

A Tribute to Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi (1927–2025)

A Light That Shone Over Africa

Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'un.

With hearts heavy yet filled with gratitude to Allah, we join millions across Nigeria, West Africa, and the global Muslim community in mourning the passing of **Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi**, a titan of Islamic scholarship, a man of extraordinary devotion, and a rare gift to humanity.

On the day of his Janazah, Bauchi witnessed the largest crowd ever to throng the city, as hundreds of thousands estimated at over 300,000 people filled the Eid ground in solemn respect. Former Presidents, Vice Presidents, the representative of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Governors, Emirs, Senators, Members of the House of Representatives, foreign Ambassadors, Ministers, Commissioners, Judges, Business Communities, distinguished scholars, and ordinary men and women all gathered for one purpose: to honour a saintly soul whose light touched every home, every heart, and every community.

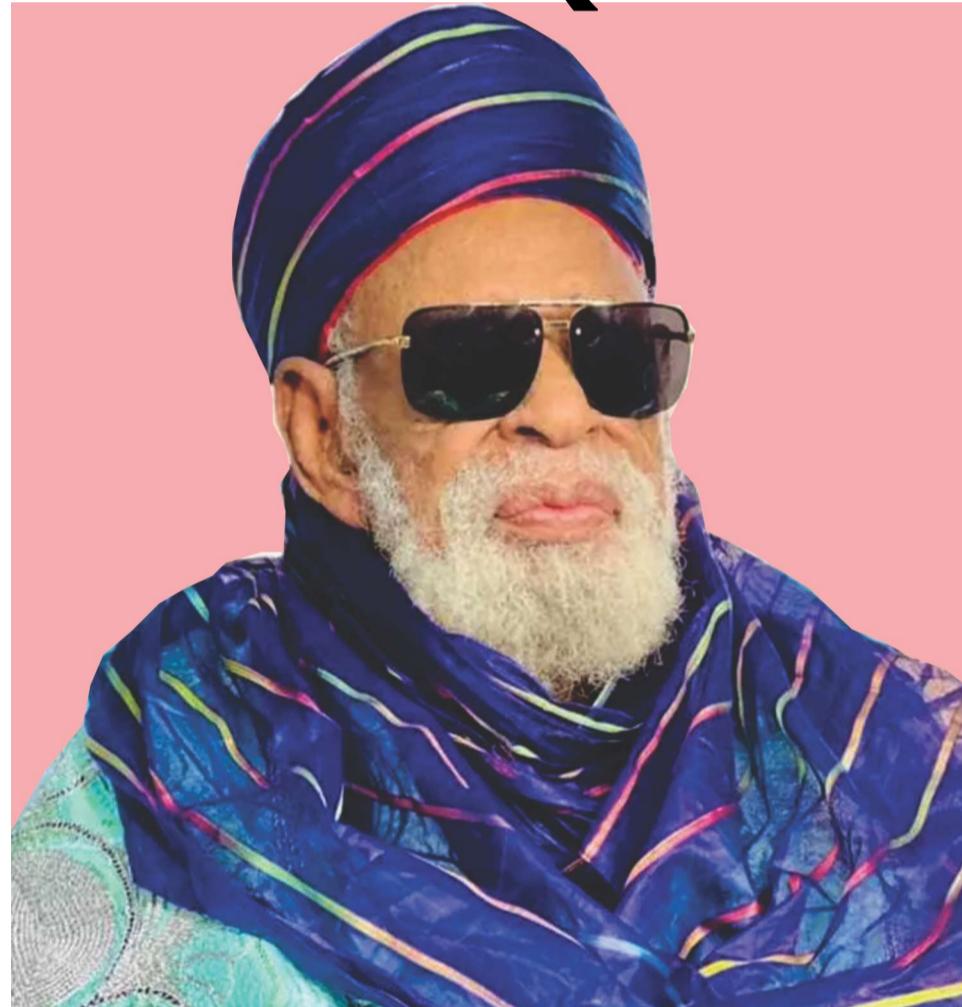
A Century of Light and Scholarship

Born in Bauchi in 1927, Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi lived for 102 according to Islamic Calendar years, a lifetime marked by unwavering dedication to Allah, the pursuit of knowledge, and service to humanity. As the **Leader of the Tijjaniyya Order in West Africa**, his influence transcended borders reaching the Sahel, Central Africa, and the global diaspora.

His Islamic scholarship remains unmatched in Nigeria's contemporary history. He memorised, mastered, and taught the Qur'an, Hadith, Tafsir, Tasawwuf, jurisprudence, and the classical texts with a command that earned him respect from both peers and students alike. He was a living encyclopaedia of Islamic knowledge a man whose spiritual station and academic depth were recognized across the Muslim world.

A Patriarch, A Builder, A Philanthropist

Sheikh Dahiru was blessed with 87 children and over 380 grandchildren a living reflection of the Qur'anic promise that in righteousness lies



Late Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi

barakah. 70 of his children memorized the glorious Qur'an.

His contributions to society were monumental:

- Over 1,000 orphanage homes and Islamiyya schools built through his personal effort,
- Thousands of students trained in the Qur'an and the sciences of Islam,

- Countless families fed, supported, and elevated from hardship,
- Entire communities uplifted spiritually, economically, and socially.

He was not only an Islamic scholar; he was a father to the Fulanis, the Hausas, and the diverse peoples of West Africa. His generosity knew no tribe,



A mammoth crowd at the funeral prayers of late Sheikh Dahiru Usmani Bauchi

no boundary, no discrimination.
A Peacemaker and Moral Compass

Sheikh Dahiru stood firm for peace, justice, and unity. He used knowledge, humility, and wisdom not confrontation to guide leaders, advise governments, and calm tensions across Nigeria. He was a unifying force whose voice commanded respect from the palace to the grassroots.

Through every lecture, every dhikr, every Ramadan Tafsir, he reminded the world of the Prophet's message: **“Mercy to mankind is the foundation of Islam.”**

His Final Lessons to Us:

- Humility in greatness,
- Service in leadership,
- Charity in wealth,
- Patience in trial,
- And unwavering devotion in worship.

He lived simply, walked humbly, taught tirelessly, and left the world better than he met it. His legacy is not only in books or buildings, but in hearts transformed, souls purified, and generations educated.

A Loss Beyond Measure, A Legacy Beyond Time

The departure of Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi is not just a loss to Bauchi or Nigeria it is a loss to Africa and the entire Ummah. But his light does not die. His teachings live. His institutions endure. His children, students, and followers will continue to spread the knowledge and spirituality he embodied.

May Allah count him among His beloved servants.

May He elevate his rank among the Siddiqoon, the Shuhada'u, and the Salihun.

May He make his grave a garden from the gardens of Jannah.

May Allah preserve and guide his family, his students, and the Tijjaniyya community.

Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi lived as a servant of Allah and departed as a friend of Allah.

His memory shall remain a blessing for all time.

Allah ya jikansa da rahama, ya ba mu ikon bin sawunsa.

Ameen.

See Page 2,3,4,5 for more on Late Sheikh

Life, Death Legacies of Late Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi

From Ahmad Muhammad, Bauchi

A renowned Islamic scholar and Tijjaniyyah leader, Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi, has died at the age of 101.

Born on 2nd Almuhamarram 1346 AH, equivalent to 28th June, 1927, the revered scholar died last Thursday at the intensive care unit of the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital, Bauchi, and was buried last Friday in the Rauda in Sheikh Tahir Islamic centre, along Wunti Street Bauchi.

His funeral Prayer was led by a renowned Islamic scholar Sheikh Sharif Ibrahim Saleh Al Hussein as willed by Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi. May Allah forgive his shortcomings and grant him Aljannah Firdaus."

Many of his disciples interviewed explained

"We have truly lost a father, mentor, and spiritual guide. But Alhamdulillah, Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi left behind legacies by which he will always be remembered.

"Maulana Sheikh is humble, humane, generous, and an absolute gentleman. He always sought to help the needy and could spend his last kobo to solve someone's problem. He never grew tired of assisting anyone who approached him.

"we have truly lost a leader and mentor. May Allah forgive his shortcomings. His death has created a huge vacuum that will be difficult to fill in the near future."

We have lost a dedicated spiritual leader. We hope and pray that we will get a committed person who will build on the Sheikh's legacy.

"Late Sheikh Dahiru's contributions to the propagation of Islam cannot be quantified. He established hundreds of Tsangaya schools across Northern Nigeria and produced thousands of Qur'anic memorizers,"

Also commenting on the loss, his son, Sayyadi Ali Dahiru Usman Bauchi, said: "Sheikh has returned to his Creator. We are all from Allah, and to Him we shall all return. It is time for Sheikh to rest. We thank Almighty Allah for sparing his life up to this time. His life was well spent, Alhamdulillah.

"The death of Sheikh is a great loss not only to his immediate family, but to the people of Bauchi State, Nigeria, and the entire Muslim Ummah. But we thank Allah, for my father contributed immensely to the propagation of



Late Sheikh Tahir Usman Bauchi

Islam, and Alhamdulillah, he has left behind legacies for which he will forever be remembered."

Century of his services to Islam

His birth

Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi, born nearly a century ago, is among the most prominent Islamic scholars Nigeria produced and a leading pillar of the Tijjaniyyah order in Africa. He also served as the Deputy Chairman of the Fatwa Committee of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA).

When he was alive late Sheikh said in his biography that: "I am a Fulani man, as were all my four grandparents two from my paternal side and two from my maternal side. In my case, all of them were Fulani, so I have no lineage linked to any other ethnic group.

"We are Fulani from the old Bauchi State, before Gombe was created out of it. From my paternal side, I am Fulani from Bauchi State, Konkiyel, a community in Darazo Local Government Area, while from my maternal side, I am Fulani from Nafada in Gombe State. So, I belong to both states. I was born in June 1927, corresponding to 1st Muharram 1346H, on a Wednesday."

He said: "I had my first marriage in 1948. One of Allah's blessings upon me is that my children memorise the complete Qur'an at a tender age. Initially, my children completed memorization at 11; later at 10 and even 9."

A researcher who studied the life of the Sheikh and wrote two books on the life of Shehu Dahiru Bauchi, Professor Khalid Abdullahi Zaria, He said that the Sheikh lived on earth for 101 years, 5 months and 3 days.

He spent 100 years reciting the word. LA'ILAHA ILLALLAHU. He spent 99 years in his mouth reciting the Quran.

He recited Qu'ran more than 1,000,000 times.

He spent 96 years praying Friday prayers.

He spent 96 years

He spent 63 years performing Hajj and Umrah!

History shows that the Shaykh once spent 63 days in Medina and he used to go to Raudha for 63 consecutive days every day to visit OUR LEADER - PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH),

He left behind 820 both children, grandchildren + their children among them 400 memorized the Quran,

The children he had 100 - 50 males; 50 females

Among them 84 memorized - 42

males - 42 females.

Among his children there are 7 PhD holders in western education. Then he prayed to Allah to increase the closeness of the Shaykh to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) May He make all his children become his students

He also built over 1,000 houses in Bauchi, Kaduna and other northern states to accommodate his children, students and scholars free of charge. In addition, he owned several Islamic schools and farmlands, further supporting his mission of education and service.

Islamic education

Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi often recounted that he received his foundational Islamic education under the tutelage of his father whom he memorised the entire Qur'an. His father also introduced him to the Tijjaniyyah Sufi order, having himself been initiated by Alhaji Gwani Abba. After completing his memorisation, his father granted him permission to travel widely in pursuit of Islamic knowledge and Qur'anic mastery. Both his father, Alhaji Usman, and grandfather, Alhaji Adamu, were also hafiz. His mother was Hajjiya Maryam.

He travelled across several countries in pursuit of a scholarship, earning recognition for his exceptional proficiency in Qur'anic recitation.

Many described him as Gwani equivalent to a professor while others referred to him as Gangaran, signifying an emeritus-level authority in Qur'anic memorisation.

Sheikh Dahiru studied under numerous prominent Islamic scholars within and outside Nigeria, and he often described Sheikh Ibrahim Nyass as his greatest teacher. He began his tafsir in Bauchi in 1948 and spent 77 years translating and explaining the Qur'an. In 1976, the Bauchi Radio Corporation began broadcasting his tafsir, followed by Radio Nigeria Kaduna in 1980 when he relocated his preaching to Kaduna. Today, many northern radio stations air his sermons, especially during Ramadan.

His Ramadan tafsir, extensive Qur'anic schools, and contributions to Islamic scholarship made him one of the most influential clerics in Northern Nigeria.

According to the Wakilin Tarihin Bauchi, Alhaji Ado Dan Rimi, Sheikh Dahiru travelled widely across Africa including

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Life, Death Legacies of Late Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi

Nigeria.

According to the Wakilin Tarihin Bauchi, Alhaji Ado Dan Rimi, Sheikh Dahiru travelled widely across Africa including Egypt, Ghana, Cameroon and Morocco in search of knowledge.

He received numerous awards in tafsir, several honorary doctorate degrees, and the national honour of Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR).

Legacies

Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi will be remembered for his lifelong commitment to the propagation of Qur'anic education, notably through the establishment of Qur'anic Tsangaya Schools dedicated to helping children memorise the Holy Qur'an. He founded 618 Tsangaya schools across northern Nigeria and in neighbouring countries, including the Niger Republic, Cameroon, Benin Republic and Ghana.

Through more than 1,500 memorisation centres he established across Africa, over many students have memorised the Qur'an. Under his foundation,

The establishment of Tsangaya schools was driven by his desire to address the widespread issue of street begging among Almajiri pupils. In response to growing public concern, Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi pioneered the introduction of boarding Tsangaya schools to curb the movement of Almajiri children across states. The first such school was opened in B Kano, followed by another in Katsina. As the impact became evident, parents from various states began enrolling their children in the boarding system.

According to Sayyidi Ali Dahiru Bauchi, Director of Education at the Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi Foundation, the scholar also built Tsangaya schools in the Niger Republic, Ghana, Benin Republic and Cameroon. "Despite our presence in these countries, many parents still send their wards to Nigeria to learn the Qur'an in our schools," he said.

Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi will also be remembered for his controversial stance on Ramadan moon sighting, where he publicly contradicted the Sultan of Sokoto. On several occasions, he announced the start or end of Ramadan independently, leading him and some followers to observe fasting and Eid prayers separately a position that stirred debate and division among Tijjaniyya adherents and other Muslims nationwide.

Sultan leads special prayer in Zamfara

Speaking at the Qur'anic graduation ceremony in Kaura Namoda, Zamfara State, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar III, said the late Sheikh's family is recognized globally for producing the largest number of Qur'anic memorizers.

"Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi's name is listed among world record holders for founding the family with the highest number of Qur'anic memorisers," the Sultan said.

The Sultan directed a special prayer for the late cleric, led by the Chief Imam of Kaura Namoda, Malam Nasiru Liman Kaura.

The event was attended by prominent dignitaries, including Zamfara State Governor Dauda Lawal, represented by his Deputy Mani Malam Mumuni; the State Chairman of the Council of Chiefs, Alhaji Attahiru Ahmad, represented by the Emir of Gusau, Alhaji Abdulkadir Ibrahim Bello; and Emirs from Kaura Namoda, Maradun, Maru, Zurmi, Tsafe, and Muriki, among others.

Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi was a moral compass to the nation – Tinubu

President Bola Tinubu described the revered Islamic scholar as a moral compass whose life was devoted to teaching, preaching and guiding society.

In a statement issued by Presidential spokesperson, Mr Bayo Onanuga, the President said



Late Sheikh Tahiru Usman Bauchi

the late scholar's passing was a monumental loss to his family, followers and the nation.

He said, "Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi was a teacher, a father and a voice of moderation and reason. As both a preacher and a notable exegete of the Holy Qur'an, he was an advocate of peace and piety. His death has created a huge void."

The President recalled the blessings and moral support he received from the late Sheikh during the 2023 election and noted that the scholar's influence extended across the country and beyond.

Tinubu condoled with the Tijjaniyya community and urged followers of the late cleric to honour his memory by upholding his teachings on peaceful coexistence, devotion to God and kindness to humanity.

VP Shettima

Vice President Kashim Shettima, in a condolence message, said the Sheikh's extraordinary longevity was a divine blessing, allowing multiple generations of Nigerian Muslims to benefit from his profound knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual guidance.

Shettima said the late scholar was "one of Nigeria's greatest Islamic scholars whose teachings and exemplary life touched millions of Muslims across the country and beyond."

He said, "We have lost a spiritual guide, a teacher, and a moral compass whose dedication to Islamic scholarship spanned more than a century. His life was a demonstration of faith, learning, and service to Allah and humanity."

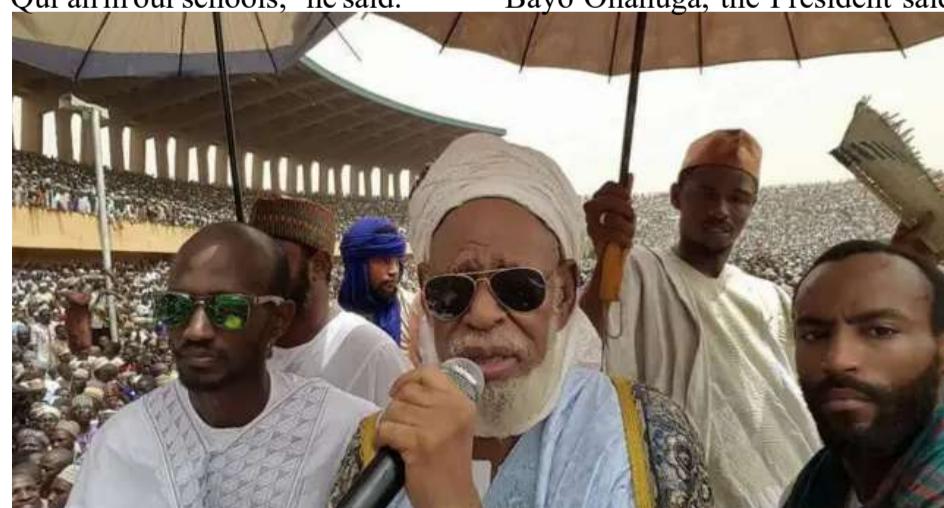
The Vice President praised Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi's lifelong commitment to spreading Islamic knowledge and strengthening the Tijjaniyya Brotherhood in Nigeria and West Africa. "His legacy of scholarship and service will continue to inspire us all," he added.

VP Shettima prayed that Almighty Allah forgive the Sheikh's shortcomings, grant him Aljannatul Firdaus, and give strength to his family, the Tijjaniyya Brotherhood, and the entire Muslim Ummah to bear the loss.

Gov. Bala Mohammed

Bauchi State Governor Bala Mohammed described the late Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi as a custodian of religious knowledge and a unifying voice for peace, tolerance, and understanding among Muslims and people of other faiths.

