

NIMASA Deploys Drones, Armoured Vehicles To Strengthen Maritime Security

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) has deployed drones and armoured vehicles to strengthen maritime security across the country's territorial waters and inland waterways.



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Nigeria Seeks Stronger Global Maritime Partnerships To Boost Shipping Industry

Nigeria has called for stronger global maritime partnerships to enhance the development of its shipping industry and improve its participation in international trade.



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Reps To Investigate Illegal Structures Around Eko Bridge, Other Federal Bridges In Lagos

By GTe-News Desk, Abuja

The House of Representatives has resolved to investigate the proliferation of illegal structures around Eko Bridge and other federal bridges in Lagos, citing security risks, traffic congestion and threats to the structural integrity of the bridges.

The resolution followed the adoption of a motion at plenary on Thursday, with lawmakers expressing concern over the growing encroachment on bridge corridors and nearby right of way, particularly at Eko Bridge, which they said has become a major security and safety concern.

The House directed its Committees on Works and National Planning and Economic Development to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Works, the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), the Lagos State Government and other relevant agencies to conduct a joint inspection of Eko Bridge and other federal bridges in Lagos.

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Traffic on Eko Bridge, Lagos, with structures along the waterfront.

FRSC Warns Drivers, Transport Operators Against Overloading, Mixed Loading

By Sodiq Omotoso, Abuja

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has warned drivers and transport operators against overloading and mixed loading, saying the practices increase the risk of road crashes and endanger the lives of passengers and other road users.

The Corps made the warning on Thursday as part of its ongoing advocacy campaign ahead of the 2026 ember months, a period usually associated with increased travel, higher traffic volumes and a rise in road accidents across the country.

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FRSC officials during a traffic enforcement exercise.

Reps To Investigate Illegal Structures Around Eko Bridge, Other Federal Bridges In Lagos

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The resolution followed the adoption of a motion at plenary on Thursday, with lawmakers expressing concern over the growing encroachment on bridge corridors and nearby right of way by commercial activities, shipping containers, markets, warehouses and other structures.

The House directed its Committee on Public Assets to investigate the legality of the structures, review approved engineering drawings and plans, and identify those responsible

for the encroachments.

The committee is also expected to determine whether the structures comply with relevant planning and building regulations and to recommend measures to prevent further encroachments.

The House further directed the Federal Ministry of Works, the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), the Nigerian Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), the Lagos State Government and other relevant agencies to submit detailed reports within four weeks on the status of structures around Eko Bridge and other federal bridges in Lagos.

The reports are to include approved plans, permits, engineering assessments and enforcement actions taken so far.



Eko Bridge and surrounding developments are set to come under a House of Representatives investigation.

FG Approves Development Of King Amachree Airport In Rivers

By Chidi Nwosu, Abuja

The Federal Government has approved the development of the proposed King Amachree Airport at Elem Ifoko, Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State, as part of efforts to expand the country's aviation infrastructure and improve regional connectivity.

The approval, which was disclosed on Thursday, is subject to the preparation of an airport master plan, the conduct of environmental and social impact assessments and compliance with the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) regulations.

Officials said detailed surveys would be carried out to determine the airport's design, including runway specifications, terminal facilities, navigation aids and ancillary infrastructure.

The government also directed that drainage and flooding studies be undertaken, given the area's terrain, while plans are being made to provide reliable access roads to support the airport's operations.

FG: N70,000 Monthly Transport Support Not Salary Increase

By Uche Azu, Abuja

The Federal Government has clarified that the N70,000 monthly transport support for eligible federal civil servants is a temporary six-month relief measure and not a salary increase.

The Budget Office of the Federation, in a statement on Thursday, said the support is intended to cushion the impact of rising transportation costs and other economic pressures.

According to the statement, each eligible civil servant will receive N70,000 monthly for six months, amounting to a total of N420,000, to support their commuting and transportation needs.

The government added that discussions on a new national minimum wage would commence before the July 2027 review, noting that the transport support does not affect the ongoing minimum wage review process.

Kaduna Plans Rural Road Intervention Amid Zango Bridge Controversy

By Hamza Ibrahim, Kaduna

The Kaduna State Government has announced plans to include the Zango Urban Ward road in its rural road intervention programme following concerns over the deterioration of the Zango Bridge, which has been damaged by erosion.

The Zangon Kataf Local Government Area said the road will be captured in the next phase of rural road projects to improve connectivity and ease the movement of residents and goods.

The council also clarified that the N1 million donation previously reported was a support gesture and not a reconstruction project.

Officials said further assessments would be conducted to determine the extent of the damage and the scope of work required.

