Zeki Aktürk reaffirmed Türkiye's commitment to protecting its maritime interests in the eastern Mediterranean.

The ministry also welcomed Libya's approval of a memorandum of understanding signed with Türkiye in 2019 and announced participate in the Sea of Friendship military exercise in Aleanofia



Turkish and Egyptian naval vessels during a joint exercise in the Mediterranean.

Transportation News

IMION Urges FG To Implement Maritime Treaties, Reforms

By Our Correspondent, Lagos

The International Maritime Institute of Nigeria (IMION) has urged the Federal Government to move beyond ratifying international maritime treaties and ensure their effective implementation across the country's ports, maritime domain and inland waterways.

The Director-General of IMION, Rear Admiral Thaddeus Udofia (rtd), made the call while responding to the theme of the 2026 International Maritime Organisation (IMO) World Maritime Day, "From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence."

Udofia said Nigeria's progress in the maritime

sector should be measured by the practical impact of its policies on port security, operational efficiency, digitalisation and regulatory compliance rather than the number of agreements signed.

He emphasised that translating policies into action was essential to unlock the economic benefits of the maritime industry.

The IMION boss disclosed that the institute had established strategic training programmes and technical knowledge-sharing networks with international partners to promote global best practices.

He also revealed a five-year port transformation plan to improve port logistics,

strengthen trade corridors and reduce transaction costs.

On fisheries, he said the institute had advocated a data-driven, five-pillar plan to revitalise the sector through scientific assessment, modern cage-culture systems and satellite-based planning.

Udofia added that IMION was conducting specialised workshops on maritime security and global trade, and had aligned its training courses with the latest STCW standards to prepare Nigerian seafarers for emerging industry demands.

He reaffirmed the institute's commitment to evidence-based research and stronger technical capacity to ensure that government policies



A container vessel at the Apapa Port Terminal in Lagos.

Atiku Demands Daily Video Proof Of Tinubu's Umrah Trip, Questions France Destination

By Chidi Ugwu, Abuja

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has demanded daily, date-stamped photographs and videos of President Bola Tinubu performing the rites of Umrah in Makkah, questioning the transparency of the President's announced pilgrimage.

In a statement on Wednesday by Phrank Shaibu, Director of Strategic Communication of the ADC Presidential Campaign Council, Atiku alleged that credible intelligence suggested that France, rather than Saudi Arabia, might be the President's actual destination.

He urged the Presidency to disclose the complete itinerary and clarify the purpose of the

trip, including president's health or a reported \$20 billion loan request in exchange for a French business partner.

Atiku said Nigerians deserve verifiable evidence of the President's presence in Makkah and a transparent account of his daily engagements.

He said he and other Nigerians would join Tinubu in praying for the peace, stability and progress of the country but cautioned against invoking the name of Almighty Allah in vain.

The former Vice President maintained that a presidential trip presented as a mission for the country was a matter of public interest, stressing that Nigerians were entitled to know how the trip was being funded.

Delta TUC Hails Oborevori, Names Governor 'Ukodo the Pace Setter' Over 13th-Month Salary

By Atabor Julius, Asaba

The Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC), Delta State Council, has conferred the title of "Ukodo the Pace Setter" on Governor Sheriff Oborevori in recognition of his administration's decision to institutionalise the payment of 13th-month salary to public servants in the state.

In a statement, the TUC described the initiative as a significant boost to workers' welfare, particularly amid prevailing economic challenges.

According to the union, the decision to give the additional salary a legal backing demonstrates the government's recognition of to the growth and development of Delta State.

The TUC noted that workers



Delta State Governor, Sheriff Oborevori.

such as reinforce education to state governments.

The airport is used for state government cargo in hub for the North, East, and West the movement of agricultural produce and supply.

NRC Opens National Rail Network To Private Train Operators

By Uche Nwosu, Lagos

The Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has invited private companies to operate passenger and freight train services across its approximately 4,000-kilometre rail network under a track-access arrangement.

Managing Director, Dr Kayode Opeifa, said interested companies would provide their own locomotives, wagons and equipment while paying fees to access the tracks.