In a condolence message signed by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Mukhtar Gidado, the governor said, "Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi was a towering figure in

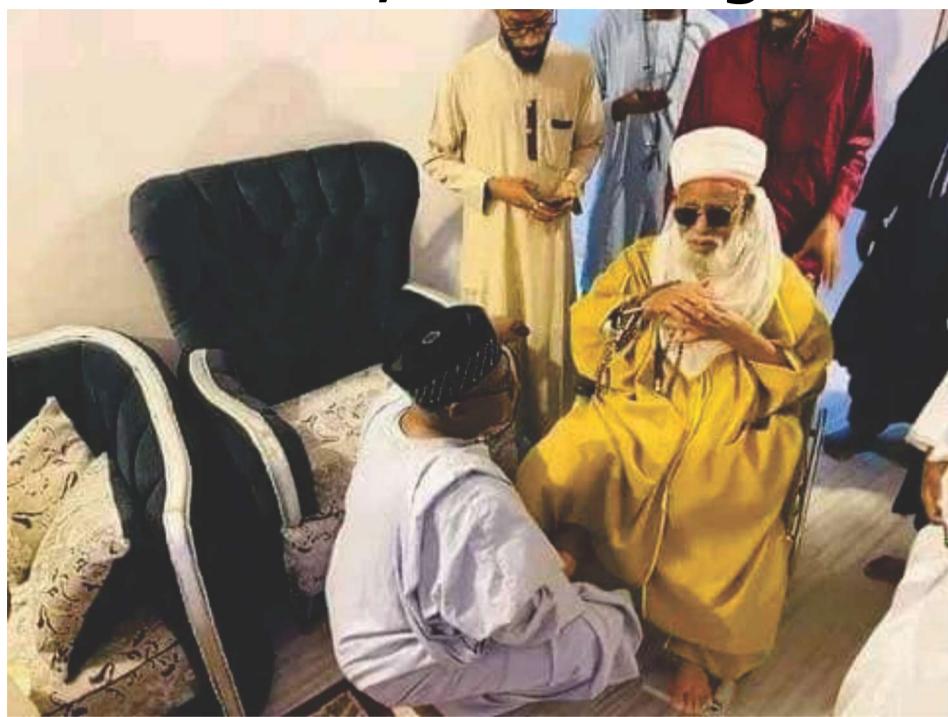


What Nigeria leaders said about Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi

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Life, Death Legacies of Late Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi



Gov. Bala Abdulkadir with Late Sheikh Tahiru Usman Bauchi

Islamic scholarship, devoted to teaching the Qur'an and nurturing thousands of students through his schools and learning centres across Africa," the governor said.

He added, "His contributions to theology, jurisprudence, and Islamic history leave an indelible mark. Bauchi State will continue to honour his legacy by supporting the institutions and ideals he stood for. May Allah forgive his shortcomings, grant him Aljannatul Firdaus, and comfort his family and followers. Ameen."



Former VP Atiku Abubakar with Late Sheikh Tahiru Usman Bauchi

Northern governors

The Northern States Governors' Forum (NSGF) described the deceased as a scholar of exceptional depth whose teachings and spiritual guidance touched millions across generations.

The forum's Chairman and Governor of Gombe State, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, in a statement, noted that Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi dedicated his century-long life to propagating Islamic knowledge, contributing significantly to the understanding of the Qur'an, Hadith, jurisprudence, and Sufism's spiritual dimensions.

"His mastery of Islamic texts

and remarkable spiritual insight distinguished him as a true guide for Muslims within and beyond Nigeria. His teachings enriched countless lives and will continue to illuminate generations to come," he said.

He added that the late scholar played a key role in promoting peace, unity, tolerance, and moral discipline, shaping the character of his followers, children, and the wider Muslim Ummah.

The NSGF extended condolences to the family, the

Tijjaniyya community, and the entire Muslim Ummah. Governor Yahaya prayed that Almighty Allah grant the eminent scholar eternal rest and reward his lifetime of devotion with Aljannat Firdaus.

Atiku
Former Vice President of Nigeria, Atiku Abubakar, described the death of Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi as a devastating loss not only to Nigeria's Muslim community but to the entire African continent.

Atiku said the late Sheikh was "a colossus and an exponent of tolerance." In a statement issued through his media office in Abuja on Thursday, he noted that Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi's calming and

unifying voice was particularly needed in a country plagued by religious divisions.

"Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi frequently lent his wisdom whenever Nigeria faced challenges of religious discord," Atiku said, adding that the cleric's contributions to promoting unity, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence will be remembered for generations.

The former Vice President also praised Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi's scholarship, describing him as a man whose influence on learning and faith was indelible. "He used the pulpit to foster religious harmony while others spread hate and bigotry," Atiku said, praying that Almighty Allah forgive his sins and grant him peaceful repose.

Barau

Deputy Senate President, Senator Barau Jibrin, in a statement by his media aide, Ismail Mudashir, said the late Tijjaniyya leader's death was "a huge vacuum that will be difficult to fill," noting that he devoted his life to the service of Islam and humanity.

"The late Sheikh touched millions of lives across Nigeria and beyond through his preaching, scholarship, and exemplary character. He was a great icon of Islamic scholarship whose light shone on generations of Muslims," Barau said.

The Deputy Senate President praised Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi's lifelong commitment to the Qur'an, his establishment of Qur'anic schools, tireless preaching, and humanitarian outreach, which strengthened the faith and morals of countless followers.

Mutfwang

Plateau State Governor, Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, described the cleric's death as a monumental loss, not only to his family and the Tijjaniyya movement but to Nigeria and the wider world.



VP Shettima with Late Sheikh Tahiru Usman Bauchi

The governor praised Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi's lifelong commitment to Islamic scholarship and moral leadership, noting that from his early Qur'anic education under his father, Alhaji Usman, he rose through discipline, devotion, and scholarship to become an iconic figure in knowledge, spirituality, and ethics.

Governor Mutfwang highlighted the Sheikh's life of service, compassion, wisdom, tolerance, and kindness virtues that contribute to building a just, peaceful, and progressive society. He also commended the cleric's mentorship of countless students, many of whom continue to propagate Islamic knowledge and values across Nigeria.

Dr. Tafida

The Special Adviser to the President of the Senate on Diaspora and Non-Governmental Organisations, Dr. Jibril Lawal Tafida, described the late scholar as "a towering figure in Nigeria's religious and moral landscape." He said Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi was more than a cleric, calling him "a beacon of peace, moderation, and piety who dedicated his life to teaching, preaching, and guiding millions of followers across Nigeria and beyond."

Dr Tafida highlighted the cleric's scholarship, noting his deep knowledge of the Qur'an and unwavering commitment to promoting harmony and spiritual growth, describing him as a moral compass for many.

He added that the Sheikh's passing leaves a monumental void in the hearts of his family, disciples, and the nation. Dr Tafida urged all to honour Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi's legacy by embracing his teachings of peaceful coexistence, compassion, and devotion to God.

"May Allah (SWT) grant him eternal peace and give strength to all who mourn him," he concluded.

12 Things to Know About Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi

By Ahmad Muhammad Bauchi

Nigeria has lost one of its most influential Islamic scholars, Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi, whose death has drawn widespread tributes from religious leaders, traditional institutions, political figures and millions of followers across West Africa.

Until his passing, Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi was regarded as one of the most authoritative voices of the Tijaniyyah Sufi order, a revered Qur'anic scholar, and a spiritual guide whose teachings shaped generations.

Born in 1927, the cleric spent more than seven decades teaching, preaching, writing and providing spiritual leadership. His Ramadan tafsir sessions, sprawling Qur'anic schools, and contributions to Islamic thought made him one of the most recognizable scholars in Northern Nigeria.

HERE ARE 10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE LATE SHEIKH DAHIRU BAUCHI:

BIRTH AND BACKGROUND

Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi was born on 28 June 1927 equivalent to (2 Muharram 1346 AH) in Nafada, then part of Bauchi Province before the creation of Gombe State. He hailed from a Fulani lineage on both his paternal and maternal sides, a heritage that reflected the deep scholarly traditions of his community.

EARLY ISLAMIC EDUCATION & MEMORIZATION OF THE QUR'AN

His Islamic education began at home under his father, Alhaji Usman Adam, a respected Qur'an reciter and scholar. Sheikh Dahiru distinguished himself early as a gifted learner. By the age of 19 or 20, he had memorised the entire Qur'an, earning the revered status of Hafiz. This foundation became the bedrock of his lifelong commitment to Qur'anic scholarship.

SPIRITUAL AND SCHOLARLY LINEAGE — LEADER OF THE TIJANIYYAH ORDER IN NIGERIA

Sheikh Dahiru was deeply rooted in the Tijaniyyah Sufi order, following in the footsteps of his



father before studying under other eminent scholars, including the renowned Sheikh Ibrahim Niasse of Senegal. Through decades of teaching, he grew to become one of the leading figures of the Tijaniyyah movement in Nigeria, attracting thousands of disciples who viewed him as a spiritual guide and authority.

DEDICATION TO QUR'ANIC EXEGESIS (TAFSIR) & TEACHING

He began delivering public Qur'anic exegesis (tafsir) around 1948, establishing a tradition that would define his public life. For over 70 years, he provided commentary on scripture, offering moral, spiritual and social guidance grounded in the Qur'an. His tafsir sessions became a destination for scholars, students, and ordinary Muslims seeking clarity and inspiration.

INSTITUTION-BUILDING: SCHOOLS, MOSQUES AND QUR'ANIC CENTRES

Sheikh Dahiru founded numerous Qur'anic schools (tsangaya), memorisation centres, and mosques across Northern Nigeria and beyond. These institutions produced thousands of huffaz—men and women who memorised the Qur'an—helping sustain Islamic scholarship across generations. Many of these schools remain major centres of learning today.

AUTHORITY AND ROLE IN NATIONAL ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

He served as Deputy Chairman of the Fatwa Committee of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), the highest Islamic decision-making body in the country. This position

affirmed his role as a national religious authority, often consulted on major religious, social and political matters affecting the Muslim community.

LARGE FAMILY — A LEGACY OF QUR'AN MEMORIZATION

Sheikh Dahiru was the patriarch of a large family, widely known for its strong Qur'anic tradition. Many of his children and grandchildren grew to become Hafiz, reflecting his dedication to embedding Islamic knowledge within the family structure. His home became both a spiritual centre and a living example of multigenerational scholarship.

INFLUENTIAL PREACHER WITH NATIONWIDE REACH

His teachings reached a national audience from the mid-1970s when his tafsir began airing on Bauchi Radio in 1976 and later on Radio Nigeria Kaduna around 1980. During Ramadan, his sessions drew thousands physically and reached millions across the region through radio. For many, the sound of his voice became synonymous with the holy month.

PEACE LOVING NIGERIAN



AND A BRIDGE BUILDER

Sheikh is a patriot and peace-loving Nigerian he is the only preacher who anytime he speaks he pray for peace and stability of Nigeria, because of his, peace, wisdom humility and essential qualities he is loved by both Muslims and Christians.

ENDURANCE, LIFELONG DEVOTION AND LONGEVITY

Sheikh Dahiru's influence spanned the mid-20th century into the 21st, making him a rare bridge between traditional Islamic scholarship and modern religious dynamics. Despite his advanced age, he remained active in teaching and public engagement. In July 2024, followers marked his centenary celebration according to the Islamic calendar, honouring his remarkable life of devotion.

SYMBOL OF MODERATE SUFI ISLAM & SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

He stood as one of the strongest pillars of moderate Sufi Islam, blending strict Qur'anic scholarship with the inner spiritual discipline of tariqa. His teachings emphasised peace, humility, moral conduct and spiritual balance. Beyond doctrine, he became a unifying figure admired across ethnic, regional and social divides — a "living institution" of Islamic knowledge until his death.

END OF AN ENIGMA, EMERITOUS IN

Shehu died on 27th November 2025 equivalent to 6th Jumada Akhirah 1447AH at the Intensive Care Unit of the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital ATBUTH Bauchi, after a brief illness.

News

Bauchi partners China's shandong group to Boost Mining, Jobs, Economic Growth

By Mijinyawa Ahmed



The Bauchi State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening economic development through strategic partnerships with international investors.

This pledge was made by Governor Bala Abdulkadir Muhammad, represented by his Deputy, Muhammad Auwal Jatau, during the groundbreaking ceremony of BMCC Nigeria Limited a joint-venture mining company between the state and China's Shandong Minsheng Group.

The event was held in Baraza Village of Dass Local Government Area.

Gov. Muhammad described the BMCC project as a transformative initiative that will generate employment, enhance the state's ranking in the mining sector, and attract long-term investments.

He assured both local and foreign investors that Bauchi remains a secure and conducive environment for business.

Chairman of Shandong Minsheng Group, Mr. Yu Tao, commended the Bauchi State Government for its support, expressing optimism that the partnership would deepen economic cooperation between Nigeria and China.

He said the project would open doors to more investment inflows, expand job opportunities, and

accelerate economic advancement across the state.

In a detailed presentation, the Commissioner for Natural Resources Development, Muhammad Maiwada Bello, highlighted the strategic significance of the venture.

He described BMCC as a milestone in harnessing Bauchi's abundant mineral resources one that would boost economic output, promote technological growth, and elevate the state's global standing in the mining industry.

Bello emphasized transparency, community engagement, and environmental protection as key pillars of the project, assuring that BMCC would operate in line with international best practices while delivering direct benefits to host communities.

The Chairman of Dass Local Government, Muhammad Jibo, and the Emir of Dass, Alhaji Usman Bilyamu Othman, pledged full support for the project, applauding the state government's efforts in championing initiatives that promote peace, development, and economic prosperity.

Other dignitaries, including lawmakers, traditional leaders, and industry stakeholders, commended the initiative and reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring the success of BMCC Nigeria Limited.

Lawyer, wife, brother in Sokoto to visit Nnamdi Kanu

Alloy Ejimakor, Special Counsel to Nnamdi Kanu, has arrived in Sokoto State for a scheduled visit to the detained leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

Ejimakor arrived on Wednesday alongside Kanu's wife, Uchechi Okwu-Kanu, and his brother, Prince Emmanuel Kanu, to meet the separatist leader, who is currently serving a life sentence.

Kanu was recently convicted by Justice James Omotosho of the Federal High Court in Abuja on terrorism-related charges and subsequently transferred to the Sokoto State Custodial Centre to begin his sentence.

Announcing their arrival on X, Ejimakor urged the Igbo community to intensify efforts to secure Kanu's release.

"I just arrived Sokoto (with Prince Emmanuel Kanu & his wife) to have a visitation with MAZI NNAMDI KANU," he wrote. "Ndigbo must vigorously rise to the urgent task of freeing #MNK from this ordeal and injustice that reflect on all of us."

Bauchi Gov. Praises Chinese Investors for Boosting Industrial Growth and Community engagement

By Usman Shehu Gungura

Bauchi State Governor Bala Mohammed has reiterated his administration's commitment to a transparent and sincere beneficial partnership with investors that indicated interest in operating in the state.

The governor stated this during a courtesy visit with the management of China's Shandong Minsheng Group at Government House Bauchi.

He recalled the 2023 agreement between Bauchi State and Shandong Province which opened a new frontier for effectiveness and enhances economic diplomacy towards accelerating industrial growth and mining across the state.

The governor commended the group for adhering to timelines, promoting inclusivity and engaging host communities, describing their approach as a clear departure from past mining practices



that excluded the host communities and denied government revenue for many years.

While Commending the company for training local workers and engaging communities that demonstrate sincere and long-term commitment to shared prosperity, Governor Bala, said the joint venture operates under Nigeria and Chinese laws with defined roles and timelines.

He assured investors of adequate security throughout their stay in all parts of the state and instructed the host communities to safeguard the properties provided.

Earlier, Chairman of the group Mr. Yu Tao appreciated the state government for the partnership and affirmed the company's readiness to invest responsibly, create jobs and ensure the joint venture delivers lasting value to Nigeria and China.

Police recovers 2-year-old girl sold to three different buyers

By Salihu Makera

The Niger State Police Command has recovered a stolen 2-year-old girl sold to three different buyers, including an Abuja pastor, for N6.6m.

The spokesperson of the command, SP Wasiu Abiodun, who disclosed this in a statement on Thursday, November 27, 2025 said the victim identified as Rahamat Mohammed, was stolen from Sabon-Wuse in Tafa Local Government Area of the state by a suspected human trafficker, Victoria Ebunoha Chukwumezie.

According to the PPRO, Chukwumezie, who was earlier arrested with three stolen children, sold Rahamat to one Rosemary of Nyanya, Abuja.

Rosemary on her part, sold the child to one Pastor Vincent Emmanuel in Abuja for N2.8m.

Wasiu explained that further investigation revealed



that Nwabufor was making arrangement for the girl to join her in London.

"In continuation of the Police investigation in respect of the case of child stealing, abduction and human trafficking involving Victoria Chukwumezie who was arrested at Dikko Junction with three children on November 5, 2025 and based on further confessions of the suspect, police operatives attached to SCID Minna proceeded to Asaba, Delta State on November 24, 2025," the statement read. "On getting to Asaba, the Police



team recovered one Rahamat Mohammed 2yrs of Sabon-Wuse, Tafa. Investigation revealed that Victoria had taken Rahamat from Sabon-Wuse on October 2nd, 2025 and sold her to one Rosemary of Nyanya, Abuja. "Rosemary equally sold the girl to one Pastor Vincent Emmanuel of Asosi, Abuja at the rate of two million, eight hundred thousand naira, who in turn sold her to a lady Anthonia Nwabufor at a cost of three million, eight hundred thousand naira." Anthonia Nwabufor is based in London, but directed that the girl; Rahamat be delivered to her mother in Asosi, who will arrange the movement of the girl to join her in London."

However, a total of six children have been recovered so far, and eight suspects arrested in connection with the crime. Further investigation in progress."

NEDC distributes food Items to vulnerable groups in Adamawa

By Ibrahim Kado

The North East Development Commission (NEDC) in Adamawa, on Saturday, distributed food items to vulnerable groups and key organisations as part of renewed effort to impact society.

Speaking during the outreach on Saturday, NEDC's Coordinator, Mr Khalifa Lawan, said that the initiative aligns with a directive from the commission's headquarters.

He said that the gesture is to reach out to organisations and vulnerable groups across the state, before the end of 2025.

"Such interventions is central to the NEDC's mandate of uplifting communities and improving social welfare.

"We are here to support you and to ease your work as



you continue serving the public and vulnerable people in your care", he said.

Lawan reaffirmed the group's commitment to supporting institutions and vulnerable groups across the North-East.

In a feedback, Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Adamawa chapter, Mr Abdullahi Ibrahim, who responded among other beneficiaries, expressed appreciation to the group for the support.

He said, that the intervention will significantly

ease their day-to-day activities, and strengthen their cordial relationship with the commission.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that beneficiaries also included the St Joseph Catholic Church Damilu, and Goni Musa Tumo Tsangayya Wauro Jabbe Islamic School.

Others are the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Jama'atu Nasril Islam, a Children's Home, as well as the Jimeta and Yolde-Pate Correctional Centres among others. (NAN)

Nigeria, Saudi Arabia sign 2026 hajj agreement

The National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) has formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah (MoHU) to kick-start preparations for the 2026 hajj.

The signing ceremony, held in Jeddah, was witnessed by NAHCON chairman, Abdullahi Usman, a professor; Saudi Arabia's Vice Minister of Hajj, Abdulfatah Mashat; Ahmed Sule, representing Nigeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Badr Al-Sulami, special adviser to the Saudi Vice Minister of Hajj.

Ahmed Mua'zu, the media assistant to the NAHCON chairman, said the MoU defines the operational framework for Nigeria's participation in the 2026 hajj, outlining key agreements on pilgrim slot allocations, service contracts, camp bookings, visa procedures, and welfare standards.

He also said that both parties agreed on firm timelines for operational readiness, 4 January 2026, for camp booking payments and 1 February 2026, for uploading transport and accommodation details via the Nusuk/Masar digital platform.

NAHCON chairman has repeatedly described the



Abdullahi Usman, Chairman NAHCON

signing and other engagement with the Saudi authorities as a "critical milestone" that strengthens Nigeria's readiness for an improved Hajj operation in 2026.

He reaffirmed NAHCON's commitment to pilgrim welfare, transparency, and adherence to Saudi guidelines, emphasising that "Nigerian pilgrims will benefit from better-organised logistics, enhanced digital processing, and timely coordination with service providers."

In the months leading up to the MoU, NAHCON held strategic meetings with Saudi authorities and service providers in Makkah and Madinah.