The government urged residents to remain calm as plans are being finalised, noting that the intervention forms part of broader efforts to improve rural infrastructure across the state.

FERMA Begins Drainage Clearing, Vegetation Control On Calabar Highway

By Emeka Ekpo, Calabar

The Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) has commenced a one-month routine maintenance exercise along the Calabar-Atimbo-Ikang road in Cross River State, focusing on drainage clearing and vegetation control.

The agency said the exercise is aimed at improving visibility, enhancing road safety and preventing flooding during the rainy season.

FERMA also disclosed that the operation is providing temporary employment for local youths drawn from communities along the corridor.



FERMA maintenance work targets safer visibility and drainage along the Calabar-Atimbo-Ikang road.

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Apapa Port Access Road Handles Over 7,000 Trucks Daily – NPA

By Our Correspondent, Lagos

The Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) has disclosed that the Apapa port access road in Lagos handles more than 7,000 trucks daily, nearly three times its designed capacity of about 2,400 trucks.

The Managing Director of the NPA, Dr Abubakar Dantoso, made this known while speaking at the African Ports Conference in Casablanca, Morocco, where he highlighted the challenges facing Nigeria's maritime sector and the need for coordinated reforms to improve port efficiency.

According to Dantoso, the excessive volume of truck traffic has contributed to congestion, prolonged delays and reduced reliability across port operations.

He recalled that cargo previously remained at Lagos ports for as long as three weeks, adding that the introduction of operational reforms had helped address some of the longstanding challenges.

Dantoso explained that the NPA introduced the Electronic Truck Call-Up System, known as Eto, to tackle gridlock along port access corridors. He also noted that the National Single Window had gone live, alongside a beta version of the Port Community System, to improve coordination among key stakeholders.

He said the reforms were yielding encouraging results, citing Nigeria's improved performance in the World Bank's Container Port Performance Index 2025, with Tin Can Island

12th among the world's most improved ports.

Dantoso further disclosed that Nigeria's cargo throughput rose by 24.8 per cent to 129.3 million metric tonnes in 2025. He emphasised the need for reliable digital infrastructure, cybersecurity and stronger regional cooperation to improve port efficiency and protect maritime infrastructure.

As president of the Port Management Association of West and Central Africa, he proposed four priorities, including cyber threat intelligence sharing, common data standards, performance benchmarking and professional training through regional collaboration.



A queue of container trucks along the Apapa port access road in Lagos.

Lagos Green Line Rail Designed For Passengers, Not Cargo Evacuation — Govt

By Olamide Ogun, Lagos

The Lagos State Government has clarified that the proposed Green Line Rail project is designed to facilitate passenger movement between the Lekki axis, Marina and other parts of the state, and will not be used for cargo evacuation from the Lekki Port.

The state Commissioner for Transportation, Oluwaseun Osiyemi, made the clarification during the government's 2026 media parley in Lagos, dismissing expectations that the rail project would provide a dedicated means of transporting cargo.

Osiyemi explained that the Green Line Rail was conceived primarily to improve passenger

movement, and that the Federal Government may have separate plans for a cargo rail connection to the area.

The commissioner stated that the project is intended to improve passenger transportation and connectivity across the state, noting that the Federal Government may have separate plans for a cargo rail connection to the area.

The commissioner also attributed the decline in the enforcement of the Lagos State Electronic Call-Up System around the Lekki-Ajah corridor during weekends to a shortage of enforcement personnel residing within the area.

Nigeria Seeks Stronger Global Maritime Partnerships To Boost Shipping Industry

By Our Correspondent, Abuja

Nigeria has called for stronger international maritime partnerships to improve shipping regulation, accelerate technology transfer and develop professional capacity.

The Director-General of NIMASA, Dr. Dayo Mobereola, made the call while representing the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy at the 2026 World Maritime Day Parallel Event in Busan, Republic of Korea.

Mobereola said such gatherings should go beyond discussions to establish practical collaborations that deliver tangible results.

He emphasised that stronger cooperation would improve regulatory standards, enhance professional expertise and boost

Mobereola added that the priorities align with the Federal Government's Marine and Blue Economy agenda, which seeks to maximise the country's maritime potential and promote sustainable growth.

He further stressed that sustained international cooperation is essential to advancing innovation and addressing emerging challenges in global shipping.

The 2026 World Maritime Day Parallel Event brought together maritime leaders and industry stakeholders to discuss developments affecting the global shipping industry and explore opportunities for international collaboration.

NIMASA Deploys Drones, Armoured Vehicles To Strengthen Maritime Security

By Emeka Lawson, Abuja

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), through its Deep Blue Project, has deployed drones, armoured vehicles and specialised tactical equipment to strengthen maritime security and combat illegal activities in Nigeria's territorial waters.