He said the NRC was no longer interested in being the sole operator, noting that the model would attract private investment and maximise

investment and maximise existing infrastructure.

Opeifa cited the Lagos State government and the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation as examples of operators already participating in the model.

He added that the NRC plans to rehabilitate the Lagos-Kano narrow-gauge railway and expand the network to 10,000 kilometres by 2028, with a long-term target of 20,000 kilometres.

The goal is also to improve freight movement and reduce pressure on roads and strengthen Nigeria's logistics well-seamless linking Lekki Deep Sea Port through Ibeju-kilometres.

The corporation also proposed new standard-gauge connections to seaports, including extensions to Apapa and Tin Can Island ports, as well as a route linking Lekki Deep Sea Port to Lagos.

Reps Approve ₦100.51bn Reimbursement To Yobe For Damaturu Cargo Airport

By Kingsley Benneth, Abuja

The House of Representatives has approved a ₦100.51bn promissory note programme to reimburse the Yobe State Government for the construction of the Muhammadu Buhari International Cargo Airport in Damaturu.

The chairman of the House Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management, Abubakar Nalaraba, disclosed this on Wednesday after a review of the Federal Government's request to settle the financial liability arising from its decision to take over the facility.

He said the committee conducted due diligence, including an inspection of the airport, and confirmed that the 13.3 construction



The Muhammadu Buhari International Cargo Airport, Damaturu, Yobe State.

NRC Opens National Rail Network To Private Train Operators

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Transportation News

Scam: Court Jails FCDA Official 25 Years for Land Fraud

By Chidi Ugwu, Abuja

Justice A.O. Musa of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, Abuja, has convicted and sentenced a staff member of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), Kinsley Eselebor, to 25 years' imprisonment for obtaining money under false pretences and using forged documents to defraud a land buyer.

The judge delivered the judgment on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, after finding Eselebor guilty on all five counts charges brought against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The court sentenced the convict to seven years' imprisonment each on counts one, two and three, and two years each on counts four and five, with all sentences to run concurrently and without an option of fine.

Eselebor, an employee of the FCDA's Department of Urban and Regional Planning, was prosecuted over money he collected from Moses Osinachi for two plots of land at Kubwa District Central Annex, Abuja. The properties, identified as Plots 383 and 424, were presented to the petitioner as genuine, despite Eselebor's lack of title to sell them.

Evidence before the court showed that the petitioner

and the convict were neighbours and worshipped in the same Church, a relationship that reportedly strengthened Osinachi's confidence in the transaction. Eselebor used two conveyance documents bearing the names Yusuf Lawan and Adegoke Asiwaju to convince the petitioner that the properties were genuine. After receiving payments from Osinachi's company, Moscow International Services Limited, he reportedly failed to deliver the properties or refund the money when confronted.

Reacting to the judgment, the EFCC's counsel, Joshua Saidi, described it as a deterrent to land racketeering



Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) headquarters, Abuja.

Atiku Demands Daily Video Proof of Tinubu's Umrah Trip, Questions France Destination

By Kingsley Benneth, Abuja

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has demanded daily, date-stamped photographs and videos of President Bola Tinubu performing the rites of Umrah in Makkah, questioning the transparency of the President's announced pilgrimage and alleging that France, rather than Saudi Arabia, might be the actual destination.

In a statement on Wednesday by his media aide, Phrank Shaibu, Atiku said credible intelligence suggests that Tinubu could make only a brief appearance in Makkah to France.

He called on the Presidency to disclose the President's complete itinerary and clarify the purpose of the trip, including whether it is connected to his health and a reported \$20 billion loan request involving a French business partner.

Atiku said Nigerians have the right to verifiable evidence of the President's presence in Makkah and a transparent account of his daily engagements, stressing that representing the nation on such a trip is a matter of public interest.

He urged the Presidency to respond to the questions raised and provide the necessary evidence to allay public concerns.

NCCC Receives Cybersecurity Awards, Appreciates Tinubu, Ribadu

By Our Correspondent, Abuja

The National Cybersecurity Coordination Centre (NCCC), Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), has expressed appreciation following its recognition at the International Cybersecurity Conference 2026, organised by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA).