These engagements focused on camp

arrangements, flight scheduling, catering improvements, and integration with Saudi's digital platforms to streamline registration and monitoring.

The discussions also addressed health and safety measures, including compulsory medical screenings and efficient movement plans for pilgrims.

Saudi officials reiterated their commitment to strict deadlines and non-extension policies, urging all participating countries to comply fully with the operational calendar.

The 2026 Hajj MoU, officials say, represents a renewed phase of cooperation built on accountability, efficiency, and the welfare of Nigerian pilgrims.

Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi's death, an irreplaceable loss – NEF



The Northern Elders Forum (NEF) has expressed deep sorrow over the passing of renowned Islamic scholar, Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi, who died at the age of 98.

His death has plunged Nigeria and the global Muslim community into mourning, with tributes pouring in for a man widely regarded as one of the most influential religious figures of his generation.

In a statement by NEF spokesperson, Professor Abubakar Jika Jiddere, the forum described Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi as a guiding light, a father to the Ummah, a refuge for the troubled and a voice of truth, noting that his compassion and wisdom touched countless lives.

His death, according to the forum, is not just the loss of a revered scholar but the fading of a rare, radiant star whose brilliance shaped generations.

The Forum said, "The intellectual and spiritual world of Islam stands quieter, dimmer and deeply wounded. The Northern Elders Forum extends its sincerest condolences to his bereaved family, to His Excellency President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, to the government and people of Bauchi state, to the entire Muslim Ummah, and to every Nigerian whose life has been touched by his teachings."

The group further extended its heartfelt condolences to his immediate family, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the government and people of

Bauchi state, the entire Muslim Ummah, and every Nigerian influenced by his teachings.

"We mourn not only a leader but a father, a bridge-builder and a symbol of hope.

In this moment of profound national grief, the convener and chairman, Board of Trustees of the Northern Elders Forum, Prof Ango Abdullahi, together with the chairman, Management Board, Air Marshal Al-Amin Daggash also extend their deepest and most heartfelt condolences," it said.

They described Sheikh Dahiru's death as a loss of immeasurable magnitude whose impact reaches far beyond his immediate followers.

NEF leadership asked Almighty Allah to grant the family strength, envelop the Ummah in mercy and patience and give the nation resilience to bear the loss of a father, a teacher whose absence would be felt for generations.

They praised Sheikh Dahiru's lifelong commitment to strengthening the bonds of humanity, fostering interfaith harmony, promoting peaceful coexistence and championing compassion, saying he calmed tensions, used his influence to unite communities, such that his legacy remains a powerful testament to sincerity and faith.

They prayed for Allah's mercy upon him, asking that he be granted the highest place in Jannatul Firdausi among the righteous and truthful.



Northeast

Troops rescue 12 teenage girls abducted by ISWAP in Borno

By: Alkali Muhd Musa, Maiduguri

The Nigerian Army last month has confirmed the rescue of 12 teenage girls abducted by Boko Haram/ISWAP fighters in Mussa District, Askira/Uba LGA of Borno State.

The disclosure was contained in a statement issued by the army authorities.

According to the statement, the girls aged 15 to 20 were seized on 23 November while harvesting crops on their family farmlands.

Troops of Operation Hadin Kai launched what the military described as a "swift, intelligence-led operation" that led to their safe recovery.

"The resilience and rapid response of our troops made this rescue possible," the statement noted, praising local informants whose tip-offs guided the mission.

The victims identified as Fatima Shaibu, Fatima Umaru, Hauwa Abubakar, Saliha Muhammed, Sadiya Umaru, Amira Babel, Zara Adamu, Nana Shaibu, Zainab Musa, Zainab Muhammed,



Jamila Saidu and Hauwa Hamidu have been moved to a secure military facility for medical care, psychological support and debriefing.

Military authorities say the girls will be reunited with their families after clearance.

Troops are continuing

operations across southern Borno to track ISWAP cells and prevent further attacks.

The Army urged communities to keep supplying credible information, stressing that "collaboration remains vital to defeating terrorism."

Military Foils ISWAP Attack as Air strikes shatter Fleeing Fighters

The Nigerian Army, with support from the Air Force, has thwarted a major assault by Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) terrorists on communities around Chibok in Borno State, killing numerous insurgents in a coordinated counteroffensive.

Security sources revealed that the attack, launched in the early hours of Saturday, involved more than 300 heavily armed fighters who attempted to strike Chibok and nearby villages from multiple directions. Troops of the 28 Task Force Brigade under Operation Hadin Kai swiftly responded, engaging the terrorists in a fierce two-hour firefight that forced them to withdraw toward the notorious Timbuktu Triangle.



Military officials confirmed that no soldiers were killed and no equipment was lost in the confrontation. However, two civilians died in the initial assault, and a church in Kwada village was set ablaze.

As the insurgents retreated, the Nigerian Air Force executed a series of precision airstrikes to stop them from regrouping. Manned aircraft carried out at least four major

bombardments along known escape routes, while an armed drone provided surveillance and delivered accurate strikes on fleeing fighters. The air operations inflicted heavy casualties and destroyed several terrorist hideouts.

Intelligence assessments indicate that the combined ground and aerial response significantly weakened ISWAP's ability to mount similar large-scale attacks in the region.

Although the Chibok area has faced repeated attacks over the past decade, recent coordinated military actions have bolstered security around the community.

Authorities say clearance operations are ongoing in nearby forests to prevent the militants from reorganizing.



Operation Peace Shield: 6 Brigade Troops Neutralise Four-Armed Militia in Taraba Clash

By Sanee Yarima, Jalingo

Troops of 6 Brigade, Nigerian Army, have neutralised four-armed militia members and recovered weapons during a rapid and coordinated response to renewed communal violence in Usmanu Village, Karim Lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State.

This was revealed in a press release signed by Lieutenant Umar Muhammad, the Acting Assistant Director of Army Public Relations for the 6 Brigade of the Nigerian Army.

The operation followed credible intelligence, indicating a resurgence of long-standing land disputes between the Shomo and Wurkun communities.

The dispute escalated into armed clashes, resulting in the destruction of property, including the burning of houses.

In response, 6 Brigade immediately deployed forces to restore order and prevent further deterioration of the security situation.

Commenting on the operation, the Commander, 6 Brigade/Sector 3 Operation Whirl Stroke, Brigadier General Kingsley Chidiebere Uwa, commended the troops for their prompt response, bravery, and adherence to professional rules of engagement.

Upon reaching the area, the troops came under fire from armed assailants emerging from the Fadama axis. A brief but fierce exchange ensued, during which the soldiers neutralised four of the attackers.

Subsequent exploitation of the area led to the recovery of:

Three dane guns
One fabricated AK-47 rifle

Twenty-five rounds of

7.62mm special ammunition
Two motorcycles

In a development that underscores the complexity of the conflict, one personnel of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) found operating alongside the armed militia was arrested, who is currently undergoing further investigation and profiling to determine his level of involvement.

Commenting on the operation, the Commander, 6 Brigade/Sector 3 Operation Whirl Stroke, Brigadier General Kingsley Chidiebere Uwa, commended the troops for their prompt response, bravery, and adherence to professional rules of engagement.

He reaffirmed the Brigade's determination to rid Taraba State of criminal elements and maintain operational momentum across all areas of responsibility.

Brigadier General Uwa assured the people of Karim Lamido and Taraba State at large of the Brigade's unwavering commitment to restoring lasting peace and stability.

He urged communities to embrace peaceful coexistence and continue to support security agencies with timely and credible information.

Additionally, the Nigerian Army called on residents to remain calm and law-abiding as stability is gradually being restored.

Members of the public are also encouraged to report any suspicious movements or activities to the nearest security formation as ongoing operations continue under Operation Peace Shield, Operation Lafiya Nakowa, and Operation Zafin Wuta in the state.



UNIMAID @50: Shettima - Education is the Nation's "Immune System," Vows Increased Funding

...University Re-launches Endowment Fund, Secures Over N5 Billion

Vice President Kashim Shettima expressed Federal Government's commitment to revitalizing the education sector through increased funding and sweeping reforms.

Senator Shettima made the commitment while delivering the University of Maiduguri 50th anniversary lecture titled "Education, Leadership and National Development, at the Muhammadu Indimi International Conference Centre, Maiduguri.

The lecture was preceded by the conferment of doctorate degree on Borno State Governor and Chairman North East Governors' Forum, Professor Babagana Umara Zulum, Emir of Kazaure, Alhaji Najib Hussaini Adamu and Sir Emeka Offor.

Senator Shettima declared education as the "immune system of the nation" emphasizing that education is the most reliable vehicle to development.

The Vice President acknowledged the university's five-decade impact, stating that the institution has "paid its dues" by producing graduates who have injected knowledge, competence, and moral character into the labour market."

He outlined government's commitment to revamping the sector by allocating ₦3.5 trillion to education, representing 7.3% of the national budget in the 2025 budget.

"We have made it clear that we do not come to pay lip service to education," he stated. "The 2025 allocation is therefore a declaration of intent and a clear acknowledgement that the future belongs to those who invest in their people."

He highlighted new initiatives, including support for mechanized farming in universities, grants for medical education, and expanded entrepreneurial programmes to prepare students for a modern economy.

The Vice President stated that the insurgency has had devastating impact on education sector in Borno State, revealed that over 500 schools were attacked between 2009 and 2021, 2,246 and 5,000 classrooms



were destroyed and 2,295 teachers killed.

"These attacks were ideological in nature," Shettima asserted. "The attackers understood that an educated population cannot be manipulated, cannot be

enslaved, and cannot be compelled to bow to tyranny. When terrorists attacked schools, they were attempting to kill the future.

However, he maintained that several programmes and initiatives have been taken to

counter this narrative of destruction with one of resilience. He reported that public schools in the state have now registered 877,777 learners, with education receiving ₦70 billion in the state budget and massive

Tinubu sends ministers to Bauchi as dignitaries flood for Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi's Fidau prayers

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has dispatched two senior cabinet members Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr Wale Edun, and Minister of Budget and National Planning, Sen. Atiku Bagudu to Bauchi State to condole with the government and people of the state over the passing of renowned Islamic scholar, Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi.

The delegation joined thousands of mourners at the three-day Fidau prayers held on Sunday, where Wale Edun conveyed President Tinubu's message describing the late cleric as "a father, a unifier, and an embodiment of honesty and knowledge who respected all human beings without discrimination."

The event attracted an unprecedented gathering of dignitaries from within and outside Nigeria, including Sultan Saad Abubakar Jigawa State Governor Umar Namadi, Dr Bala Wunti,

Senators, Members of the House of Representatives, traditional rulers, and representatives of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN).

Former Kano State Governor Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, delegates from Australia, Senegal, and Chad were also in attendance, Former Minister Solomon Dalong, Ahmed Makarfi.

Also present were APC National Chairman Prof. Nentaweh Yilwatda and his PDP counterpart, Alhaji Kabiru Turaki, alongside other eminent personalities who continued to troop into Bauchi to pay their respects. Former Defence Minister General Aliyu Gusau, ex-Governor Sule Lamido,

Senator Abdul Ningi, and several clerics described Sheikh Dahiru's death as a monumental loss to the

nation, noting that he was "a mentor and father endowed with deep Qur'anic knowledge."

Governor Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State received the visitors on behalf of the government and family, expressing gratitude for their solidarity.

He described the cleric's death as "a great loss to the world," acknowledging his role as "a bridge-builder and a sun that shone on all."

Sheikh Ibrahim Dahiru Bauchi, speaking for the family, prayed for unity in the nation and appreciated dignitaries who travelled from far and near to honour



investments in school feeding and examination fees.

Vice President Shettima listed ongoing reforms by President Bola Tinubu to ensure equitable and affordable access to education. These include the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND), which has already disbursed ₦110 billion in interest-free loans to over 328,000 students and digital transformation initiatives aimed at embedding skills in AI and robotics.

Senator Shettima called for a united effort from all stakeholders to address the challenges bedeviling the education sector, emphasizing that "government cannot do it alone."

"The world has become a single interconnected labour market. Talent moves to where opportunities exist, and opportunities gravitate to where talent is nurtured," he said. "Our responsibility is to ensure that Nigeria is not merely a participant in this global contest but a competitive and confident player."

...UNIMAID Re-launches Endowment Fund, Secures Over N5 Billion

The University of Maiduguri (UNIMAID) has officially re-launched its Endowment Fund, realizing over N5 billion in donations to bolster the institution's future.

The chief launcher and chairman Oriental Energy Resources, Alhaji Muhammadu Indimi announced a donation of N2 billion, emphasizing the importance of investing in education to empower future generations.

Governors of the North-East led by Borno State Governor Babagana Umara Zulum donated N1.8 billion, North-East Development Commission committed N1.5 billion, comprising a N250 million cash donation and N500 million in project support.

Additional major donations included N250 million from Sir Emeka Offor, members of National Assembly from Borno State collectively donated N200 million, APC Deputy National Chairman North, Hon. Ali Bukar Dalori, N100 million among other donations.

National News

TCN increases wheeling capacity by 38 percent in 10 years

The Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) has said it raised wheeling capacity by 35 per cent in 10 years.

The current transmission capacity of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) is 8,100MW from the 5,000MW recorded in 2015. It is an indication of 38 per cent or 3100MW increase in the period under review.

TCN, Transmission Service Provider, Oluwagbenga Ajiboye broke the news during the meeting between the company and energy editors in Abuja.

He said TCN achieved the feat with the support of donors such as the World Bank.

His words, "Wheeling Capacity Enhancement. Our wheeling capacity has grown from 5,000MW in 2015 to over 8,100MW today, thanks to strategic investments and donor-supported projects like the World Bank-funded Nigeria Electricity Transmission Project (NETAP)."

He also said that over the past few years, TCN has made significant strides in modernising and expanding the national grid.

On grid expansion projects, he said TCN has completed over 30 transmission projects across the country, including new substations and transmission lines that have added more than 2,000MW of wheeling capacity to the grid.

On projects delivered, Ajiboye said the TCN has added a total of 3,100.5 MVA (2,538MW) to the National Grid.

According to him, this was achieved through the energization of a total of 24 power transformers.

Three transformers, he said, totaling 510MVA (408MW) have been delivered to 3 substations, and installation is ongoing.

He added that TCN beefed up its store capacity with an additional 16 power transformers, which have all been delivered.

Ajiboye said, "Abuja ring projects are at different levels of completion (average of 90% completion): - 2x150MVA, 3x60MVA, 330/132/33kV Transmission Substation at New Apo (Pigba) 2x60MVA, 132/33kV; Transmission Substation Wumbala - Lokoja 2x150MVA, 3x60MVA, 330/132/33kV;

Lugbe West Main



Substation (hybrid substation) 3x60MVA, 132/33kV;

Kuje Transmission Substation 2x60MVA, 132/33kV, Gas Insulated Substation; Gwarinpa (already commissioned in August 2022) 5km 132kV underground XLPE Cable from New Apo Substation to Wumbala - Lokoja Substation by Donor Agency-AFD (Agence Française de Développement).

Ajiboye said TCN has commenced the deployment of a modern Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to enhance real-time monitoring and control of the grid, improving reliability and reducing downtime.

On Human Capital Development, he said TCN has invested in training over 1,000 technical staff in the past two years, ensuring that the workforce is equipped to manage the evolving demands of a modern transmission network.

Regional Interconnection

Continuing, he said, "We have strengthened cross-border transmission links with neighbouring countries, reinforcing Nigeria's role as a regional energy hub under the West African Power Pool (WAPP).

"The recent test run on synchronisation of the Nigerian grid with WAPP member countries is a testament to that effect.

While these achievements are commendable, they must be communicated effectively to the Nigerian people. This is where your role becomes pivotal."

He said under the leadership of the TCN, Managing Director, Engr. Sule Ahmed Abdulaziz, the company has recorded notable progress in project delivery and launched an ambitious digital transformation initiative through a strategic framework known as the Nigerian

Electricity Grid Maintenance, Expansion, and Rehabilitation Program (NEGMRP).

This program, he said, has enabled the implementation of numerous capital and reinforcement projects across various transmission regions, thereby strengthening the grid for efficient electricity evacuation and transmission.

Ajiboye said TCN has completed several substations, initiated the re-conductoring of aging and low-capacity transmission lines, replaced aged transformers with new ones, and upgraded the capacities of existing transformers.

He added that multiple system generation peaks were recorded, including an all-time peak of 5,802 MW. Remarkably, for a period spanning 421 days from 20th July 2022 to 13th September 2023, the national grid did not experience any collapse.

To enhance efficiency and effectiveness, according to him, TCN embraced digital transformation by using internal solutions and vendor-procured applications.

He recalled that prior to the unbundling of TCN this year, this transformation encompassed the upgrade of the TCN web portal, NSONG, to achieve transparency and facilitate the exchange of information critical to market operations.

He said to address the crucial need for grid visibility, TCN engineers developed an in-house solution leveraging the "Internet of Things" (IoT) to obtain near real-time data from generators and substations. This was also done before the unbundling of TCN.

He said the solution significantly improved grid visibility, with all generators and a substantial number of substations becoming visible to the Grid Controllers at the National Control Centre (NCC).

Golden Discovery in Mallam Fatori: Police Praised for Exemplary Integrity

By: Alkali Muhammad Musa, Maiduguri



Security personnel stationed in Mallam Fatori have earned widespread commendation after demonstrating exceptional honesty and professionalism in the recovery of gold coins reportedly worth more than ₦23 million.

According to a discreet situation report, the valuables were found completely intact due to the vigilance of police officers operating in the area. The owner, a woman whose identity is being protected for security reasons, was said to be deeply relieved and grateful after learning that none of the items had gone missing.

Security officials in Mallam Fatori hailed the officers responsible for the discovery, noting that the incident reflects a

strengthening culture of integrity and trustworthiness within police units serving on the frontline.

Authorities also assured that both the recovered property and all individuals connected to the case are receiving adequate protection. They added that operational details remain classified to prevent any potential security threats.

Residents and observers have applauded the officers' conduct, describing it as a positive example of professionalism that helps reinforce public confidence in law enforcement agencies working across the Lake Chad region.

Further updates will be provided as more verified information becomes available.

Senator Barau Urges Security Agencies to Stop Bandits' Incursion In 2 Kano Lgs

The Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Barau I. Jibrin, has called on security agencies to go after the marauding bandits who have been terrorising some villages in Tsanyawa and Shanono local government areas of Kano State.

He made the call in a statement signed by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Malam Ismail Mudashir in Kano.

Senator Barau who was reacting to the bandits' attack in Yankamaye village in Tsanyawa LG on Saturday night, appealed to the security agencies to double their efforts and take the fight to the criminal elements who are from neighbouring states.

He said, the incursion of

criminal elements into the two LGAs must stop forthwith.

He said, "I have received the distressing report of the killing of a woman and the kidnapping of three persons in Yankamaye village in Tsanyawa LGA of Kano State by marauding bandits from neighbouring states on Saturday night when the villagers had retired to bed.

"We will not allow these marauding criminals who are on the run from neighbouring states following military operations to destabilise our communities. This incursion into the area must stop forthwith. The security of our people's lives and properties is paramount. No stone will be left unturned in achieving this," he said.

Dangote Refinery pledges 1.5bn litres monthly supply

By Salihu Makera

The Dangote Refinery says it has invited the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) to independently verify its daily production capacity.

The invitation comes as the firm anticipates supplying Nigeria with 50 million litres per day in December 2025 and January 2026.

On November 28, the regulator had said Dangote Refinery supplied an average of 18.03 million litres of petrol per day — as against 35 million litres — between October 2024 and October 2025.

In a statement, Dangote refinery said in a letter signed by David Bird, its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and addressed to Farouk Ahmed, the CEO of NMDPRA, invited the regulator's officials to its facility.