The new equipment was unveiled by the CEO of HLS International, Tal Spektor, at the Africa International Defence Exhibition in Lagos.

Spektor said the initiative would improve intelligence gathering, surveillance and coordinated security operations across Nigeria's maritime domain.

He explained that the project's Command and Control Centre enables security authorities to monitor vessels and obtain intelligence on vessel ownership, IMO identification numbers and other relevant details.

Among the equipment unveiled were a light utility vehicle, a vertical take-off and landing drone, an armoured vehicle and tactical equipment for special operations.

Spektor noted that the initiative also supports efforts to curb illegal fishing, protect the marine environment, enforce maritime regulations and safeguard government revenue.

He reaffirmed HLS International's commitment to supporting Nigeria's maritime security objectives.



An armoured vehicle and a surveillance drone deployed under the Deep Blue Project, displayed in Lagos.

OYRTMA Targets Zero Road Deaths As 2026 Ember Months Campaign Begins

By Sodiq Omotoso, Ibadan

The Oyo State Road Traffic Management Authority (OYRTMA) has launched its 2026 Ember Months road safety campaign, targeting a significant reduction in road crashes and zero fatalities across the state.

The campaign, themed "Safe Road, Safe Life: Drive Responsibly", was unveiled on Thursday at a media briefing in Ibadan.

OYRTMA Chairman, Major Adekoya Adesagba (retd.), said the initiative would focus on advocacy, enforcement, emergency response, inter-agency collaboration, and monitoring and evaluation.

He identified speeding, driving against traffic, drunk driving, overloading and use of mobile phones as major causes of crashes.

The campaign will commence on Monday, November 2, 2026, with a road walk and continue through January 2027.

Adesagba also announced the activation of the state's emergency traffic lines, 615 and 0912 888 8878, urging residents to use them to report traffic emergencies.

He called on motorists, transport operators and the public to support the campaign, stressing that achieving safer roads requires the collective commitment of all stakeholders.

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Gov Inuwa inaugurates APC's 2027 State election campaign, advisory Council

By Ahmed Mohammed, Gombe

The 2027 Gombe State campaign and advisory Council of the All Progressive Congress (APC) has been inaugurated by Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya.

Inaugurating the Council on Thursday evening at the International Conference Centre, Gombe, Governor Inuwa appealed to all well meaning members of the party to close ranks and work together towards securing victory for the party at all levels in the forthcoming general elections.

He said winning the 2027 Presidential election for President Tinubu and all other APC

Candidates should be the priority of every member in Gombe State while calling on them to bury all disagreements and work for victory.

Speaking in Hausa, Governor Inuwa said, "as I inaugurate you today, I charge you to put in your best to see to the success of all our candidates from the President, Senators, House of Representatives, Members, Governor and State House of Assembly candidates".

Earlier, the State party Chairman, Mohammed Nduats, said the APC administration under Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya has performed credibly well and has

earned the trust of the people of Gombe to add dates back.

He said, the APC administration has touched the lives of the people of Gombe State in virtually all sectors of the State in both the rural and urban centres.

The party's State Government candidate, Dr Jamilu Isiyaku Gwamna, urged the party members to ensure they get to their polling units to converse for votes because that is where the real voting takes place.

He promise to continue with all the good legacies of the Inuwa Yahaya-led administration especially in execution of people oriented projects if elected during the elections next year.

A concise electioneering campaign programme is expected to be out soon for the ruling party which has held



Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya inaugurating the APC 2027 State campaign and advisory Council in Gombe, on Thursday.

Reps Consider Bill to Convert Imo College of Education into Federal Institution

By Ephraim Nwosu, Abuja

The House of Representatives has advanced a bill seeking to convert the Imo State College of Education, Umuobom, into a federal institution, with the proposed legislation scaling second reading at plenary on Thursday.

The bill, sponsored by Hon. Ikenga Ugochinyere, who represents Ideato North and Itebe South Federal Constituency of Imo State, seeks to establish the Federal College of Education, Umuobom, Imo State, and provide a legal framework for its administration, academic programmes and operations.

Leading the debate, Ugochinyere made a case for the establishment of the proposed federal institution, which is expected to expand opportunities for teacher training and support academic development in the state.

The proposed conversion would bring the institution under the federal education system, subject to the provisions of the eventual law and applicable regulatory requirements.

Under the bill, the college would be established as a corporate body with the capacity to acquire, hold and manage property. Its operations would cover academic programmes, staffing, infrastructure development and research activities.

The proposed institution would also operate within the federal regulatory framework for colleges of education, including oversight by the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE).