The Centre received the Best Cybersecurity Innovation Award, while its National Coordinator, Ahmad Sa'ad Abubakar, received the Cybersecurity Leader of the Year and Lifetime Achievement in Cybersecurity awards.

In a statement on Thursday, NCCC expressed gratitude to President Bola Tinubu for his vision of a secure and

his vision of a secure and prosperous digital Nigeria, and to National Security Adviser, Niyi Osinbajo, for his leadership. Atiku Abubakar described the awards as a collective achievement and pledged to continue to advance the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), strengthen national cyber resilience and enhance collaboration with relevant agencies and international partners.



NCCC National Coordinator, Ahmad Sa'ad Abubakar.

High Fares Drive Commuters Away From Lagos Water Transport

By Uche Nwosu, Lagos

Boat operators in Lagos have raised concerns over declining passenger patronage, blaming rising fuel prices, increasing operational costs and high fares for forcing commuters to abandon waterways in favour of cheaper road and rail alternatives.

Data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed that waterway passenger fares increased by 30.88 per cent year-on-year, from N1,739.32 in May 2025 to N2,276.48 in May 2026.

The Secretary of the Association of Tourist Boat Operators and Water Transporters of Nigeria (ATBOWATON), Lagos Chapter, Ayomikun Aworetan, said a boat trip from CMS to Badagry now costs about N7,000, compared with about N3,000 by road and less competitive.

Operators called on the government to introduce subsidies, reduce operating costs and improve infrastructure to make water transport more affordable and attractive to commuters.

By Our Correspondent

Türkiye has expressed readiness to sign an agreement with Egypt on the delimitation of maritime boundaries, the Turkish Defence Ministry said on Wednesday, October 28.

Spokesperson Zeki Aktürk disclosed that a deal could grant Egypt more than 15,000 square kilometres of additional maritime jurisdiction compared with an arrangement with Greece.

The ministry also announced that Turkish and Egyptian naval forces will participate in the Sea of Friendship military exercise in Alexandria.



Turkish and Egyptian flags, symbolising renewed maritime cooperation.

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Transportation News

2027: Makinde, Adekanmbi Harp On Importance Of Prayer

•••Donate N5m At Ori Oke Ona Iwa Mimo C&S Church Worldwide, Igboho

By Atabor Julius, Igboho

The presidential candidate of the Allied People's Movement (APM) and Oyo State Governor, 'Seyi Makinde and the party's governorship candidate in Oyo State, Hon Bimbo Adekanmbi, have stressed the importance of prayers ahead of the 2027 general elections.

The duo made this statement on Wednesday, during the 88th Annual Holy Pilgrimage Programme of the Ona Iwa Mimo Cherubim and Seraphim Church Worldwide, held at the Ori Oke Igboho.

Governor Makinde and Hon Adekanmbi, who spoke through the Special Assistant to the Governor on Irepo/Olorunsogo/Oorelope Federal Constituency,

Alhaji Sarafadeen Yusuff Alani Alwajud, called on Nigerians and residents of the state to remain firm towards electing good leaders across board in the forthcoming elections.

They announced the donation of N5 million to the church and felicitated the members and all pilgrims on the annual programme.

Hon Alwajud also announced the donation of N500,000 in the name of the APM House of Representatives candidate in the federal constituency, Hon John Abiodun Oni.

At the programme, the Executive Chairman of Oorelope Local Government, Hon Jacob Ogundiran, the APM House of Assembly candidate for Oorelope Local

Government, Hon Jimoh Adisa Olabisi (JAO), and the party's Chairmanship Candidate, Moses Alao, all congratulated the leadership and members of the church.

They urged Nigerians to seek divine guidance in choosing leaders who would promote unity, peace and development across the country.

The programme was attended by stakeholders, leaders of the party, clergy members and local government appointees, who prayed for a peaceful and successful 2027 general election.

Speakers also emphasised the need for continued community support and unity to achieve good governance and sustainable development.



Oyo State Governor, 'Seyi Makinde (left) and Hon. Bimbo Adekanmbi during the 88th Annual Holy Pilgrimage Programme at Ori Oke Igboho, on Wednesday.