"The company invited the regulator to independently verify its actual daily production capacity, countering prevailing speculations," the statement reads.

The refinery requested the support of Ahmed to "host NMDPRA officials onsite at our refinery starting December 1, to validate and publicly confirm our daily supply volumes."

"In the interest of full transparency, we are prepared to publish our daily production and stock figures across both online and print media," the refinery said.

Dangote Refinery said it will supply 1.5 billion litres of petrol monthly to the Nigerian



market in December 2025 and January 2026.

According to the statement, Aliko Dangote, President and CEO of the Dangote Group, made the promise when the South-South Development Commission (SSDC) visited the refinery and the Dangote Fertiliser Complex.

"In line with our commitment to national wellbeing, and consistent with our track record of ensuring a holiday season free of fuel scarcity, the Dangote Petroleum Refinery will supply 1.5 billion litres of PMS to the Nigerian market this month. This represents 50 million litres per day," Dangote was quoted as saying.

"We are formally notifying the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) of this commitment.

"We will supply another 1.5 billion litres in January and increase to 1.75 billion litres in February, which translates to over 60 million litres per day."

The billionaire said the facility has sufficient stock and is currently producing between 40 and 45 million

litres of petrol each day, adding that supplying 50 million litres daily should put to rest long-standing claims that local refineries are unable to meet national demand.

Dangote also said the refinery is discussing with petroleum marketers to improve distribution networks, including expanding the use of compressed natural gas (CNG)-powered haulage.

"Our priority is to ensure Nigeria receives the products it needs. This is not driven by profit motives; it is about guaranteeing the availability of essential energy products," Dangote said.

"It is similar to the transformation we delivered in the cement sector."

The entrepreneur further noted that the refinery is advancing its expansion programme aimed at achieving a capacity of 1.4 million barrels per day.

During the visit, Usoro Akpabio, the Managing Director of SSDC, commended Dangote's leadership and his continued contributions to strengthening Nigeria's industrial capacity, energy security, and long-term economic competitiveness.

Malami for expressing readiness to honour the invitation but advised him to channel his energy towards clearing his name of both current and past allegations, urging him against mentioning Governor Nasir Idris in his ongoing travail which is alleged to have been committed when Idris was not in office.

The group insisted that Kebbi people deserve leaders without the baggage of corruption accusations, stressing that no community wants to be tied to a politician struggling with such controversies.

Presidency rejects Obasanjo calls to subcontract internal security to foreign govts



Former President Olusegun Obasanjo

The Presidency has insisted that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu remains committed to securing every inch of Nigeria by confronting terrorists with strength, unity, and a whole-of-government approach, stressing that former President Olusegun Obasanjo's suggestion to invite foreign governments to handle Nigeria's internal security amounts to capitulation.

Obasanjo, speaking at the Plateau Unity Christmas and Praise Festival in Jos South LGA over the weekend, lamented that despite killings across regions and religions, the federal government appears unable to protect its citizens.

He said, "We are part of the world community. If our government cannot do it, we have the right to call on the international community to do for us what our government cannot do for us. If we are being killed, it is the responsibility of the government to do something about it."

Responding to the former President, the Special Adviser to the President on Media and Public Communications, Sunday Dare, said in a post on

his X handle on Sunday that what the government needs is for all patriots to join hands "and not raise alarms."

The Presidency accused Obasanjo of failing to tackle terrorism when it first emerged under his administration, saying that "the suggestion that Nigeria should effectively subcontract its internal security to foreign governments is not statesmanship; it is capitulation."

The presidential spokesman said that before recommending surrender, the former president should reflect on what he failed to do when terrorists first began organising under his watch.

He added that the current administration will not be distracted by "selective amnesia wrapped in elder-statesmanship, nor will it allow those who midwifed Nigeria's early security failures to rewrite history."

Dare said that when former leaders disparage the nation's capacity, they hand psychological victories to terrorists who continue to murder, kidnap, and extort Nigerians. "A real statesman offers support, not soundbites," he said.



Focus on Clearing Your Name

The Kebbi Progressive Youths (KEPYO) has urged the former Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami (SAN), to suspend his political aspirations and focus on addressing his ongoing issues with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Speaking to journalists in Birnin Kebbi, the Kebbi state capital, the group's spokesperson, Comrade Usman Musa, said their position followed Malami's confirmation via social media

that he had been invited by the EFCC.

KEPYO commended



Malami for expressing readiness to honour the invitation but advised him to channel his energy towards clearing his name of both current and past allegations, urging him against mentioning Governor Nasir Idris in his ongoing travail which is alleged to have been committed when Idris was not in office.

The group insisted that Kebbi people deserve leaders without the baggage of corruption accusations, stressing that no community wants to be tied to a politician struggling with such controversies.

Structural Inhibitions to Military Intervention in Contemporary Nigeria

By Umar Ardo, Ph.D

With seven military coups occurring across Africa within four years, concerns about the prospects of military intervention have re-emerged in Nigeria, particularly amidst widespread national hardship, insecurity and public disenchantment. Yet, Nigeria's historical trajectory of military rule, withdrawal and civilian transition, reveals a distinctive pattern not shared by many other African states. This paper demonstrates that Nigeria's armed forces, shaped by fragmentation, internal diversity, civil-military interdependence and long-standing institutional learning, are structurally disinclined and effectively inhibited from re-engaging in political governance.

2. Drawing on two theoretical frameworks - (1) fragmentation within the Nigerian armed forces, and (2) a civil-military cultural-class equilibrium - the analysis shows that military disengagement has historically been both inevitable and rational. And now after 26 continuous years of democratic rule, these inhibitions have deepened, rendering any anti-democratic intervention undesirable, destructive and fundamentally contrary to Nigeria's institutional logic. The paper conclusively argues that contemporary fears of a coup lack structural basis.

3. That Africa has witnessed a troubling resurgence of military coups, with seven regimes having been overthrown within a short span of four years, is a stark reminder of the continent's unresolved tensions between the barracks and the ballot. Against this backdrop, Nigeria has not been untouched by anxiety, amplified further by a controversial allegation of an attempted coup. Given the country's widespread insecurity, economic hardship, pervasive public frustration and a super power threat of military invasion, such anxieties are understandable.

4. However, Nigeria's political-military evolution is fundamentally different from that of the countries recently experiencing coups. While Nigeria experienced three major successful interventions against democratically elected governments, it experienced far more transition programs, withdrawal initiatives and institutional self-corrections by the military than most African states. The Nigerian military has shown, time and again, that its grip on political power is both unstable and undesirable, and that its structural nature inexorably drives it toward disengagement. More importantly, the Nigeria that existed in 1966, 1975 or even 1993 is not the Nigeria of today. After 26 years of uninterrupted democratic rule - the longest in national history - the state, society and military



have transformed in ways that profoundly undermine the possibility of a successful or rational military intervention.

5. Historical trajectory of military intervention and disengagement validate this conclusion. Nigeria's coup phenomenon cannot be understood without examining this significant history of military disengagement, which reveals an internal logic of withdrawal embedded within Nigeria's armed forces. General Aguiyi Ironsi, leading the first military regime, in his 1966 maiden broadcast, described his administration as an interim military government, established solely to enable "an orderly transition to the type of government desired by the people." This initial framing cast military rule in Nigeria as temporary and contextual, not permanent or self-justifying - a conceptualization that set a template for military reluctance to claim authority on permanent basis!

6. General Gowon's early transition plans and later failure, after overthrowing the Ironsi regime, is also of note. On August 8, 1966, just days into power, Gowon announced a 3-stage transition program (later expanded to five), with a scheduled handover in 1969. Though derailed by civil war and subsequently abandoned immediately after the war, his ouster in 1975 reflected a crucial reality: military regimes that fail to disengage invite internal contradiction and military backlash! Then came in the Murtala/Obasanjo regime of 1975-1979. In his maiden broadcast to the nation, Murtala indicated that a transitional program towards a democratic government was a cardinal policy of the regime. Subsequently, even after his assassination, the Obasanjo administration that succeeded him produced the most credible, systematic and successful transition to democratic rule in Africa at the time. The professionalism and decisiveness with which the regime executed its program entrenched a template for disengagement. The

successful return to civil rule in 1979 institutionalized the notion that military rule is inherently temporary and transitional.

7. However, the ushered democratic regime of President Shehu Shagari was itself overthrown by the military. The successive junta of Major General Mohammad Buhari refused to indicate its plans to restore democracy. It was then promptly ousted by General Ibrahim Babangida who initiated a transitional program. The Babangida transition created elected subnational governments and attempted to civilianize the presidency through orchestration - a strategy that collapsed under its own contradictions. Yet, even in its failures, the program underscored the structural necessity of eventual military exit. Though ultimately collapsing into the 1993 crisis, the transition program reflected structural constraints - they could attempt manipulation, but could not negate the imperative of eventual disengagement!

8. Abacha's self-succession scheme after Babangida was forced "to step aside", provoked widespread resistance domestically and internationally, but his sudden death prevented a deep political rupture. Then came in General Abdulsalami Abubakar, whose swift 10-month transition program restored democratic rule in 1999, stabilized the political landscape and laid the foundation for Nigeria's longest and most resilient democratic period.

9. Collectively, these transitions show that military survival in Nigeria depends more on disengagement than on prolonged rule, a pattern that has hardened over decades. In other words, the historical record reveals unmistakably that intervention has always been less durable than disengagement.

10. In making analysis of this thesis, the paper is theoretically based on two broad conceptual frameworks. The first is postulating a theory of fragmentation

and fragments within the Nigerian armed forces to the study of demilitarization in the politics of the country. The second framework is a broad interdisciplinary approach to the study of civil-military relations within, especially the military regime.

11. The Nigerian military is not a monolithic, ideologically unified body. Instead, it is profoundly shaped by quota-driven nationalization, ethnic and regional diversities and the absence of corporate homogeneity. The framework posits that Nigeria's military is structurally fragmented, both by design and by sociological evolution. This fragmentation, rooted in the quota-driven Nigerianization policy and the country's ethnic, religious and regional pluralism, makes sustained military corporateness impossible.

12. From the early postcolonial period, recruitment and promotion followed national character principles. This diversity - by ethnicity, region, religion and educational background - undermines any possibility of a unified military identity capable of sustaining authoritarian rule. Unlike the ethnically narrow militaries of some coup-prone African states, Nigeria's officer corps is a mosaic. This diversity produces fragmented loyalties that prevent any single faction from asserting permanent dominance.

13. Every coup in Nigeria was executed by a fragment of the officer corps, never by the military as a whole. This internal pluralism explains why no military government could consolidate ideological or institutional coherence. Thus, no regime has been able to forge a stable, monolithic military identity capable of sustaining prolonged political rule. To prevent implosion, factional conflict or counter-coups, military regimes historically moved toward withdrawal. The imperative of maintaining internal unity logically compelled disengagement.

14. In contemporary Nigeria that is more diverse, more socially conscious and more politically contested, this fragmentation is even more pronounced. A modern coup would immediately fracture the military along the same social lines, making the takeover unsustainable. Given the deepened pluralism and professionalization after 1999, no ethnic bloc can dominate the command structure without a strong ideological bind superseding such cleavages; with risks of counter-coups becoming exceedingly high. Also, in the wider society, internal trust for extra-constitutional adventurism within the elite class is near zero as politics has increasingly become the most rewarding industry that cannot be subplanted. Therefore, given these circumstances, a military coup in

Continued on page

SME's Key to Nigeria's Path to Trillion-Dollar Economy – Abbas

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, said Nigeria's journey toward a trillion-dollar economy depends on the growth and empowerment of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

He stated this while declaring open the Enterprise Nexus Summit, held at the House of Representatives, with the theme "Strengthening Local Enterprise Through Policy Support and Access."

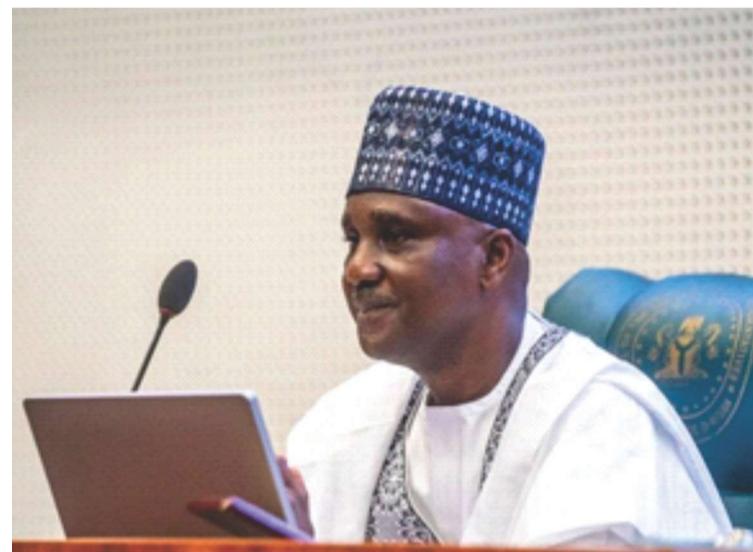
Abbas, represented by Deputy Speaker Benjamin Kalu, said the summit was designed not as a ceremonial event but as a working platform where policy, ambition and opportunity meet in one room to produce outcomes measurable in livelihoods.

He lamented that despite Nigeria's entrepreneurial potential, structural gaps in access to finance, infrastructure, technology, and supportive policies have hindered SMEs from reaching their full potential.

According to him, Nigeria's entrepreneurs have never lacked ideas or courage, adding that what they have lacked is a system designed to match their energy.

The speaker said: "Renewed Hope Agenda aims to propel Nigeria into a trillion-dollar economy in the next five years through the facilitation of small and medium-scale enterprises. Global economic reports already show that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) account for over 90 per cent of businesses worldwide, contributing nearly 70 per cent of employment in many developing economies.

The Price Waterhouse Coopers 2024 survey in Nigeria shows that SMEs account for over 84 per cent of businesses and contribute about 48 per cent to the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and make up 96.8 per cent of the total number of registered businesses in Nigeria.



Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, Speaker House of Representatives

"Sadly, half of these businesses fail within their first year of operation largely because of poor access to formal credit, poor infrastructure, poor access to technology, and poor management skills.

"As we have noted, in order to address these identifiable challenges, policy support is important. Governments must enact and implement reforms that incentivise financial institutions to lend to SMEs".

He also emphasised inclusion, urging policies that empower women, youth, rural artisans, and underserved communities.

The speaker outlined legislative measures currently underway to strengthen SMEs.

These, according to him, include the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Support Bill, 2025, which proposes a national framework for innovation hubs, tax incentives for tech startups, and private sector mentorship partnerships.

He said concurrently, the Senate's amendment to the Nigerian Export-Import Bank Act (NEXIM), 1991, seeks to unlock \$1 billion in trade opportunities for small-scale exporters, particularly in agriculture and manufacturing.

Other reforms, according to Abbas, include the Factoring and Invoice Discounting Bill, designed to convert SME receivables into immediate working capital, and the Nigeria Tax Act 2025, which provides zero per cent

Companies Income Tax for small businesses with annual turnover under N100 million.

Abbas observed the link between economic empowerment and youth development.

"Economic empowerment is a powerful tool for drug-use prevention. When young people are engaged in meaningful work, the possibility and incentive to experiment with substances reduces dramatically," he said.

Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Brig. Gen. Mohammed Buba Marwa, rtd, said there is a strong link between youth empowerment and drug abuse prevention.

Marwa, who was represented by the Director of Prevention and Sensitisation, Assistant Commander General of Narcotics, Dankolo Mohammed, said that while Nigerian youths possess enormous creativity and potential, many face structural barriers that hinder their journey to sustainable livelihoods.

According to him, these challenges are compounded by rising threats of drug and substance abuse, which undermine both individual prospects and the broader future of the country.

Citing the 2018 UNODC National Drug Use Survey, Marwa noted that about 14.3 million Nigerians aged 15 to 64, approximately 14.4 per cent, had used psychoactive substances in the preceding year.

He explained that young people who use drugs face barriers to treatment and rehabilitation, including stigma, inadequate support systems, and limited access to services.

He said that while the NDLEA strengthened supply reduction efforts, tackling demand is equally crucial.

Atiku faults FG's N17.5trn pipeline security spending in 2024

By Salihu Makera

Former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar has asked the Federal Government to explain the expenditure of N17.5 trillion on pipeline security contracts awarded to private firms tied to associates and cronies of the President.

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited, reportedly spent N17.5 trillion on securing pipelines in 2024, according to its Audited Financial Statement (AFS).

In a statement on Sunday by his Media Office, Atiku Abubakar asked the government to publish the complete list of companies awarded the contracts.

"Explain to Nigerians how this expenditure aligns with national priorities at a time of unprecedented economic

"Disclose the scope, deliverables, and duration of each contract.

"Subject the entire N17.5 trillion expenditure to an independent forensic audit."

Abubakar also urged the government to discontinue further disbursement until accountability is established.

"This N17.5 trillion pipeline-security expenditure is not merely a financial anomaly it is a moral indictment on the Tinubu administration and a clarion call for full accountability," he said.

The politician described the NNPC's spending on "securing fuel pipelines and others" as one of the "most brazen financial scandals in our nation's history."

"For clarity, Nigeria spent roughly N18 trillion on fuel subsidy over a period of twelve years a national programme that directly cushioned millions of Nigerians, stabilised the transport sector, and helped keep food prices manageable," Abubakar said.

"Yet, under President Bola

Ahmed Tinubu, the country has now expended nearly the same amount in a single year on same subsidy and opaque pipeline security contracts awarded to private firms tied to associates and cronies of the President."

He said the action of the president is similar to "robbing Peter (Nigerians) to pay Paul (cronies)".

"This is not governance. This is grand larceny dressed as public expenditure," the politician said.

He said the government ended petrol subsidy citing lack of funds, yet reportedly redirected N17.5 trillion into "opaque security contracts" linked to allies' money that could have supported vital national needs.

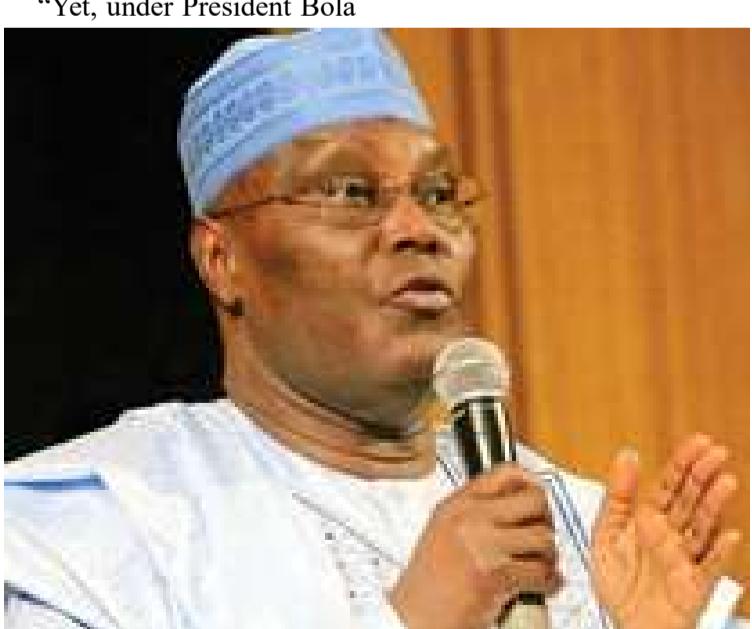
Despite petrol selling for as high as N1,000 per litre in some states after petrol subsidy removal, he said the "same administration has spent N7.13tn on what it calls, energy-security cost to keep petrol prices stable".