Following the debate, the bill was passed for second reading through a voice vote and referred to the relevant committee for further legislative action.

Court Orders Attachment Of Jessica Iguodala's Property In Money Laundering Case

By Collins Ogbenor, Benin City

A Federal High Court sitting in Benin City has granted an interim order for the attachment of property belonging to Jessica Oghomwen Iguodala in connection with suit No. FHC/B/5C/2024.

The order followed an ex-parte motion dated October 26, 2026, filed by the police prosecutor, P. I. Odion, Esq., seeking the attachment of Jessica's property at No. 127, Independent Street, off Ighomwenghian Street, off Upper Sakponba Road, Benin City.

The motion was supported by a 12-paragraph affidavit deposed to by the Investigating Police Officer (IPO), two exhibits and a written address.

Justice B. O. Quadri, the presiding Judge said the application was intended compel her appearance before the court.

Counsel to the defendant, Imagbeghian, Esq., opposed the motion, arguing that the

Imagbeghian is a mere alibi to a needlepoint interloper, accusing, accusing him of encouraging his client to evade justice.

Recall that the court had earlier ordered the publication of a public summons compelling Jessica Iguodala to appear before it on or before March 12, 2026, to answer charges bordering on alleged money laundering, operating a financial institution without a licence, and aiding the suicide of Lilian Omokhuale.

The court directed that the summons be published in two national newspapers and pasted in the notice board of the Federal High Court, Benin City.

The prosecutor alleged that the defendant had absconded and was concealing herself to frustrate the execution of the warrant of arrest.

Ossiom Power Company Accuses Edo Police Command Of Double Standards, Says Company Lost Over N100m To Thieves

By Francis Onoiribholo, Benin

The management of Ossiom Power Company in Ologbo near Benin City, has accused the Edo State Police Command of double standards in its actions as they affect the company.

The company alleged that each time it reported theft of its high valued equipment, the police treated the cases with levity, but would swing into action against the company under flimsy excuses.

It said the market value of electricity equipment stolen between September 2025 and September 2026 is more than N100 million.

In November 2025, the company reported the vandalization of its 33kv lines to the State CID, Benin City, but no action was taken.

The company alleged that some of the stolen equipment were later recovered at the Ologbo Dubo Division police station and subsequently released to it, yet no suspect was arrested.

The management also claimed that after a police officer shot and injured an armed thief at the company's IPP2 plant last Wednesday, the officer was arrested and detained.

It further alleged that three other thieves were apprehended on Thursday while vandalizing equipment, but the police refused to take them in.

A senior police officer, speaking anonymously, denied the allegations, saying all reported cases were under investigation.

PBAT Door-to-Door Movement inaugurates Ekiti chapter, unveils 25 campaign vehicles

By Adewale Ajayi, Ado-Ekiti

Ekiti State Governor, Mr Biodun Oyebanji, has called on APC members to intensify grassroots mobilisation ahead of the January 2027 presidential election, with a target of securing 80 per cent of registered voters' support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

The Governor made the appeal on Thursday at the Ekiti Parapo Pavilion, Ado-Ekiti, during the inauguration of the Ekiti State chapter of the PBAT Door-to-Door Movement and the presentation of 25 campaign vehicles by the movement.

Oyebanji urged party members to engage voters, particularly those who remain undecided, and the grassroots



Governor Biodun Oyebanji speaking at the inauguration of the Ekiti State chapter of the PBAT Door-to-Door Movement, with the 25 campaign vehicles, in Ado-Ekiti, on Thursday.

warned against apathy. He expressed his respect for the state.

He expressed appreciation for the support of the state government, particularly those who remain undecided, and the grassroots

grassroots mobilisation.

The convener, represented by High Chief Keston Poni Poni, called for support for President Tinubu, saying reforms had strengthened state finances and development.

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Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya speaking during the inauguration of APC's 2027 State election campaign and advisory Council in Gombe, on Thursday.

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By Atabor Julius, Abuja

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The bill, sponsored by Hon. Ikenga Ugochinyere, who represents Ideato North and Ideato South Federal Constituency of Imo State, seeks to establish the Federal College of Education, Umuobom, Imo State, and provide a legal framework for its administration, academic programmes and operations.

Titled A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Education, Umuobom, Imo State, and for Related Matters, the

proposed legislation is aimed at strengthening teacher education, expanding access to tertiary education and improving the institution's capacity to contribute to educational development.

Leading the debate, Ugochinyere made a case for the establishment of the proposed federal institution, which is expected to expand opportunities for teacher training and support academic development in the state.

Following the debate, the bill was passed for second reading through a voice vote presided over by the Speaker and referred to the relevant committee for further legislative action.