WIEN, KPMG Move To Track Women Inclusion In Energy Industry

By Uche Nwosu, Lagos

The Women in Energy Network (WIEN) and KPMG Advisory Services have collaborated to track women's inclusion across Nigeria's oil, gas and power sectors with Nigeria's first industry benchmark for diversity, equity and inclusion.

The initiative is aimed at establishing a standard for measuring gender representation and strengthening accountability for inclusive workplace practices in an industry long regarded as male-dominated.

Under the partnership, WIEN and KPMG will develop a DEI Benchmark Report, introduce due diligence for the WIEN

Industry Awards and establish directories for qualified female board candidates and women-owned businesses.

WIEN President, Mrs Eyona Fatai-Williams, said the initiative would provide the evidence needed to inform policy decisions and track progress in advancing gender diversity.

Speaking on behalf of KPMG, Associate Director, Chukwuemeke Igbari, said the partnership would ensure that women's contributions to the energy industry receive greater recognition and support.

WIEN disclosed that the inaugural DEI Benchmark Report would be unveiled at its gala night scheduled for November 11 at the

in parallel with the

Nigeria, reported that the operator, at repeated involvement from the operator, a number of people behind the scene to call for the initiative, in Metropolitan area, for the Lagos.

Police Confirm Pastor's Arrest Over Alleged Defilement Of Minor Choristers In Bayelsa

By Chidi Ugwu, Yenagoa

The Bayelsa State Police Command has confirmed the arrest of a 50-year-old Pastor, Ambros Mark, over alleged defilement of two underaged girls, who are members of a church choir.

The command's spokesperson, Musa Mohammed, said the suspect has confessed to the crime and the case is being investigated for proper prosecution.

The two minors are between 13 and 14 years old. The church is identified as Point of Redemption Church International, located behind Amarata in Yenagoa.

According to residents, the pastor was accused of repeated

The 14-year-old victim reportedly reported the incident to her father, a police officer, leading to the suspect's arrest last Saturday.

The Chairperson of FIDA, Bayelsa State, Dr. Boma Tonye Miebai, and the founder of Do Foundation, Dr. Dise Ogbise Goddy Harry, confirmed the incident and condemned the alleged act.

FIDA said it is monitoring the case, urging a thorough investigation and prosecution. It stressed that no religious title places anyone above the law and called for the protection, dignity and confidentiality of the affected children.

Coalition Demands Probe Before APC Submits Ekiti Candidate To INEC

By Kingsley Benneth, Abuja

A coalition of APC support groups has asked the party's national leadership to withhold the nomination of Toyin Okoro Zacharius for Ekiti South Federal Constituency I over allegations of misconduct, conflict of interest and possible eligibility concerns.

In a statement signed by its National Secretary, Chidiebere Osundu, the group warned that allowing the candidate to contest the January 16, 2027 election without resolving the allegations could expose the party to litigation and the possible loss of the seat.

The coalition cited claims of a past conviction abroad, continued role as a legislative

aide while seeking elective office and government contracts awarded to his private company as issues requiring urgent investigation.

It called on the APC to substitute the candidate, urging the ICPC to expedite its investigation.

The group said it had earlier petitioned anti-corruption agencies and the DSS, and appealed to Ekiti South residents to remain calm while the issues are examined.

Zacharius has not responded to the allegations, which remain unverified and subject to investigation by the relevant authorities.

Oba Hills Communities Seek Jobs, Development As Traditional Rulers Back National Park

By Atabor Julius, Abuja

Traditional rulers from communities hosting the Oba Hills National Park in Osun State have called on the Federal Government and the National Park Service to prioritise employment, infrastructure development and community participation in the management of the park.

The Olu of Akinleye, Oba Nafiu Abiodun Taofeek, made the appeal during a visit to the Conservator-General of the National Park Service in Abuja, urging the government to clearly demarcate the park's boundaries and prevent disputes over farming and mining.



A view of the Oba Hills National Park in Osun State.

He commended the park authorities for engaging the communities and requested employment opportunities, a local park office, and continued development support.

The traditional rulers pledged their support for conservation and peaceful coexistence.

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