He said another N8.67 trillion was spent on "under-recovery".

"These two balablu nomenclatures: energy-cost and under-recovery are a new coinage of the Tinubu administration to deceive Nigerians on the government's fraudulent claim that it was no longer paying subsidies on petroleum products," Abubakar said.

The spending, he said, raises fundamental questions of public trust and national integrity.

He added that the "scandal" confirms that the Tinubu administration "did not end subsidy it merely redirected public wealth from the entire nation to a privileged cartel anchored around the Presidency."

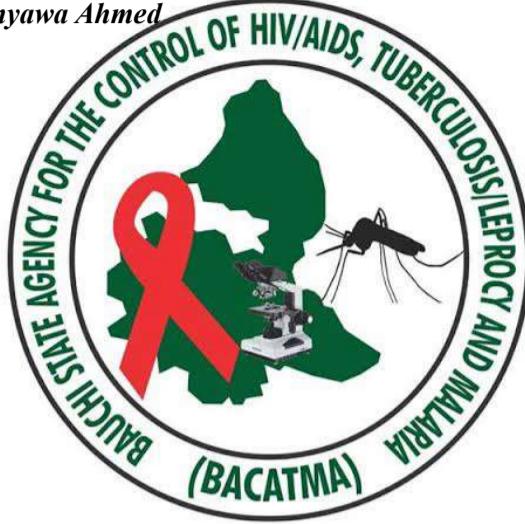


Former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar

News

Bauchi treats 2,246 newly diagnosed HIV patients, as stakeholders warn against funding setbacks

By Mijinyawa Ahmed



Bauchi State has provided free and comprehensive Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) to no fewer than 2,246 newly diagnosed HIV-positive individuals between January and November 2025, in renewed efforts to curb the spread of the virus and strengthen the state's HIV response.

The Commissioner for Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Sani Mohammed, disclosed this on Monday during the commemoration of the 2025 World AIDS Day in Bauchi.

The global theme for this year's event is "Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response."

Mohammed, represented by the Permanent Secretary, Dauda Yakubu, said the theme reflects the numerous challenges confronting HIV programmes, particularly the impact of recent funding cuts and disruptions in the global health system.

He announced that Bauchi State also recorded a remarkable milestone with 650 HIV-exposed infants achieving 100 per cent early infant diagnosis, ensuring timely intervention to prevent mother-to-child transmission of the virus.

"This year's commemoration includes rallies, medical outreach, health talks, lectures, and distribution of nutritional support to People Living With HIV," he said.

The commissioner highlighted the state's steady progress, noting that HIV prevalence in Bauchi dropped significantly from 6.8 per cent in 2001 to 0.4 per cent in 2018.

"We have made tremendous progress in saving lives and preventing new infections," he added.

He commended Gov Bala Mohammed for his unwavering support to the state's Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Malaria (BACATMA), particularly the allocation of one per cent of Local Government Funds to sustain the fight against infectious diseases.

Speaking at the event, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Director, Ms. Diene Keita, emphasised that strengthening HIV prevention remains the most reliable pathway to achieving an AIDS-free generation.

Represented by Gender and Reproductive Health Analyst, Deborah Tabara, Keita warned that unprecedented global funding cuts have weakened prevention programmes, depriving an estimated 2.5 million people of vital pre-exposure medications.

The Executive Chairman of BACATMA, Adamu Sambo, said the agency has intensified efforts to identify and support individuals requiring care across health facilities statewide.



Dr. Adamu Umar Sambo

Veteran Journalist warns against unethical reporting, urges stricter regulation

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

A respected veteran journalist, Alhaji Inuwa Bello, has urged media practitioners across Nigeria to recommit themselves to professionalism and ethical reporting, warning that irresponsible journalism continues to fuel tension in communities, particularly in regions already prone to conflict.

Speaking on the theme "The Media's Role in Conflict-Sensitive Reporting," Bello underscored that journalism remains a critical instrument for national development only when practiced within the

boundaries of established ethical and professional standards.

He noted that regulatory bodies such as the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) exist to uphold these standards and protect the public interest.

However, he cautioned that deviation from such guidelines has repeatedly contributed to crises across the country.

According to him, journalists must exercise caution before going on air or publishing a report, considering the potential impact of their words on their audiences.

He noted that the absence of adequate training, coupled with a decline in professional standards, has created room for sensational and harmful reporting that often escalates conflict rather than resolving it.

Bello also expressed concern over the rapid rise of unregulated media platforms, many of which operate primarily for profit without adherence to journalistic ethics or editorial oversight.

He explained that these platforms frequently disseminate exaggerated, unverified.

FG to name terrorism financiers soon — Presidency

The Special Adviser to President Bola Tinubu on Policy Communication, Daniel Bwala, has disclosed that the Federal Government will soon reveal the identities of individuals and networks responsible for financing terrorism in the country.

Speaking during an interview on a programme on Television Continental on Sunday, Bwala said the Tinubu administration is already taking "far-reaching decisions" on national security, which will soon become clear to Nigerians.

He said the current administration is intensifying its efforts to counter the terrorists' threat and will soon expose those financing and enabling terrorist activities across the country.

"The government is making decisive interventions. In the coming days, Nigerians will know who the terrorists are and those funding them," he said.

Bwala noted that terrorism has evolved into a global menace that transcends national borders, making international collaboration essential in tackling its spread.

The presidential aide stated that world powers increasingly recognise the need to support countries like Nigeria, where extremist groups have sought to expand their operations.

"Since the events of 9/11, terrorism has been treated as a global security issue. Any nation where terrorists operate becomes a concern to the rest of the world."

"This is why international partners must continue to cooperate with Nigeria in our efforts to dismantle terrorist networks," he said.

Bwala explained that



Daniel Bwala, Special Adviser to President on Policy Communication

extremist activities once concentrated in parts of the Middle East have gradually shifted towards the Sahel, creating new centres of instability that demand stronger regional and international coordination.

Tinubu rejected the growing reliance on private military and security contractors in conflict zones in Africa, warning that their involvement undermines sovereignty and complicates counter-terrorism operations across the continent.

Speaking during the first plenary session on 'Peace, Security, Governance and Multilateralism' at the 7th African Union-European Union Summit in Luanda, Angola, Tinubu said peace efforts must be led and owned by African governments rather than outsourced to private actors with opaque mandates.

Tinubu, represented by Vice President Kashim Shettima, told heads of state and EU leaders that "We stand

resolutely against the use of private military and security companies in African conflicts, as their presence often complicates resolution efforts and undermines state sovereignty."

Tinubu argued that Africa's security challenges, from terrorism to transnational organised crime, require coordinated state-driven responses, not parallel forces that weaken command structures.

He said Nigeria's position aligns with its long-standing approach to regional peace missions under ECOWAS and the AU.

The Nigerian leader also cautioned that the global shift away from multilateralism has created a more fragile security environment, noting that the EU remains one of the few platforms still engaging Africa on a "continent-to-continent basis, anchored on mutual respect and shared aspirations."

Adeleke quits PDP as leadership crisis deepens, the party governors shrink to 7

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

Osun State Governor, Ademola Adeleke, has resigned his membership of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), further thinning the ranks of the opposition amid an ongoing wave of high-profile defections.

His exit, confirmed in a letter dated November 4 and addressed to the party chairman of Sagba Abogunde Ward 2 in Ede North, marks another major blow to the PDP's struggling leadership structure.

In the letter, which became public early Tuesday in Osogbo, Adeleke attributed his decision to the persistent crisis at the national level of the party.

He expressed gratitude for the platform the PDP provided during his election as Senator representing Osun West and later as Governor of Osun State, but said the current turmoil made continued membership untenable.

Although Adeleke did not



Ademola Adeleke, Osun State Governor

disclose his next political destination, party insiders suggest he may soon announce his alignment with another major political bloc.

His resignation follows closely on the heels of similar moves by Governor Peter Mbah of Enugu State, who defected from the PDP and Governor Douye Diri of Bayelsa State, who formally resigned lately.

The development reduces the PDP Governors' Forum to just seven members.

The opposition party, once dominant across several regions, now controls only seven states, compared to the

ruling APC's 24. Earlier this year, Governors Umo Eno of Akwa Ibom and Sheriff Oborevwori of Delta State also defected to the APC, citing frustrations with the PDP's unresolved leadership crisis.

With the latest departures, the PDP now retains governors in Adamawa, Bauchi, Plateau, Taraba, Zamfara, Oyo, and Rivers.

However, speculations are growing that more governors, including Taraba's Agbu Kefas, may soon follow suit raising concerns about the party's ability to survive the escalating internal fractures.

Zulum sponsors youths for degrees in Piloting, Aeronautical Engineering, others

By Alkali Muhammad Musa

Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Umara Zulum, has directed immediate selection and sponsorship of indigent youths for degree programmes in high-value fields, including Piloting, Aeronautical Engineering and related disciplines.

He gave the directive on Tuesday during a meeting at the Government House in Maiduguri when he received Mr Issac Balami, the founder of Issac Balami University of Aeronautics and Management (IBUAM).

According to Zulum, the selection process will prioritise indigent youths who demonstrate academic potential but lack the financial means to pursue such expensive courses of study.

The governor stated, "On our part, as the government of Borno State, we will do everything possible to support this university within our reach.

"I want to most sincerely thank you for the offers you have given to the government and people of Borno State for the training of a sizable number of



aircraft planners and aircraft technicians.

"Deliberately, I invited the Commissioner for Education and the Executive Secretary of the scholarship board; they will liaise with you to see how candidates will be sent to your university.

"The Commissioner for Education and your team, you will identify the most vulnerable in the population who can benefit from this scheme: those who cannot afford, nor can their parents, to undertake those aeronautics courses. I don't want anyone close to the governor, the deputy governor or the commissioner to be selected.

Purely on merit! Mind you, I

have to vet the list after the selection process."

Earlier in his address, Balami announced that his institution would provide free training to an initial batch of Borno indigenes in Aircraft Planning and Aircraft Technology.

He said the gesture was an act of giving back to the society, inspired by a scholarship he received years ago from the Borno State Government which paved the way for his own career in aeronautics.

He stated that one person from each of the 27 local governments in Borno would be trained as aircraft planners and aircraft technicians.

Yola High court adjourns Fufure Emirate suit to 4th Dec. for continuation of defense

From Umar Dankano, Yola.

Yola High court has adjourned the legal suit between three traditional title holders of Adamawa Emirate council, the state government and Fufure Emirate over legitimacy of Emirate's creation.

Justice Musa Usman after hearing both the plaintiff's and defendant's counsels examining the sole witness of the defense, Abubakar Jijiwa, Wazirin Fufure announced the adjournment of the case to 4th December 2025 for Continuation examination and cross examination of the defense.

While under examination by the prosecution and defense counsels, Jijiwa was asked to confirm to the court if he was part of the stakeholders that requested for the creation of the Fufure Emirate and he confirmed in the affirmative saying "We wrote a letter of request for the creation of the fufure Emirate to the Adamawa state Governor (H. E Gov. Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri) dated 9th December 2024.

Speaking to journalists, the prosecution led counsel, Mohammed Nuruddeen SAN, said that the 4th defendant has given evidence in the court while the third defendant couldn't make it to the court because he was bereaved noting that the case has been adjourned to 4th December for progress.

Answering a question on the earlier withdrawals of appeals by the two defense counsels at the court of

Tuggar Mourns Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi

By Salihu Makera

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Yusuf Maitama Tuggar, Mourns the death of prominent Islamic scholar Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi, who died in the early morning on Thursday.

In a statement by his spokesperson Alkasim Abdulkadir, Ambassador Tuggar said he has received with deep sorrow the news of the passing of Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi.

Ambassador Tuggar joins his family, students, and members of the Tijaniyya family in Nigeria and across the world in mourning this profound loss. He extends his heartfelt condolences to the

Appeal accusing the trial court (High court) of not allowing their application for preliminary objections regarding some issues, Nuruddeen advanced that the defense counsels filed interlocutory Appeals and the prosecution counsels responded swiftly.

"They filed interlocutory Appeals and we responded, so when we went to the court of Appeal, they withdrew their Appeals and the Appeals were dismissed.

"They said that, the court didn't consider their Applications for preliminary objection instead of ruling the court adjourned with sun suit adjournment which in our view was the right thing to do, so we responded in like manner.

"When they saw the Appeals were going nowhere, they withdrew and the Appeals were dismissed by the court forthwith.

Recall that, the state government created Fufure emirate out the Adamawa Emirate this year which informed three

concerned citizens including; Alhaji Musa Halilu Ahmed (Dujiman Adamawa), Alh. Mustapha Dahiru Mustapha (Yeriman Adamawa), and Alhaji Mustapha Ahmed (Sarki Noma Adamawa) to challenge the process in court believing the development to be distortion to the heritage of the Fombina dynasty.

immediate family, the people of Bauchi State, and all those touched by his passing.

Tuggar described the late Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi as a man of character and quiet service, whose life was marked by devotion to community, peace, scholarship, and faith. "During his lifetime, he significantly contributed to shaping Islamic knowledge, as well as the moral and ethical standards of modern Nigeria," he added.

He prays that Almighty Allah, in His infinite mercy, forgive his shortcomings, grant him Aljannatul Firdaus, and give his family, students, and loved ones the fortitude to bear this irreplaceable loss.

Issues**Structural Inhibitions to Military Intervention in Contemporary Nigeria***From Page*

Nigeria today would almost certainly trigger societal implosion rather than institutional consolidation, making it strategically irrational for officers to undertake.

15. Then there is the theoretical framework of cultural-class equilibrium in the civil-military relations, which in the context of present Nigeria are shaped less by ideological conflict and more by class alignment, shared elite culture and mutual dependence. Unlike the revolutionary militaries of 1960s Latin America or the ideological armies of the Cold War era, today's Nigerian military and civilian elites share similar worldviews and class interests. The military and the political class partake in the spoils of political power. In this, the military is as equally complicit as the civilian politicians. Neither side seeks to radically transform the other. Military officers' benefit from democratic governance through institutional budgets, political postings and expanded influence across economic and business sectors. Coup would jeopardize these advantages.

16. Just as intervention in the past was rationalized as necessary to preserve the unity of the state, staying disengaged now is been rationalized as necessary to preserve the unity of the military itself. A coup today would destroy that unity and disrupt the corporate structure of the benefiting officer corps, while staying aloof preserves it. Historically, when military leaders ignored this equilibrium - Gowon by renegeing on his transition and Buhari by refusing any transition at



all - they faced internal consequences. Thus, now, staying aloof is beneficially rational, while intervention is institutionally destabilizing.

17. Furthermore, several other post-1999 transformations have deepened coup inhibitions. They include the entrenchment of democracy in these twenty-six years of uninterrupted civilian rule - the longest in Nigeria's history. This has normalized constitutional politics and delegitimized military rule across society. Also the evolution of the armed forces within the democratic system, which gave rise to the professionalization, joint-service coordination, a long exposure of the armed forces in domestic engagements against internal insurrections and international partnerships have substantially reduced barracks adventurism. There is also the evolution of a complex security architecture in the country with multiplicity of armed agencies and command structures across the country.

This makes coordinated takeover by the military alone nearly impossible without massive institutional rupture.

18. Then there is high public scrutiny within a fragmented society. The media, civil society, ethnic balancing and political competition ensure no faction can claim popular legitimacy. Also, rational choice constraints have made military officers understand that in the modern global economic order, military government would not only collapse the economy but would also provoke international sanctions and trigger domestic resistance, thus destroying internal military cohesion. Hence, coups are not just unlikely, but they are even irrational.

19. In conclusion, it can be seen that Nigeria stands apart from many African states experiencing recent coups because its political and military evolution has created deeply entrenched structural inhibitions against military intervention. Fragmentation within the armed forces,

class and cultural equilibrium between civilian and military elites, decades of transition programs and 26 years of democratic continuity, no matter how imperfect, all work together to make coups both undesirable and unsustainable.

20. Despite widespread hardship and insecurity, Nigeria's societal and institutional architecture still strongly resists extra-constitutional power seizures. The military, as currently constituted, has more to lose than to gain from intervention. Contemporary fears of a coup, though emotionally understandable, are structurally unfounded. Yes, Nigeria's history of military intervention is undeniable, but its history of deliberate, structured military disengagement is even more significant.

21. These factors render any contemporary coup attempt irrational, unappealing, unsustainable and institutionally hazardous. Nigeria's armed forces today are not the military of 1966, 1975, 1983 or 1993. They are a professionalized, heterogeneous institution with far more to lose than to gain from extra-constitutional power. Thus, while vigilance remains necessary, the structural foundations of Nigerian society make fears of military takeover largely misplaced. Nigeria's democratic system, again however imperfect, has become the country's default political settlement. And in this settlement, military intervention is not just undesirable, unviable and irrational; it is also structurally impossible to succeed and to sustain.

NEU Holds First Business, Enterpreneurship, Conference*By Najib Sani, Gombe*

The North Eastern University (NEU), Gombe, Gombe State, has hosted its first International Conference on Business, Finance and Entrepreneurship (IBUFINE 2025) in partnership with the Certified Institute of Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Education (CIEEE) with a theme "Management, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development", held at the university hall.

During the conference, experts have advocated for a shift in Nigerian universities' curriculum to focus on innovation, aiming to boost the economy and earn the nation a place of esteem among the community of nations.

The Pro-chancellor of North Eastern University, Gombe, Professor Sani Jauro, stated that the university prioritises conferences alongside classroom lectures to expose students to real-life experiences from experts.

He mentioned the university's recent partnerships with international universities, including those in Malaysia, and an organisations in China focused on entrepreneurship and innovation.

The Head of Business

Administration of the North Eastern University Gombe, Dr Abubakar Aliyu, stated that the conference aimed to instill an entrepreneurial mindset in students, equipping them to address unemployment challenges.

"By promoting innovation, students can create jobs for themselves. With the university's first graduation approaching next year, the goal is to ensure students secure employment immediately after graduating", he said.

One of the speakers, Professor Nuruddeen Oyekola, Registrar and Chief Executive Officer of the Certified Institute of Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Education, emphasised the need for a culture of innovation in Nigeria, lamenting that ministries of science and technology are not doing enough to promote it.

Oyekola said that Nigeria's education system needs a revamp to incorporate innovation and entrepreneurship, starting from primary and secondary schools.

He advocated for universities and tertiary institutions to focus on creating ventures rather than just teaching entrepreneurship.

Oyekola pointed out that universities and even NYSC camps are training people in entrepreneurship, saying it is too late at that level and

hinders innovation breakthroughs.

He added that Nigeria lacks commercialised scientific discoveries or products, with most ending in laboratories due to lack of support from science and technology ministries.

Oyekola recommended guiding students to study disciplines aligned with their natural talents and crafts noting that it would help them succeed and drive innovation.

Another speaker at the conference, Professor Babangida Muhammad Musa of Gombe State University, highlighted the need for Nigerians to develop soft skills to thrive in the industrial revolution era.

Musa stressed that incorporating entrepreneurship mindset into all discipline curricula is crucial for

Nigeria's growth.

He recommended the adoption of project-based learning in universities, where students develop critical thinking and present innovative solutions and encouraged collaboration across departments to solve complex issues and promote innovation.

"Even in the AI era, be innovative to learn how to man the AI so that it will not take over your job. If you develop yourself beyond the AI, then you become the master of the AI, and industries will look for you", he advised.

Musa also advised universities to be inviting industry captains to share their experiences with students, providing valuable insights into entrepreneurship and critical skills.



6 Brigade Commander, Uwa Summons Stakeholders' Security Meeting, Moves to Curb Crime in Ibi LGA

By Sani Sule, Jalingo

The Commander of 6 Brigade, Nigerian Army/Sector 3 Operation Whirl Stroke (OPWS), held a high-level stakeholders' security meeting in Ibi Local Government Area of Taraba State.