If enacted, the proposed federalisation could widen access to teacher education, create employment opportunities and stimulate economic activity around Umuobom.

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By Francis Onoiribholo, Benin

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A Federal High Court in Benin has ordered the attachment of property belonging to Jessica Iguodala in a money laundering case.

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The management of Ossiom Power Company in Ologbo near Benin City, has accused the Edo State Police Command of double standards in its actions as they affect the company.

The company alleged that whenever it reported theft of its high valued equipment to the police, such issues are treated with levity, but the police would swing into action against the company under any flimsy excuses.

It said the market value of electricity equipment stolen from its premises between September 2025 and September 2026

2025 and September 2026 exceeded N100 million.

The company noted that in November 2025, it reported vandalism of its 33kv lines, but no action was taken. It also alleged that on September 23, 2026, some CCETC staff and thugs vandalised its cables and conductors, yet no arrests were made despite recovery of some stolen items at the Ologbo police station.

The company further alleged that a policeman who shot and injured an armed thief at its premises was arrested and

the Ologbo police station.

The company further alleged that a policeman who shot and injured an armed thief at its premises was arrested and detained, while recent suspects caught attempting to steal equipment were not taken in by the police because one of them had injuries.

A senior police officer who spoke under anonymity denied the allegations, saying reported cases were under investigation.

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By Sodiq Omotoso, Ado-Ekiti

Ekiti State Governor, Mr Biodun Oyejide, has called on APC leaders and members to intensify grassroots mobilisation ahead of the January 2027 presidential election, targeting 80 per cent of registered voters' support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

The Governor spoke on Thursday at the Ekiti Parapo Pavilion, Ado-Ekiti, during the inauguration of the Ekiti State chapter of the PBAT Door-to-Door Movement and the presentation of 25 campaign vehicles by the movement.

Oyejide urged party members to engage undecided voters and warned against voter apathy, stressing that victory would depend largely on direct engagement at the grassroots.

He said Ekiti should aim for at least 80 per cent of registered voters' support for the President, citing federal support for the state.

He expressed appreciation to the movement and assured that the vehicles would be effectively deployed for campaign activities.

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Gov Mbah Presents Manifesto Scorecard, Says Enugu Has Regained Confidence

By Chidi Ugwu, Enugu

Governor of Enugu State, Dr. Peter Mbah, has rendered an account of his 2023 manifesto performance to the people of Enugu State, saying his administration had made substantial progress in restoring Enugu's position as a place where people want to live, work, invest and visit.

Mbah recalled that he presented his manifesto at the same venue in October 2022 ahead of the 2023 governorship election, saying the Manifesto Performance Update was in keeping faith with the Citizens Charter (Executive Order 001), which he executed upon his inauguration on May 29, 2023.

Speaking at the event themed "Our Commitment to Ndi Enugu: The Journey So Far," at the Peter Mbah Law Auditorium, Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu, on

priorities and long-term economic ambitions.

"There was a time when Monday was no longer an ordinary working day in Enugu. Shops remained closed. Parents were afraid to send their children to school. Our roads were in poor condition, and many schools and health facilities needed substantial investment," he said.

"Today, people are going about their business with a freedom that had been denied to them for far too long. A trader can plan a full working week. Children can attend school. Businesses can receive customers, move goods and keep their employees working," he added.

Mbah highlighted achievements in health, education, tourism, agriculture, transportation and other sectors, linking them to his 2023 promise to eradicate

economy from \$4.4 billion to \$30 billion.

He urged residents to seize the moment by rallying around his administration to build a prosperous future for the state, noting that "work we have begun needs the commitment of all of us."

Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor of Godfrey Okoye University, Prof. Christian Anieke, commended the governor for returning to the university to render an account of his stewardship and urged other leaders to emulate the practice.

The event was attended by members of the academia, students, civil society organisations, business leaders, professional bodies and the media.



Governor Peter Mbah presenting his manifesto scorecard in Enugu, on Thursday.

Women Must Be Peacebuilders, Not Victims, FG, UN Insist

• Nigeria records 5,000 female mediators, 800 women in traditional councils

By Our Correspondent, Abuja

The Federal Government and the United Nations have called for greater participation of women in peacebuilding, security management and conflict resolution, warning that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without the meaningful involvement of women in decision-making processes.

The Minister of Women Affairs, Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, made the call on Thursday during a press briefing to mark the 26th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

She said the government is strengthening policies to ensure women are active participants in shaping Nigeria's security architecture.

The UN Women Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Beatrice Eyong, disclosed that Nigeria has recorded over 5,000 women mediators and more than 800 women in traditional councils.

She lamented that nearly 80 per cent of active peace negotiations last year took place without a single woman, noting that women's participation can increase the probability of peace agreements lasting at least 15 years by 35 per cent.

Eyong urged greater investment in conflict prevention, while Lieutenant Colonel Nneka Olimma-Adinweruka called for increased representation of women in the Armed Forces and other security institutions.

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By Ephraim Nwosu, Abuja

The House of Representatives has advanced a bill seeking to convert the Imo State College of Education, Umuobom, into a federal institution, with the proposed legislation scaling second reading on Thursday.

The bill, sponsored by Hon. Ikenga Ugochinyere, seeks to establish the Federal College of Education, Umuobom, and provide a legal framework for its administration, academic programmes and operations.

Leading the debate, Ugochinyere said the proposal would strengthen teacher education, expand access to tertiary education and improve the institution's capacity.

Under the bill, the college would be established as a corporate body with the capacity to acquire and manage property and would operate within the federal regulatory framework, including oversight by the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE).

The initiative is expected to widen access to teacher education, create employment opportunities and stimulate economic activity in Umuobom and neighbouring communities.

Following the debate, the bill was passed for second reading and referred to the relevant committee for further legislative action.

Nigeria Customs, US Chamber Of Commerce Deepen Bilateral Relations To Boost Trade Facilitation

By Juliet Oyoyo, Abuja

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has strengthened business relations and enhanced trade facilitation with the US Chamber of Commerce, the US-Africa Business Centre and the American Business Council.

The development was disclosed at a quarterly meeting in Abuja, where the CGC, Adewale Adeniyi, represented by the DCG (Tariff and Trade), Caroline Niagwan, said the visit would strengthen collaboration and economic cooperation.

Niagwan reaffirmed the Service's commitment to institutional reforms, digital transformation and enhanced stakeholder engagement.

She added that the agency is automating licence and permit applications, deploying 22 additional scanners and transitioning to paperless processes.

Kendra Gaither, President of the US-Africa Business Centre, praised the Service for its contributions to Nigeria's economic development, noting that effective Customs operations are critical to investment opportunities.

Margaret Olele, CEO of the American Business Council Nigeria, also commended the Service for progress in trade facilitation and transparency, citing its top ranking in the FEEC Compliance Assessment.

NIMASA Deploys Drones, Armoured Vehicles To Strengthen Maritime Security

By Our Correspondent, Lagos

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), through the Deep Blue Project, has deployed drones, armoured vehicles and specialised equipment to strengthen maritime security and combat illegal activities in Nigeria's waters.

Unveiling the equipment on Tuesday in Lagos, HLS International CEO, Tai Spektor, said the initiative would improve intelligence gathering, surveillance and coordinated operations.

He added that the new equipment includes a VTOL drone, armoured vehicle and tactical gear for special operations, and would support efforts to curb piracy, illegal fishing and maritime



A NIMASA armoured vehicle and surveillance drone unveiled under the Deep Blue Project in Lagos.

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Transportation News

Ossiommo Power Company Accuses Edo Police Command Of Double Standards, Says Company Lost Over N100m To Thieves

By Francis Onoiribholo, Benin

The management of Ossiommo Power Company in Ologbo near Benin City has accused the Edo State Police Command of double standards in its actions as they affect the company.

In a press statement in Benin City, the company alleged that each time it reported theft of its high-valued equipment to the police, such issues were treated with levity, and swept under the carpet, but the police would swing into action against the company under flimsy excuses.

It said the market value of electricity equipment stolen from its premises in Ologbo between September 2025 and September 2026 is more than N100 million.

The company recalled that in November 2025, it reported the vandalism of its 33kv lines at the State CID, Benin City, but

no action was taken. On September 23, 2026, it said some CCETC staff, supported by hired thugs, vandalised its cables and conductors in broad daylight. The matter was reported to the police, but nothing came out of it.

Some of the stolen equipment were later recovered at the Ologbo Division of the police command and released to the company, yet no one was arrested.

The company further alleged that a mobile policeman on guard duty shot and injured an armed thief who attempted to steal cables from its IPP2 plant last Wednesday night, but the officer was arrested and detained at the State CID and is still in custody.

It also said three vandals caught at the plant on Thursday were not taken into custody by the

The company described the police conduct as inconsistent and called on the command to act on reported cases of theft, vandalism and destruction of its facilities.

Efforts to reach the Police Public Relations Officer, Eno Ikoedem, for comment were unsuccessful, as calls to her number rang without a response.

However, a senior police officer who spoke under anonymity denied the allegations, saying the company's reported cases were under investigation.



A section of Ossiommo Power Company facility in Ologbo, Benin City.