The meeting, which was held at the Palace of the Emir of Ibi, aimed at addressing rising security concerns and communal disputes in the area.

The meeting, which commenced at about 2:00 pm, brought together key community leaders, government officials, and security representatives to deliberate on issues threatening peace across parts of the Local Government Area.

High on the agenda were the incursion of criminals from neighbouring states, farmland disputes, illegal harvesting of crops, and lingering chieftaincy tussles in Dampar, Tapga, Sarkin Kudu, and Gidan Kiye communities, all of which have contributed to loss of lives and destruction of



properties.

The session had in attendance His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ibi, Alhaji Abubakar Salihu Danbauro, as well as the Chairman of Ibi LGC, Mr Emmanuel Ubandoma, alongside District Heads, Local Chiefs, Community Leaders and teams from sister security agencies.

Speaking at the meeting, the Brigade Commander, Brigadier General Kingsley Chidiebere Uwa, urged all stakeholders to renew their commitment to peaceful coexistence and strongly condemned the reported cases of individuals preventing

farmers from harvesting their crops.

He stressed that such acts are provocative, capable of sparking violent clashes, and would henceforth attract serious consequences.

He further reminded traditional leaders and community heads of their primary responsibility to protect peace within their domains, warning that security agencies will take decisive action against anyone fueling crises.

The meeting concluded peacefully at approximately 4:00 pm, with all parties agreeing to work together to maintain peace in the area.

FGGC Jalingo Praises Gov Kefas's Free Education Policy as School Emerges Winner of PANSC In Ghana

By Saneen Yarima, Jalingo

The FGGC Jalingo, from Taraba State, has emerged as the overall champion in the just-concluded maiden edition of the Pan-African Problem Solvers' Challenge for Secondary School Students, PANSC.

The competition was held in Accra, Ghana, in August 2025, with 279 schools as participants, where the FGGC Jalingo emerged as the overall winner.

The program aimed to enhance students' problem-solving skills through engaging challenges related to real-world issues and fostering collaboration among young people from different African countries.

It is also aimed at encouraging students to move beyond traditional textbook learning and explore entrepreneurship, as well as innovation as ways to address the continent's challenges.

Among the three students from the FGGC Jalingo who participated in the competition are Stephanie Nwabueze Chioma, Aho Mercy Mhoonum, and Ahmad Ummul Khulsum.

Stephanie Nwabueze Chioma, who is the School



Head Girl, also emerged as the best overall participant in the Pan-African Problem Solvers' Challenge in Ghana.

However, the Taraba State Government has been praised for sponsoring the students from the FGGC Jalingo to the event.

The Principal of the FGGC Jalingo, Mrs Justina Isaac Kure, made the commendation while briefing the state Commissioner of Basic and Secondary Education, Hon Dr Augustina Godwin, on the outcome of their trip to the Republic of Ghana.

Mrs Kure revealed that without the timely intervention of Governor Agbu Kefas, the school's success wouldn't have been

recorded and expressed deep appreciation to Dr Augustina Godwin for the role she played.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that the certificates were presented to the three students, who represented the school, by the Commissioner of Education, Hon. Dr Augustina Godwin and the Taraba State Commissioner of Police, CP Betty Otimenyin, during an event in preparation for the 70th Anniversary of Women in Policing in Nigeria.

Additionally, the August 2026 edition of the Pan-African Problem Solvers' Challenge is billed to take place in both Kenya and Ghana.

Tinubu approves new committee on tax policy implementation

President Bola Tinubu has approved the establishment of the National Tax Policy Implementation Committee (NTPIC).

The committee, which Mr Joseph Tegbe chairs, will ensure the implementation of the administration's landmark tax reforms in line with the economic aspirations of the government and the people of Nigeria.

A statement signed by Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, on Thursday said Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr. Wale Edun, will oversee the committee's work.

While saying the Committee will undertake extensive consultations across the public and private sectors to ensure broad-based input into the implementation process, the statement said its chairman, Tegbe, is a Fellow of both the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (FCA) and the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (FCIT).

"He has over 35 years of professional experience across the public and private sectors, having previously served as a Senior Partner and Head of Advisory Services at KPMG Africa.

"Mrs Sanyade Okoli, Special Adviser to the President on Finance and Economy, will serve as the Committee's Secretary. Members also include Ismael Ahmed, Rukaiya El Rufai, and others," it said.

In establishing the Committee, President Tinubu emphasised that effective implementation of the Tax Acts is central to the nation's economic transformation agenda and critical to strengthening public finance management while safeguarding the legitimate expectations of investors and the productive sectors.

"These new Tax Acts reflect our administration's commitment to building a fair, transparent, and technology-driven tax system that supports economic growth while protecting the interests of citizens and businesses.

"The National Tax Policy Implementation Committee will ensure coherent, effective, and well-aligned implementation across all levels of government," the President stated.

According to the statement, the NTPIC's mandate emphasises broad stakeholder consultation through nationwide engagements with the private sector, professional bodies, and subnational governments, alongside public awareness campaigns to support effective implementation of the new tax laws.

It also prioritises strong inter-agency coordination by aligning the work of key revenue and regulatory institutions, harmonising existing frameworks with new statutes, and ensuring unified oversight and reporting throughout the transition process.

The Committee comprises experts drawn from tax administration, finance, law, the private sector, and civil society, ensuring a balanced and inclusive approach to policy execution.

The statement said the chairman expressed the team's readiness to work diligently in support of national development.

"We understand the strategic importance of these Tax Acts. Our committee will work closely with all stakeholders to support the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy in ensuring seamless implementation and building public trust in the tax system," he said.

The Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr Wale Edun, added: "With the establishment of this Committee, Mr President has not only set the direction but also provided the authority and support required to reset not just the tax system but the entire fiscal policy framework of Government, to deliver significant economic growth for the benefit of all Nigerians."

The NTPIC is expected to enhance revenue mobilisation, minimise leakages, and reinforce accountability, thereby strengthening the government's fiscal sustainability and national development objectives.



News

Your days are numbered, Tinubu warns terrorists

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has reaffirmed his administration's resolve to restoring peace, strengthening national security, and expanding economic opportunity.

He also warned terrorists and other enemies of state to have a rethink or meet their Waterloo in the not too distant future.

President Tinubu said this Sunday at the memorial of former Kogi state Governor, Prince Abubakar Audu, in Lokoja.

Represented by Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, the president noted that the government was fully mobilised to hunt down the enemies of state wherever they may be and restore the peace that is the rightful inheritance of every Nigerian.

A statement by the media aide to the minister, Rabiu Ibrahim, quoted Idris as conveying the president's message to the event.

"Yet, we are under no illusions about the recent setbacks and security challenges that have tested our nation's resolve. Let me be unequivocal: the security and welfare of every Nigerian remain the sacred priority of my government. We have therefore taken decisive action.

"The recent Declaration of a State of Emergency on national security underscores the gravity with which we view this challenge. This is not a mere proclamation; it is a declaration of war against all forms of insecurity.

"As part of this, we have immediately begun the process of expanding the capacity of our armed forces and security agencies in numbers, in advanced weaponry, and in intelligence capabilities. We will hunt the enemies of our state wherever they may be and restore the peace that is the rightful inheritance of every Nigerian.

"But to secure our people permanently, we must reform the very architecture of our security. This is why my administration is courageously championing the establishment of State Police. We believe that a more localised, community-sensitive security structure is vital to complement the valiant efforts of our national forces. It will also boost employment in the grassroots. This is a bold, necessary constitutional step, one that requires our collective will, and we are committed to seeing it through," he said.

The president further said the federal government was also intensifying international diplomacy to correct false narratives misrepresenting Nigeria's religious harmony and peaceful coexistence.

...On late Audu's legacy

Reflecting on the legacy of the late Prince Abubakar Audu, the president described him as a pivotal figure in Nigeria's democratic evolution.

He described the late politician as a leader whose foresight helped shape the governance foundation of Kogi state and contributed to Nigeria's transition into stable civilian rule.

According to him, Prince Audu's political career was not an episode of



President Bola Ahmed Tinubu

personal ambition, but an enduring contribution to state-building and institutional strength.

"We are gathered to honour a giant. A man whose name is irrevocably woven into the very fabric of our democratic journey. Prince Abubakar Audu was not just a politician; he was a pathfinder. As the first democratically elected governor of Kogi state, first in 1992 and again as a pioneer in 1999, Prince Audu carved out a vision for Kogi state and helped lay the foundation for our nation's enduring democracy.

"He was my formidable ally, a brother in the struggle, and one of the founding fathers who, with courage and conviction, laid the foundations upon which our democratic ideals now stand. His legacy is not a relic of the past; it is a living, breathing template of bold leadership and transformative governance. It is a template this administration is committed to honouring, not just in words, but in concrete action," he said.

...Troops rescue kidnap victims

And from Kano, *Journalists* reports that seven kidnap victims from Yankamaye Cikin Gari village in Tsanyawa local government area of the state, were rescued by men of the Operation MESA comprising personnel of 3 Brigade Nigerian Army, the Nigerian Air Force and Nigerian Police.

This was made known to newsmen in a statement Sunday by the assistant director, Army Public Relations, 3 Brigade, Captain Babatunde Zubairu, in Kano.

"While on fighting patrol on 29 November 2025, at about 2300 hours, I received a distressed call from Yankamaye Cikin Gari village in Tsanyawa local government area on bandit's activities. The troops who responded swiftly contacted the bandits and successfully rescued 7 victims from the bandits who had already killed a 60-year-old woman in the area.

"Upon receiving the information, the troops pursued the bandits along their withdrawal route towards Rimaye, engaged them with a high volume of fire, and swiftly rescued the abducted victims. However, 4 of the kidnapped victims are still unaccounted for," the statement said.

...In Chibok too

Similarly, Premium Times reports that the 28 Task Force Brigade also

when fellow farmers in the area could not locate Salami but found his motorcycle abandoned on the farm premises.

This prompted a search among the villagers, as a source from the community disclosed that a farmer from a neighbouring village witnessed the abduction of the monarch.

And just barely 24 hours after the abduction of the traditional ruler, gunmen, again, invaded another farmland in Eruku, Ekiti local government area abducting another farmer.

Identified as Annas Aasanru, a native of Eruku, the victim, *Journalist* gathered, was working on his farm along the road leading to Koro, a neighbouring town, when the abductors stormed the farm and whisked him away into the bush.

The Eruku abduction came barely a week after the release of 38 victims who were earlier kidnapped in a church in the community.

The Kwara State Police Command's spokesperson, SP Adetoun Ejire-Adeyemi, confirmed the development in Ilorin.

She said: "Police operatives from Eruku Division, received a complaint at about 1400hours on Sunday that four armed men invaded a farm along Koro road, Eruku at about 1230hours and abducted one Mr Aasanru (m) aged 40.

"Upon receipt of the report, a joint team of police, military personnel and local vigilante members was immediately deployed to the area for an intensive search and rescue operation," the spokesperson added.

The police command assured the public that all necessary efforts are underway to secure the return of the abducted victim.

...Also in Kogi

Also, Kogi state government has vowed to apprehend bandits who attacked the Cherubim and Seraphim Church, Ejiba, Yagba West local government area of the state.

The pastor of the church, his wife and yet-to-be ascertained church members were abducted Sunday during service.

The locals said the attack forced worshippers to run for safety as gunshots echoed through the area and the pastor of the church, popularly known as Orlando, was taken away along with his wife and several others.

Assuring of their rescue, Commissioner for Information and Communication, Kingsley Fanwo, said: "The authorities of Yagba West local government council are working hard with security agencies to ensure those kidnapped are rescued alive. The perpetrators, too, already know that Kogi will do everything possible to secure every one of its citizens abducted.

"The governor of the state, Ahmed Usman Ododo, is coordinating activities, and we will keep the press updated on the operations. We urge the citizens to be security-conscious and also report suspicious movement and faces to security agencies. When you see something, say something at the time of going to the press.

Borno: Zulum Meets JNI, CAN, Stresses on Tolerance, Unity

By: Alkali Muhammad Musa, Maiduguri

Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Umara Zulum, convened a high-level consultative meeting on Monday with the leadership of Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) and Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN).

The meeting, held at the Government House in Maiduguri, focused on strengthening collaborative efforts between the state government and religious bodies to combat the lingering threat of insecurity and foster lasting peace in Borno State.

The governor, while addressing the leaders, underscored the critical role of religious leaders in promoting tolerance, unity and peace in society.

"Borno is not only strategically positioned geographically but also has unique and beautiful family composition dynamics. It is common to find under one roof, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, who profess different faiths. We share meals, we celebrate festivities and milestones, we grieve losses together, as one family, bound by blood and love that transcends religious labels. This is our reality. This is our strength. We must protect this sacred bond within our homes and allow it to define our individual, as well as intra- and cross-community engagements."

It is absolutely crucial that we collectively dispel all false narratives that seek to portray our security crisis in religious colouration. Religious conflict is alien to us. Boko Haram conflict is not a religious crisis. It is an assault on our civilisation, humanity, and all that we hold dear, irrespective of creed. The perpetrators of violence have killed, maimed, and displaced Muslims and Christians alike. They have destroyed mosques and churches with equal impunity.

The statistics of victimhood are stark and heart-breaking. While every single life lost is regrettable, the data clearly shows that the overwhelming majority of those that suffered death, abduction, and displacements are our Muslim brothers and sisters. The number of Muslim victims is, tragically, more than that of our Christian compatriots. This tragedy binds us in a common grief and demands a united response. Suffering knows no sect;



Professor Babagana Umara Zulum of Borno State

therefore, our solidarity must know no bounds.

In our reconstruction, resettlement and rehabilitation drive, Borno State Government has been guided by one principle: justice, equity, and inclusivity. Our reconstruction policy is not based on religion and ethnicity. We rebuild based on need and on our commitment towards restoring the social fabric of every community.

To that end, I wish to inform you that, as part of our massive reconstruction programme across the affected local government areas, Borno State Government has reconstructed 45 Christian worship centres that were destroyed during Boko Haram insurgency.

My assurances are unequivocal today: Borno State Government is committed to the welfare, security, and protection

of every citizen. Your safety is of great concern to our administration. Your right to worship, according to your faith, without fear or hindrance, is sacrosanct. We will continue to work with security agencies and with you, our community leaders, to ensure this protection.

Therefore, I call upon you, our revered faith leaders, to preach peace: from your Minbars during Juma'at prayers and pulpits on church service days. Let your messages be that of unity, tolerance, and our shared values of love, compassion, and justice.

I urge all of us to actively speak against any voice, within or without, that seeks to divide us along religious lines. Let us encourage dialogue among our congregations and build bridges at every opportunity.

To the international

community, I want to call on you to partner with us in addressing the underlying causes of insurgency which is not limited to endemic poverty, illiteracy, hunger among others.

Your support will also be appreciated in areas of enhancing the capability of our military in the fight against insurgency."

In his response, the State Director of Administration of JNI, represented by Mal. Sa'adu Ngamdu, commended Governor Zulum's proactive leadership in facilitating the dialogue. He affirmed the Islamic body's unwavering commitment to peace and its readiness to partner with the government and other faiths.

On his part, Most Rev. John Bogna Bakeni, CAN Chairman Borno State & Auxiliary Bishop of Maiduguri Catholic Diocese,

echoed that the problem facing Nigeria is internal and can only be solved locally.

"Nobody can solve our problem from outside, we are the ones that can solve our problem, America, UK, nobody. If we take what the governor said and implement it justifiably, we are going to have a peaceful society," he said.

He added, "Nigeria is on the global map now, and there are a lot of information that are going out. I would enjoin us, as the religious leaders, to talk to our people.

He also urged government leaders and other political office holders to always do justice to humanity and the society devoid of any religious, ethnic or political affiliations, as according to him, doing so, would always cultivate trust and peaceful coexistence.



Politics

2027: APC float "Adamawa Progressive Elders Council" for cohesion & stabilization

From Umar Dankano, Yola.

Ahead of the 2027 General elections, the All Progressives Congress (APC) has formed a high powered 46-Man committee known as "The Adamawa Progressive Elders Council" saddled with the responsibility for internal democracy and reconciliation of aggrieved party members in Adamawa state.

Spokesman of the Council, Comrade Ahmad Sajoh disclosed the development during a press conference in Yola highlighting that the council was a child of necessity born out of the need to strengthen cohesion and team work in the party.

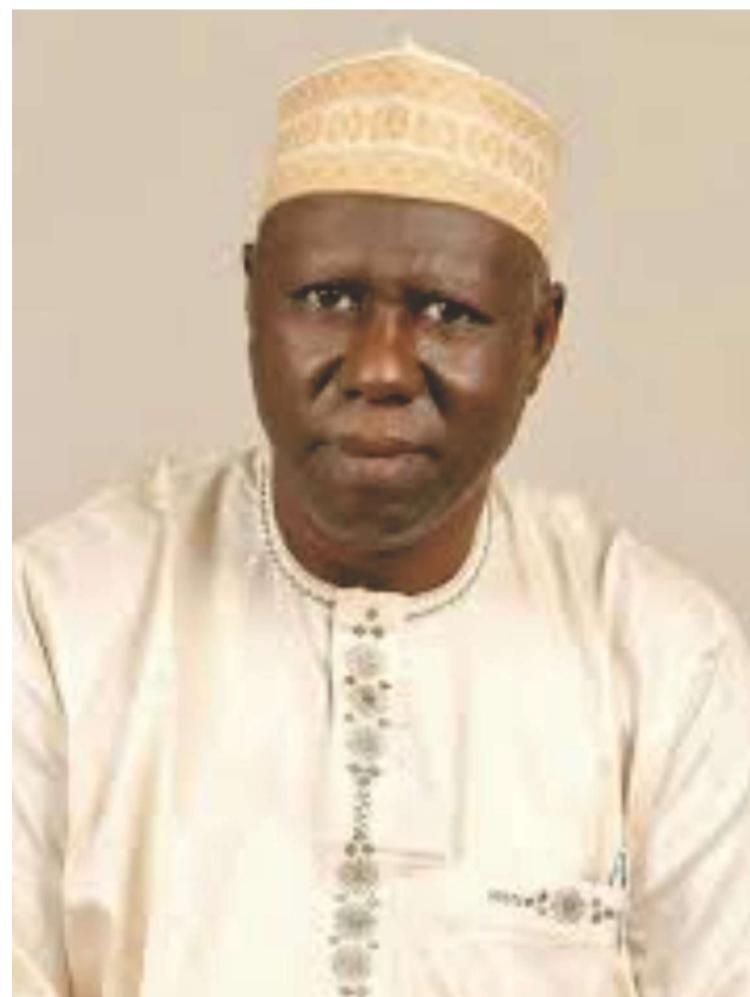
Sajoh who was a former Commissioner of information and strategy in the state added that the formation of the group became fruitful after a serious consultation and midwifing among the top calibre of APC figures at the national as well as the state levels.

Sajoh noted that the council has the blessing of the leader of the party in the state who he said convened a select meeting in Abuja November 6th where the issue of the council took centre stage.

He added that the platform would serve as a stabilization hub or force for the party in Adamawa urging the public to disregard rumours indicating that the formation of the council was done with ulterior motives.

According to him, the forum, now formally named the Adamawa Progressive Elders Council, draws membership from former governors, former senators, serving and former ministers, veteran party leaders and respected community elders across the 21 local government areas of the state.

"The formation of the council is the brainchild of the leader of the party in the state.



Comrade Ahmad Sajoh, Spokesman of the Council

According to the vice chairman of the council, Senator Abubakar Halilu Girei who briefed members during the inaugural meeting on Saturday 15 Nov, the formation of the council was in fulfillment of the recommendations of the APC reconciliation committee which was headed by late Sen. Muhammad Mana.