Man O' War Pushes Sports as Tool for Youth Development

By Our Correspondent, Abuja

Nigeria's frontline voluntary paramilitary organisation, Man O' War, has reaffirmed its commitment to using sports as a strategic tool for youth development, discipline, physical fitness and national unity.

The National Commander, Ademola Gbenga, stated this when the Editor of Sahel Sports Newspaper, Abdulgafar Oladimeji, paid a strategic partnership visit to the Man O' War national headquarters in Abuja.

Gbenga, represented by MC A.R. Ikumapayi, said the organisation was ready to

partner with relevant sports stakeholders to promote grassroots talent discovery and development through its structures across the country.

He said Man O' War's nationwide presence provides a strategic platform for identifying and nurturing young athletes.

"Sports is not just about competition; it is about discipline, teamwork, resilience and patriotism, values that Man O' War stands for," Ikumapayi said.

Oladimeji urged the national command to further strengthen the use of sports to promote physical fitness and agility among its members and the wider youth population.

2027: Peter Obi Vows to Tackle Insecurity, pledges 10,000 MW of electricity

By Atabor Julius, Enugu

Presidential candidate of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Peter Obi, has pledged to unite Nigeria, tackle insecurity and improve electricity supply if elected in 2027.

Obi made the promises at a town hall meeting in Enugu on Thursday, urging Nigerians to elect a competent leader capable of addressing the country's challenges.

He said, "The time Nigerians in 2027, you must elect a president who is competent, who has the capacity, compassion, commitment, confidence, and energy required by the task. This time requires energy."

Obi also promised to declare a state of emergency in education

and ensure access to healthcare facilities in every ward across the country.

He further pledged to generate, transmit and distribute at least 10,000 megawatts of electricity to support industries and economic activities.

Obi called for accountability in the management of public funds and sought the support of Nigerians for his 2027 ambition.

Also speaking, renowned political economist, Prof. Pat Utomi, expressed confidence that a combination of Peter Obi and Rabiun Kwankwaso would deliver Nigeria, urging Nigerians to come out massively to vote and defend their votes to ensure the emergence of a new Nigeria.



Peter Obi speaking at a town hall meeting in Enugu, on Thursday.

Court Orders Attachment Of Jessica Iguodala's Property In Money Laundering Case

By Our Correspondent, Benin City

A Federal High Court in Benin City has granted an interim order for the attachment of property belonging to Jessica Oghomwen Iguodala in connection with suit No. FHC/B/5C/2024.

The order followed an ex-parte motion dated October 26, 2026, filed by the police prosecutor, P. I. Odion, Esq., seeking the attachment of property at No. 127, Independent Street, off Ighomwenghian Street, off Upper Sakponba Road, Benin City.

Justice B. O. Quadri said the application was intended to compel her appearance before the court.

Counsel to the defendant argued that the processes were defective, while the prosecutor cited Section 41 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2025, which allows publication of a public summons where a suspect has absconded.

The court had earlier ordered the publication of a public summons for Jessica Iguodala to appear on or before March 12, 2026, to answer charges bordering on alleged money laundering and operating a financial institution without a licence. The order has since been complied with.

The matter continues.

EFCC Investigator Claims Ignorance Of NAF, FAAN Dispute Over Katsina Airport Project Site

By Juliet Oyoyo, Abuja

An investigator with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mr Christopher Odojin, has told the FCT High Court that he was not aware of a dispute between the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) and the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) over the site of a contract awarded to Al Buraq Global Investment Limited at the Katsina airport.

Odojin, the 12th prosecution witness in the trial of former Aviation Minister, Hadi Abubakar Sirika, and three others, said no NAF or FAAN personnel

were interviewed during the EFCC investigation.

He said there was no land allocated for the apron expansion and was not aware that the dispute prevented the company from mobilising to site or that the contract was re-awarded and the company asked to move to site.

He confirmed that relevant documents were gathered during the investigation, but there was no video recording of statements.

Justice Sylvanus Orijio adjourned the case to November 18, 2026, for continuation of the cross-examination of the witness.

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Reps Consider Bill to Convert Imo College of Education into Federal Institution

By Ephraim Nwosu, Abuja

The House of Representatives has advanced a bill seeking to convert the Imo State College of Education, Umuobom, into a federal institution, with the proposed legislation scaling second reading at plenary on Thursday.

The bill, sponsored by Hon. Ikenga Ugochinyere, seeks to establish the Federal College of Education, Umuobom, Imo State, and provide a legal framework for its administration, academic programmes and operations.

Leading the debate, Ugochinyere said the proposed conversion would expand opportunities for teacher training and support academic development in the state.