"According to Girei, the idea behind the establishment of the Adamawa Progressive Elders Council stems from the report of the Adamawa State APC reconciliation committee which made far reaching recommendations including the establishment of the elder's forum," Sajoh said.

He noted that the new council was created in line with the provisions of the APC constitution, specifically Article 13.8(vi), which empowers the State Working Committee to set up

committees that promote the party's interests, and Article 7(i), which identifies unity, political stability and national consciousness as core objectives of the party stressing that

these constitutional mandates form the legal backbone of the council's operations.

Providing context for the initiative, Sajoh recalled the APC's experiences in the 2019 and 2023 election cycles, describing them as periods of internal disarray.

He said that the absence of a strong conflict-resolution mechanism led to fragmentation after primary elections, ultimately costing the party the governorship and other strategic positions.

"We broke away and fought ourselves," he lamented, adding that party elders were determined to prevent a repetition of such setbacks in 2027.

APC chieftain Duhu dismisses Baba-Ahmed's comment over Tinubu's re-election

A former political adviser to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Dr. Hakeem Baba-Ahmed, has come under criticism following his recent remarks suggesting that the president should not seek re-election in 2027.

Baba-Ahmed, speaking on Channels Television's Sunday Politics, argued that President Tinubu has not demonstrated the urgency required to address Nigeria's challenges.

Baba-Ahmed stated that the president, having achieved his long-standing ambition of leading the country, should pave the way for a younger and more energetic candidate within the All Progressives Congress (APC). "He should find someone within his party — a younger person, a healthier person, a more focused person — and make him his candidate," he said.

Responding to these comments, a prominent political figure, Hon Umar D. Duhu, faulted Baba-Ahmed's assessment, describing it as premature and dismissive of the administration's ongoing efforts under the Renewed Hope Agenda. In a statement, Duhu emphasized that governance is a complex and evolving process that requires patience, collaboration, and sustained policy engagement.

Duhu argued that Nigeria's pressing issues, particularly insecurity, should be the focal point of national discourse rather than speculation about the 2027 general elections. He warned against political distractions, stating that they risk diverting attention from critical national priorities.

He also noted that the APC had already expressed confidence in President Tinubu's leadership. At the party's national summit held at the Presidential Villa on May

22, 2025, the Progressives Governors' Forum passed a vote of confidence in the president, endorsing him for a second term. Governor Hope Uzodimma of Imo State, who chairs the forum, said the governors were satisfied with the midterm review of the Renewed Hope Agenda and were committed to supporting Tinubu if he chooses to run in 2027.

Duhu called for unity among political actors and citizens, urging a shift toward constructive dialogue, evidence-based policy discussions, and collective action aimed at strengthening national development.

He stressed that addressing insecurity, improving economic resilience, and advancing social progress should take precedence over partisan rhetoric.

He said: "In the interest of national cohesion and progress, I humbly urge all stakeholders, government, political leaders, and indeed the citizens, to prioritize unity, constructive dialogue, and evidence-based policy discussions that are devoid of partisan rhetoric.

"It is imperative that we foster a collaborative spirit, transcending individual and party interests, to address the pressing challenges facing Nigeria, including insecurity, economic resilience, and social development. Collective action, informed by data-driven insights and a shared vision for the future, is essential to advancing Nigeria's development objectives.

"It is through such concerted efforts, marked by mutual accountability and a commitment to the greater good, that we can effectively tackle the nation's challenges and build a more prosperous, equitable, and secure future for all Nigerians."

Amaechi rules out vice-presidential bid, says he's contesting for president in 2027

Rotimi Amaechi, former Minister of Transportation, has rejected claims that he may run as a vice-presidential candidate alongside former Vice President Atiku Abubakar or join any joint presidential ticket ahead of the 2027 elections.

Amaechi made it clear that he is seeking the presidency and will not serve as a running mate to anyone.

His position follows remarks by Dele

Momodu—publisher and political ally of Atiku—who suggested in an interview with Sunday PUNCH that Atiku might consider Amaechi as a running mate if Peter Obi declines to run with him.

Momodu had said, "A lot of people are underrating Amaechi. Amaechi single-handedly handed power to Buhari. What the Federal Capital Territory Minister, Nyesom Wike, is doing now, though in an unruly manner, Amaechi did quite well when

he was governor of Rivers State. Amaechi mobilised more than any other person for Buhari, even more than Tinubu. If Obi does not make up his mind or chooses to run alone, then I believe the mantle might fall on Rotimi Amaechi."

Responding through his media aide, David Iyofor, Amaechi reiterated that his ambition is strictly to become Nigeria's next president—not a deputy.

"Amaechi is not seeking to

be running mate to anybody. He does not intend to be a presidential running mate to anybody and will not," Iyofor said.

He added that Amaechi believes the 2027 presidency should go to Southern Nigeria and that he is pursuing the ticket of the African Democratic Congress (ADC).

"Amaechi is not aware of, and will not be part of any talk to be running mate to anybody. For emphasis, Amaechi is running to be

President of Nigeria and not to be a running mate to anybody. Politicians are kindly advised to leave Amaechi's name out of any discussion for presidential running mate," Iyofor added.

Amaechi, who was a contender in the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential primaries in 2023, defected to the ADC earlier this year and has since announced his intention to seek the party's nomination for the 2027 election. Culled from Punch

Kogi Central 2027: Why Another Yahaya Bello Ticket Could Be a Political Disaster for the APC

By Omeiza Umaru

As the 2027 elections approach, the political temperature in Kogi State is rising, especially in Kogi Central Senatorial District. Former Governor Yahaya Bello, who served as governor from 2016 to 2024, is reportedly positioning himself to secure the All Progressives Congress (APC) senatorial ticket for Kogi Central. But beneath the surface of these ambitions lies a dangerous political trap, one capable of fracturing the APC, alienating voters across the district, and weakening President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's national electoral prospects.

Here is the blunt truth: having a governor and a senator who hail from the same ward, the same local government area, and the same senatorial district, especially when the public widely perceives them as cousins, is a recipe for resentment, protest votes, and potentially catastrophic backlash.

Yahaya Bello handpicked his successor, Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, who won under the APC. Both men come from the same ward, the same LGA, and the same senatorial district, an arrangement many Kogites already find politically new in Kogi.

Now, with rumours circulating that Bello is eyeing the 2027 APC senatorial ticket for Kogi Central, the optics have grown even worse. For a senatorial district made up of five distinct local government areas, Adavi, Ajaokuta, Okehi, Okene, and Ogori-Magongo, giving both the governorship and the senatorial seat to individuals from the same small political nucleus is a clear provocation.

If the APC hands Bello the ticket, the political consequences will be immediate and far-reaching:

- Other LGAs—Adavi,



Yahaya Bello Former Kogi Governor

Ajaokuta, Okehi, Ogori-Magongo, will likely revolt. They will see the move as an attempt to lock down political power in one tiny corner

- Protest votes will sweep across the senatorial district.

Voters who feel excluded do not stay silent. They punish their party at the polls.

- The backlash will not stop at the senatorial race.

It will ripple into the governorship, the state assembly, and, most dangerously, the presidential election.

A Threat to President Tinubu's 2027 Votes; The optics of what many will interpret as a "state capture" could poison the APC brand not only in Kogi State central but across Kogi state. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, who needs every available vote in 2027, could become an unintended casualty of avoidable political insensitivity.

The narrative will be simple and damaging:

"APC in Kogi is controlled by one 'family', one ward, one godfather."

Such narratives, once embedded, become powerful tools for opposition mobilization.

Governor Ododo's Good Work Could Be Undermined as well. Governor Ododo is performing impressively, delivering visible improvements even though he is not on the ballot in 2027.

But protest votes are

emotional, not rational. The public may take out their frustration on the broader APC structure, weakening Ododo's moral authority and destabilizing the political environment he needs to govern effectively.

Giving Yahaya Bello the Kogi Central senatorial ticket in 2027 would not just be a political misstep, it would be a blunder:

- a blunder against the APC in Kogi
- a blunder against Governor Ododo's political stability
- a blunder against President Tinubu's 2027 prospects

No political party survives when it alienates its own base.

The Path Forward: Fairness and Inclusion

The APC must resist the temptation of narrow power consolidation. The strength of a political party lies in fairness, rotation, balance, and inclusion. Kogi Central deserves equitable representation across its five LGAs not a concentration of positions in one ward.

The message is simple:

If the APC truly wants to win, and to protect President Tinubu's 2027 votes, it must promote fairness and avoid decisions that provoke avoidable rebellion at the polls.

And 2027 will reflect the choices made today.

Omeiza Umaru writes from Lokoja, omeiza2@hotmail.com

Farmers/Herders Clash in Bauchi Leaves One Dead, Five Suspects Arrested

The Bauchi State Police Command has begun investigation into a violent altercation between farmers and herders in Bursali in Zaki Local Government Area of the state, which resulted in the death of an herder.

A statement issued to newsmen by the Command's Spokesperson, CSP Ahmed Mohammed Wakil, said that the incident occurred when herders from Jigawa State allegedly

trespassed upon local farmland, encroached on it, and destroyed agricultural produce.

According to the statement, on receipt of a report on the incident, a team of detectives were dispatched to the scene, five suspects arrested, with preliminary investigation currently underway to determine the circumstances surrounding the clash.

While the CP Mr Sani-Omolori Aliyu has directed that

the case be transferred to the state criminal investigation department, SCID, Bauchi for detailed investigation, he assured the public of the command's commitment to preventing further escalation of hostility and ensuring that justice is served.

The statement said that normalcy has been restored to the affected area, with officers maintaining vigilance to prevent any reprisal attacks.

Tinubu approves new committee on tax policy implementation

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A statement signed by Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, on Thursday said Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr. Wale Edun, will oversee the committee's work.

While saying the Committee will undertake extensive consultations across the public and private sectors to ensure broad-based input into the implementation process, the statement said its chairman, Tegbe, is a Fellow of both the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (FCA) and the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (FCIT).

"He has over 35 years of professional experience across the public and private sectors, having previously served as a Senior Partner and Head of Advisory Services at KPMG Africa.

"Mrs Sanyade Okoli, Special Adviser to the President on Finance and Economy, will serve as the Committee's Secretary. Members also include Ismael Ahmed, Rukaiya El Rufai, and others," it said.

In establishing the Committee, President Tinubu emphasised that effective implementation of the Tax Acts is central to the nation's economic transformation agenda and critical to strengthening public finance management while safeguarding the legitimate expectations of investors and the productive sectors.

"These new Tax Acts reflect our administration's commitment to building a fair, transparent, and technology-driven tax system that supports economic growth while protecting the interests of citizens and businesses.

"The National Tax Policy Implementation Committee will ensure coherent, effective, and well-aligned implementation across all levels of government," the President stated.

According to the statement, the NTPIC's mandate emphasises broad stakeholder consultation through nationwide engagements with the private sector, professional bodies, and subnational governments, alongside public awareness campaigns to support effective implementation of the new tax laws.

It also prioritises strong inter-agency coordination by aligning the work of key revenue and regulatory institutions, harmonising existing frameworks with new statutes, and ensuring unified oversight and reporting throughout the transition process.

The Committee comprises experts drawn from tax administration, finance, law, the private sector, and civil society, ensuring a balanced and inclusive approach to policy execution.

The statement said the chairman expressed the team's readiness to work diligently in support of national development.

"We understand the strategic importance of these Tax Acts. Our committee will work closely with all stakeholders to support the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy in ensuring seamless implementation and building public trust in the tax system," he said.

The Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr Wale Edun, added: "With the establishment of this Committee, Mr President has not only set the direction but also provided the authority and support required to reset not just the tax system but the entire fiscal policy framework of Government, to deliver significant economic growth for the benefit of all Nigerians."

The NTPIC is expected to enhance revenue mobilisation, minimise leakages, and reinforce accountability, thereby strengthening the government's fiscal sustainability and national development objectives.



Features

How STEAM Education Is Transforming Bauchi: New Skills, Youth Innovation, and Community Safety Emerge from STEAMinist Model

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

Bauchi State is quietly experiencing an innovation surge one driven not by technology corporations or massive investments, but by adolescent girls, young women, and youth advocates armed with laptops, paintbrushes, soldering tools, and a determination to challenge gender-based violence (GBV).

Thanks to the STEAMinist programme and the growing push to formalize STEAM—Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics into state policy, Bauchi is beginning to reap measurable social and economic benefits. From community innovations to youth empowerment, the state is emerging as a promising hub for digital skills, creative arts, and social transformation in the North-East.

The shift was highlighted during a policy brief presentation organised by the Girl-Child Values Support Initiative (GSVSI), with backing from the French Embassy Fund (FEF OSC 2025). Stakeholders said Bauchi now stands at a strategic advantage, with real results already visible across communities where girls and young women are receiving STEAM training.

A New Layer of Skills Strengthening Bauchi's Workforce

The STEAMinist Against GBV project a six-month training for 200 girls and young women across five centres is equipping participants with in-demand skills that are reshaping Bauchi's future workforce. Courses include graphics design, web development, application design, 3D animation, photography, videography, digital storytelling, theatre, and soldering/electronics.

Senior Programmes Officer at GSVSI, Owa Oluwatosin Zuriel, said Bauchi is already seeing benefits in the form of skilled young people ready for the digital economy.

"We want girls to acquire skills that qualify them for remote jobs and future employment," he said. "Already, we are witnessing Bauchi girls generating income, creating solutions, and contributing to local



development."

Participants have begun earning from freelance design work, photography, and digital projects—injecting new economic activity into local communities. For a state battling unemployment and poverty, these skills represent a lifeline.

Reducing GBV Through Economic Empowerment

With poverty identified as a major driver of GBV in northern Nigeria, stakeholders say the STEAM model is helping Bauchi tackle violence in a practical, sustainable way. Empowered with skills and awareness, girls are becoming more economically stable and less vulnerable to exploitation.

Civil society advocate Mrs. Blessing Gidado said Bauchi is benefitting from a new generation of young women capable of advocating for themselves.

"When girls understand GBV and also have the economic strength to stand on their own, the entire community becomes safer," she said. "STEAM helps them build that power."

Participants confirm this shift. Graphic design trainee, Jaiyeola Shayola Dolapo Sharon, said earning from her new skills has given her confidence and independence. "I'm already making money from designs," she said. "This means I can stand on my own and avoid situations that make girls vulnerable to violence."



Another participant, Mansurat Abdulkareem, said with her new skills she can also empower others: "If I train other ladies, we all rise above poverty. That reduces GBV in our communities."

Grassroots Innovations Improving Community Life

Beyond individual empowerment, Bauchi communities are gaining real solutions from the programme.



Trainees in electronics and 3D modelling have successfully adjusted solar generators to provide lighting for dark neighbourhoods.

Zuriel described this as one of the most meaningful community benefits:

"Light alone reduces the risks of gender-based violence. When girls use their skills to provide light, they are helping build safer communities." The programme's project month is expected to yield more innovations—digital prototypes, awareness campaigns, creative works, and technology-based tools designed by the participants to address GBV and social issues.

Strengthening Bauchi's Position as a Tech-Friendly State

The momentum around STEAM training aligns with the Bauchi ICT (BICT) law and ongoing STEM reforms. Stakeholders believe this positions Bauchi as a potential North-East innovation hub especially as young people now gain digital and creative skills previously inaccessible

in the state.

Entrepreneur and youth advocate, Mr. Sani Mohammed, said Bauchi is witnessing an increasing level of creativity and technical expertise.

"When young people are trained in digital and artistic fields, they become assets," he said. "The state benefits through innovation, entrepreneurship, and a more productive youth population."

Policy Integration Could Expand the Benefits

Stakeholders now want the government to institutionalise the model for wider impact. They are calling for:

Adoption of the STEAMinist model across Ministries of Education, Women Affairs, and Youth and Sports Development

Creation of STEAM-GBV hubs across the state

A technical working group to coordinate implementation

Integration of STEAM into ICT-in-Education structures

Development advocate Daniel Umar said Bauchi stands to gain long-term advantages if the state adopts the



model officially.

"With structured STEAM Youth Innovation Pathways, Bauchi could become a regional centre for digital skills and creativity," he said. "The success of the pilot already shows the readiness of Bauchi youth."

A Future Built on Innovation, Safety, and Opportunity

For Bauchi State, the benefits of STEAM are increasingly evident in the confidence of its young women, the innovations emerging from community-based training centres, and the growing number of youths gaining employment-ready skills.

As stakeholders push for policy adoption, the transformation underway hints at a larger possibility: a Bauchi State where girls are empowered, innovation thrives, GBV declines, and youth become drivers of economic growth.

The STEAMinist model may have begun as a pilot project, but the benefits now unfolding across Bauchi show that it could shape the future of the state's development for years to come.

The Power of Vaccines – Fighting Mpox Resurgence in Nigeria

Vaccines represent one of the greatest feats of modern medicine, with their evolution traceable to Edward Jenner's 18th-century smallpox inoculation, evolving to today's complex molecular platforms.

These biological preparations safely prime the immune system to recognise and fight pathogens, preventing over 30 infectious diseases globally.

For decades, widespread vaccination led to the elimination or dramatic reduction of scourges like polio and measles.

However, while vaccines remain one of humanity's greatest achievements, Nigeria continues to face hurdles in realising their full potential, experts say.

The country continues to battle outbreaks of preventable diseases, including diphtheria, recurring measles, Mpox, and others, often due to low immunisation coverage and logistical challenges.

This low rate fuels the spread, demonstrating that while the power of vaccines remains constant, their effectiveness relies entirely on access and public uptake.

At a webinar on "Mpox Resurgence in Nigeria: Efforts, Challenges and Recommendations", hosted by Preventing Health Nigeria Advocacy Operations Ltd., its CEO, Mr Adekola Wujola, Pharmacist, emphasised the power of vaccination.

Wujola decried Nigeria's low vaccine coverage rate, currently pegged at 62.5 per cent, which falls significantly short of the 80 per cent target required to achieve sufficient herd immunity and protect the population from preventable diseases.

The concern comes amid a global resurgence of vaccine-preventable illnesses, such as measles in countries that had previously eliminated them, driven by declining immunisation rates.

Reiterating the significant impact of vaccines on public health, he cited the 1980 eradication of smallpox as undeniable proof of their effectiveness against diseases.

"Smallpox, that's the only disease that's been eradicated by mankind in 1980 and that was due to vaccination," Wujola stressed.

He drove home the power of vaccination using an emotive historical photo.

"This is a clear example of the power of vaccines, that a child who does not have



smallpox can sit down side by side—simply because one has been vaccinated and the other has not.

"There are indeed a lot of advantages undeniable advantages children, adults, and everyone stands to benefit from vaccination."

On some of the challenges affecting the country's vaccine uptake, he highlighted that low coverage, exacerbated by pervasive misinformation and ill-informed healthcare practitioners (HCPs), is preventing Nigeria from realising the full positive effects of the diseases vaccines are designed to prevent.

He also noted that the emigration of healthcare professionals hampers sustained campaigns and public confidence.

"Several factors undermine high vaccine uptake."

"There's a lot of misinformation. As we all know, social media has its own contributions to this," he warned.

"The majority of vaccination campaigns fail because of the non-participation of healthcare professionals, once the healthcare professional opposes the campaign, it is going to fail."

On the implication, Wujola described the economic cost as steep.

In response to this challenge, he said that organisations like Preventing Health Nigeria were focusing advocacy efforts first on HCPs through capacity building and public-focused vaccine campaigns, aiming to correct misinformation and drive coverage rates above the critical 70 per cent threshold.