Under the bill, the college would be established as a corporate body with the capacity to acquire, hold and manage property, and would operate within the federal regulatory framework, including oversight by the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE).

The initiative aims to strengthen teacher preparation and improve access to professional training.

If enacted, the federalisation could widen access to teacher education for students in Ideato and neighbouring communities, while creating employment opportunities and stimulating economic activity around Umuobom.

The proposed change in status would require further legislative scrutiny, including considerations on governance, funding, staffing and administrative structure.

Following the debate, the bill was passed for second reading through a voice vote and referred to the relevant committee for further legislative action.

The committee is expected to examine the bill's provisions in greater detail before reporting back to the House.

The proposed legislation must pass the remaining stages of the legislative process and receive the required approvals before the Federal College of Education, Umuobom, can be established under the new law.



Members of the House of Representatives during a plenary session in Abuja, on Thursday.

UK, Nigerian Partners Celebrate PLANE Achievements, Pledge Continued Education Support

By Our Correspondent, Kaduna

The United Kingdom and its Nigerian partners have celebrated the achievements of the Partnership for Learning for All in Nigeria (PLANE), highlighting its contributions to improving learning outcomes and strengthening education systems across northern Nigeria.

The programme's close-out event was held in Kaduna with government officials, education stakeholders, teachers and development partners in attendance.

Funded by the UK and implemented by DAI, UNICEF, Save the Children and others, PLANE directly reached more than two million children and supported the training of over 25,000 teachers and facilitators.

The British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Pete Vowles, described PLANE as a partnership driven by a shared commitment to ensuring that more children enrol in school, remain in school and acquire essential learning skills.

Vowles noted that although the programme was coming to an end, efforts were underway to ensure that its successful approaches continued through adoption and expansion by Nigerian institutions.

Kaduna State Deputy Governor, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe, expressed appreciation for the programme, while UN Women Representative to Nigeria, Beatrice Eyong, said Nigeria had recorded over 5,000 women mediators and more than 800 women in traditional councils.

Gov Mbah Presents Manifesto Scorecard, Says Enugu Has Regained Confidence

By Chidi Ugwu, Enugu

Governor of Enugu State, Dr. Peter Mbah, has rendered an account of his manifesto performance, saying his administration had made substantial progress in restoring Enugu's position as a place where people want to live, work, invest and visit.

Speaking at the event themed "Our Commitment to Ndi Enugu: The Journey So Far," at Godfrey Okoye University, Mbah recalled the state of affairs when he assumed office and outlined his government's achievements in health, education, tourism, agriculture, transportation and other sectors.

He said security has improved significantly, businesses are going about their activities and the state is steadily regaining its position as a regional hub.

"There was a time when Monday was no longer an ordinary working day in Enugu. Shops remained closed, roads were deserted and parents were afraid to send their children to school. That was the reality we inherited. Today, people are going about their business with a freedom that had been denied to them for far too long," he said.

Mbah urged residents to rally around his administration to build a more prosperous future, adding that the work begun needs the commitment of all.

Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Christian Anieke, commended the governor for returning to the university to account the work begun needs the commitment of all.

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By Francis Onoiribholo, Benin

The management of Ossiom Power Company in Ologbo near Benin City has accused the Edo State Police Command of double standards, alleging that reported cases of vandalism were treated with levity while the police quickly arrest the company's staff over flimsy excuses.

The company said equipment worth more than N100 million was stolen between September 2025 and September 2026, including 33kv cables reported to the State CID in November 2025, with no action taken.

It also alleged that some CCETC staff and hired thugs vandalised cables and conductors on September 23, 2026, but no arrests were made, despite recovered items being found at the Ologbo Division.

However, a mobile policeman who shot and injured a thief during an attempted theft at the company's IPP2 plant was arrested and detained, while other vandals caught the next day were not taken in by the police.

The company called on the Edo State Police Command to act against thieves and vandals and ensure the protection of its facilities.

2027: Peter Obi Vows to Tackle Insecurity, Pledges 10,000 MW of Electricity

By Atabor Julius, Enugu

Presidential candidate of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Peter Obi, has pledged to unite Nigeria, tackle insecurity and improve electricity supply if elected in 2027.

Obi made the promises at a town hall meeting in Enugu on Thursday, urging Nigerians to elect a competent leader with the capacity, compassion and energy to address the country's challenges.

He said, "Our children must get to school. We must ensure that there is a healthcare facility in every ward in Nigeria. As president, I will generate, transmit and distribute at least 10,000 megawatts of electricity



ADC presidential candidate, Peter Obi, speaking at a town hall meeting in Enugu, on Thursday.

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