According to him,

advocacy, accurate information, and the stewardship of healthcare professionals remain essential.

"Once the professionals don't have the right attitude and perceptions concerning vaccination because they are misinformed or ill-informed, it's not going to work," Wujola concluded.

Prof. Isaac Adewole, former Minister of Health, spoke on the country's approach to Mpox Control and Prevention in Nigeria, calling for urgent concerted action to curb the spread.

According to him, new cases of Mpox, previously known as monkeypox, continue to emerge across Nigeria and globally.

He described Mpox as a viral disease previously confined to Central and West Africa, but now recognised as a worldwide health threat.

He explained that transmission occurred mainly through close personal contact, exposure to contaminated objects, or animal-to-human spread, with recent studies confirming the risk of transmission even from individuals without visible rashes.

"A high index of suspicion among health workers and the general public is vital due to the diverse presentation of symptoms that may resemble chickenpox or scabies," he said.

Adewole noted that Nigeria recorded over 400 confirmed cases and more than 1,600 suspected cases as of Oct. 31, 2025, with six reported deaths.

He commended the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) for its swift response, including a national

is a perception in the eyes of the person who sees a patient with a disease.

"If it is not addressed at that level, then the action that follows the perception is where stigma comes into place."

To counter this, he advised the need for public health awareness and communication tailored to local communities.

"The NCDC's Risk Communication and Community Engagement pillar has ensured that awareness is done in ready-to-understand languages in communities, with translations of various advocacies," he said.

Oiwoh also spoke on managing expectations for those affected, noting, "Taking care of patient expectations is also another thing, encouraging the relations who will follow the patient, particularly the husband or wife."

"The stigma starts from the patient, then the immediate environment, then the community."

In addition to traditional education methods, Oiwoh underscored the effectiveness of digital platforms.

"We found that digital health technology, using tailored messages, was found to be better in Nigeria," he said, referencing a systematic review conducted with colleagues from the Harvard Program in Implementation Science.

He advocated for strategies such as community-based dramas, folklore, and digital campaigns using local dialects.

In review, the experts recommended a multi-pronged approach, addressing stigma, managing patient expectations, and embracing both technological and traditional education as essential to improving vaccination rates across Nigeria.

They emphasised that vaccine hesitancy can be overcome when communities are equipped with accurate information in accessible formats, and when digital tools are leveraged alongside on-the-ground engagement.

Continuous advocacy and capacity-building efforts, particularly for healthcare professionals, alongside sustained public-focused vaccine campaigns, are crucial and should be maintained without interruption. (NANFeatures)

vaccination campaign targeting health workers and updates to patient care guidelines, allowing home-based management of mild cases.

However, he warned of major challenges hindering progress including persistent resource constraints, limited vaccine supplies, public stigma, and widespread misinformation.

"Access to vaccines for high-risk groups must be accelerated, and community awareness scaled up to dispel misconceptions and under-reporting," he urged.

Adewole also called for partnership among local, state, and federal authorities, emphasising that no state is immune and mobilisation at all levels is crucial to ending the outbreak.

Dr Sebastine Oiwoh, Consultant Dermatologist and Venereologist, ISTH Irrua & Edo State Incident Manager for Mpox, identified stigma and mental health issues as challenges associated with diseases like Mpox.

Oiwoh recommended strategies to increase vaccine coverage and combat stigma associated with skin conditions arising from some of the diseases.

He underscored the crucial role of patient and community education, effective management of patient expectations, and the fight against stigma in boosting vaccine acceptance, particularly in the context of emerging infectious diseases.

Oiwoh, highlighted that stigma surrounding certain health conditions could drastically affect community perception and uptake of vaccines.

"Stigma is just at the end of the spectrum, because there

Business

Dangote, Kano state forge partnerships at 2025 Trade Fair

The Dangote Group and the Kano State Government are strengthening relationships to foster business activities and social programmes in the state.

This is coming as participants stream into the company's pavilion at the 46th edition of the Kano International Trade Fair eager to explore the array of innovative products on display.

Kano State Commissioner for Investment and Commerce, Shehu Sagagi, told newsmen at the Fair that the state was strengthening existing partnerships with the Dangote Group and exploring new options.

"The partnership with Dangote Group will strengthen Kano's industrial and trade capacity. By linking government policies with private sector initiatives, we are creating opportunities for businesses to grow in Kano State."

He commended the company for its commitment to economic development of Nigeria, and particularly for supporting the Kano Trade Fair.

He said that the Gov. Abba Kabiru Yusuf-led administration has created enabling environment for



businesses to thrive.

Dangote Group is one of the major sponsors of the 2025 Kano International Trade Fair.

A statement from the company confirmed that a key component of its ongoing collaboration with the Kano State Government is the development of a world-class rice milling plant in the state.

The statement said the project is designed to boost local rice production, enhance value addition, and provide modern processing capabilities that meet both national and international standards.

In the area of social programmes, the company said it has several areas of collaboration with the state government.

It said the Dangote Group through the Aliko Dangote Foundation continues to demonstrate its commitment to the people of Kano State through a series of impactful social programmes aimed at improving livelihoods, education, health, and nutrition across the state.

"In the area of food security and nutrition, Aliko Dangote Foundation has implemented large-scale interventions, distributing thousands of rice bags and family food packs to vulnerable residents of Kano.

"During the 2024/2025 period alone, the Aliko Dangote Foundation, distributed 120,000 bags of rice and over 10,000 iftar meals during Ramadan. These interventions have

provided critical relief to households and ensured access to basic nutrition for the most disadvantaged.

"The Aliko Dangote Foundation has also addressed child malnutrition in collaboration with the Kano State Government through targeted nutrition programmes.

"As part of this initiative, the Group has provided Ready-To-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) to treat children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition, while also supporting awareness campaigns to improve community health outcomes.

"Empowerment and poverty-alleviation remain a central focus of the Group's engagement in Kano.

Through micro-grant programmes, women and vulnerable groups have received financial support to establish or expand small-scale businesses.

"In the education sector, the Aliko Dangote Foundation has made significant contributions to higher education infrastructure in Kano. The Foundation funded a modern Business School facility at Bayero University, Kano (BUK), complete with lecture theatres, offices, and library facilities.

It said similar support was extended to Kano State University of Science & Technology, Wudil, with investments including dormitory upgrades and power infrastructure to enhance the student learning experience.

"The Group has also played an active role in healthcare support, contributing to the establishment of a state-of-the-art Surgical and Diagnostic Centre at Murtala Mohammed Specialist Hospital, Kano."

The company also said that in response to the evolving market demand, it would also be unveiling the new 100gram and 25-kilogram bag on its Special Day on Dec. 4, at the Trade Fair.

Regional Director, Cement, Northwest, Mr Dayo Laniyan, had said that the theme of the fair, 'Empowering SMEs for Sustainable Growth', resonates with the company's philosophy.

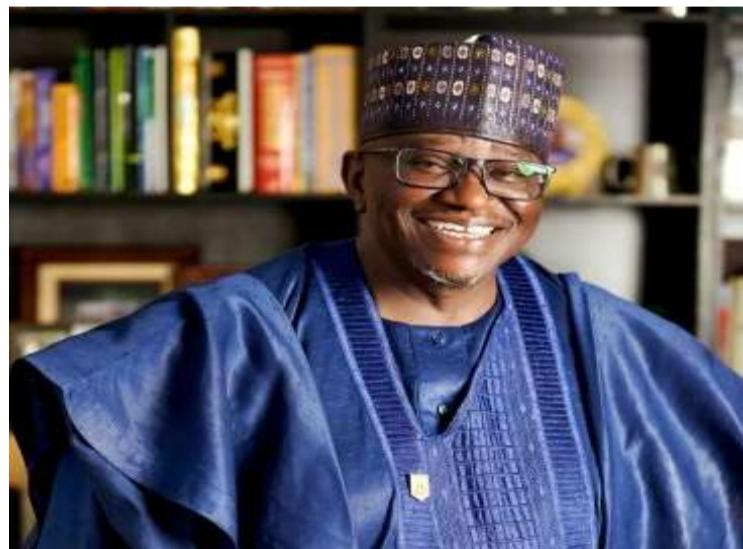
He said: "SMEs are the backbone of any economy and play significant role in enhancing growth and development, security and stability as other participants have pointed out."

President of the Kano Chamber of Commerce Industry Mines and Agriculture (KACCIMA), Hassan Darma, told newsmen that: "We are expecting around 100 organisations, and over 1,000 exhibitors from Nigeria and abroad."

He said that this year's Trade Fair was unique due to improvements, expansion and new structures at the fair site.

"We have valued a long-standing relationship with Dangote Group. It is our major sponsor. In this year's fair, we want to partner with the Dangote Group on SME development, backward integration, and industrial skills transfer," Amb Darma. (NAN)

FG must accelerate regulatory frameworks to improve digital trade, says NACCIMA president



Jani Ibrahim, NACCIMA president

development of the Nigerian economy.

Ibrahim also said the federal government must invest in developing the skills of women and young entrepreneurs.

The NACCIMA boss said the resuscitation of the trade fair will also improve the commercialisation of transport around the complex.

"The ongoing renewal of the Lagos Badagry corridor development and improved transport links by roads, air,

and rail have positioned this complex as a truly limitless exhibition hub capable of boasting heavy-duty products



Hong Kong fire death toll rises to 146



Crowds of mourners gathered on Sunday across Hong Kong including thousands near the apartment blocks that were engulfed in flames earlier this week, killing at least 146 people in the city's deadliest fire in decades.

Police as well as Hong Kong's anti-corruption watchdog have launched investigations into the blaze at Wang Fuk Court, but a petition calling for greater accountability and demanding an independent probe was swiftly shut down as an organiser was reportedly arrested for sedition.

The first Sunday since the deadly inferno saw thousands flock to a small park next to the charred residential estate, which has become a focal point for grief over what was the world's deadliest residential building fire since 1980.

The queue of people, many dressed in dark colours and holding flowers, stretched more than 1.2 kilometres (0.75 miles) in the Tai Po neighbourhood, an AFP reporter saw, meaning some mourners had to wait hours to pay their respects.

Police said on Sunday that the death toll had risen to 146, up from 128 recorded the day before, as officers of the Disaster Victim Identification Unit broadened their search in the estate and recovered additional bodies.

"As of 4:00 pm (0800 GMT), the latest death toll stands at 146. We cannot rule out the possibility of further fatalities," Chief Superintendent Tsang Shuk-yin of the police's casualty enquiry unit told a news conference.

The 18 additional bodies were found in flats, staircases, hallways and rooftops, police said, adding that the wrecked building interiors complicated the search.

Hong Kong officials have set up an interdepartmental task force to look into the cause of the blaze.

The city's anti-corruption watchdog has arrested 11 people in connection to the fire, three of whom were also arrested by police for manslaughter.

Hong Kong media have widely reported, citing unnamed sources, that police have made one sedition arrest in relation to the fire.

Reports said the person arrested was 24-year-old student Miles Kwan, who was among those handing out flyers on Friday calling for governmental accountability and an independent probe.

Police told AFP on Saturday that it "will take actions according to actual circumstances and in accordance with the law" and said they had nothing further to add.

Kwan could not be reached by phone.

Beijing's national security arm in Hong Kong said on Saturday it staunchly supported the Hong Kong government in punishing acts by anti-China forces that "use disaster as pretext to cause chaos in Hong Kong".

-Dozens still missing-

Police said 54 of the 146 recovered bodies were yet to be identified. Officers were still trying to reach some 40 people who were reported to be missing.

Fourteen people injured in the fire remained hospitalised in critical condition, with another four in serious condition.

The Housing Department said it had surveyed six of the estate's eight apartment blocks and found "no immediate danger" to their overall structure.

Outside of the Tai Po neighbourhood, other parts of Hong Kong also saw events to mourn the fire victims, attended by many migrant domestic workers who had Sundays off.

Prayer events in the central business district and in Victoria Park drew more than 100 attendees each.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club meanwhile said Sunday's race meeting would be held behind closed doors and that the gross income of HK\$70.2 million (\$9 million) will be donated to a government-run relief fund.

Full List: African countries affected by U.S green card review

The United States government has announced a sweeping review of all Green Cards issued to citizens of 19 countries, following the November 26 attack on [National Guard](#) troops in Washington, D.C.

The Trump administration disclosed the decision on Thursday after authorities identified the detained suspect as a 29-year-old Afghan national who had previously worked alongside American forces in Afghanistan.

According to AfghanEvac, an organisation involved in the resettlement of Afghans after the Taliban's 2021 takeover, the suspect was granted asylum in April 2025 not permanent residency.

In response, the administration has launched what officials describe as a "full-scale re-examination" of all Green Cards issued to immigrants from designated "countries of concern."

Announcing the directive on X, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Joseph Edlow said President Trump had ordered a "rigorous re-examination of every Green Card for every alien from every country of concern," stressing that protecting Americans was "paramount" and that the U.S. would "not



Donald Trump, U.S. President

bear the cost of the prior administration's reckless resettlement policies."

Under the new order, USCIS is now empowered to consider "negative, country-specific factors" when evaluating Green Card applications from nationals of the 19 affected countries, ten of which are in Africa.

The policy applies to all pending applications as well as any submitted on or after November 27, 2025, giving immigration officers broad latitude to delay decisions, request further evidence, or issue denials.

The implications for Africa are significant. The U.S. remains a major destination for skilled workers, students, and refugees across the continent, and the expanded scrutiny is expected to worsen

visa backlogs, heighten uncertainty for families, and reinforce longstanding concerns that national-security classifications disproportionately target African states. Countries such as Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan already face stringent U.S. immigration restrictions, and analysts warn that the new review could further entrench these barriers.

The African countries affected by the US Green Card Review are:

Burundi
Chad
Republic of the Congo
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Libya
Sierra Leone
Somalia
Sudan
Togo

Niger says putting its uranium on international market



This aerial view shows workers harvesting salt destined to animal consumption in Bilma on May 23, 2023. - At the edge of an oasis swallowed by the dunes where rare caravans still pass, the desert is dotted with holes. The salt pans of Kalala, located near Bilma in northeastern Niger, were once an

Niger's Military Regime has announced it was putting uranium produced by Somair — a subsidiary of French giant Orano before the regime nationalised it in June — on the international market.

Uranium mining in Niger is at the centre of a standoff between the junta that took power in 2023 and Orano, which is 90-percent owned by the French government and has operated mines in Niger for decades.

The news was announced

on state television Tele Sahel in a report Sunday evening citing comments by head of the junta General Abdourahamane Tiani.

Tiani, the report said, had claimed "Niger's legitimate right to dispose of its natural riches to sell them to whoever wants to buy them, under the rules of the market, in complete independence".

Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev said in July that Moscow wanted to mine uranium in Niger.

Since the junta took power

in a 2023 coup, Niger has turned to Russia, which commands the world's largest arsenal of atomic weapons, for help in fighting the west African country's jihadist insurgency.

At the same time, it has turned its back on former colonial power France, which it accused of supporting separatist groups.

In 2024, Niger removed Orano's operational control of its three main mines in the country: Somair, Cominak and Imouraren, which has one of the largest uranium deposits in the world.

Orano officially retains a 60 percent stake in the subsidiaries, and has undertaken various arbitration procedures to try to win back operational control.

Niger in 2022 accounted for about a quarter of the natural uranium supplied to European nuclear power plants, according to data from the atomic organisation Euratom.

Foreign News

Shock in Cameroon as 74-year-old opposition firebrand dies in detention

Left-wing Cameroonian opposition figure Anicet Ekane has died in detention, five weeks after he was arrested, his lawyers and party have announced.

Ekane, 74, was among the leaders of an opposition coalition who endorsed Issa Tchiroma Bakary in October's presidential election.

Tchiroma Bakary says he was the rightful winner of the poll, officially won by 92-year-old incumbent Paul Biya. Tchiroma Bakary has since fled to the Gambia.

No official cause of Ekane's death has been announced. His party has accused the authorities of denying him access to his medication - a charge the government has denied.

According to a spokesman for Ekane's African Movement for New Independence and Democracy (Manidem) party, Ekane died on Monday morning at a military medical facility, after his health worsened over the weekend.

"We have no clarification... His wife had been called to come and when she found herself there, she was just presented the corpse of her husband," he said.

He added that the family later took the corpse to the mortuary.

Defence ministry spokesman Capt Cyril Serge Atonfack said the Manidem leader had died from illness, but did not give any further details.

"The deceased, who suffered from various chronic pathologies, had been interned at the Military Medical Centre of the National Gendarmerie," he said, adding that the politician had been well taken care of by doctors since his

arrest on 24 October.

According to Ekane's lawyers, he was accused of hostility against the state, incitement to revolt, and calls for insurrection.

"He was never presented before a judge or charged with any misdemeanour," said one of his lawyers, Hippolyte Meli, in a statement on social media, describing the detention of the Manidem party leader as "illegal".

In recent weeks, rumours had circulated that the opposition figure had died, and Ekane's party members had demanded to see him "dead or alive".

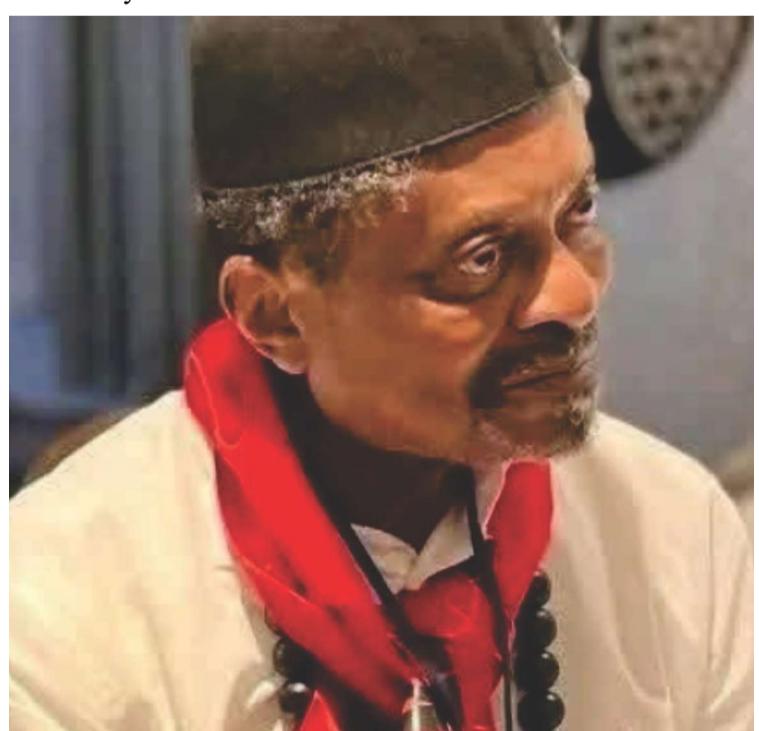
His death has sent shockwaves across the nation, with supporters gathering at the party headquarters in Douala to grieve. Others have taken to venting their anger online.

Manidem says its premises have been surrounded by security forces.

Ekane initially endorsed another vibrant opposition figure, Maurice Kamto, for the presidential election. But Kamto, who endured a long detention after disputing the previous election in 2018, had his candidacy rejected upfront this time by both the electoral body, Elecam, and the Constitutional Council, on the grounds that the party had endorsed more than one candidate.

Ekane and other politicians went on to create the Union for Change Coalition with other politicians, which named former government spokesman Tchiroma Bakary as its candidate.

Authorities say an investigation has been launched to determine the exact circumstances of Ekane's death.



Netanyahu seeks pardon in corruption cases

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, on trial facing corruption charges, announced recently he had submitted a pardon request, saying the long-running cases were tearing the country apart.

US President Donald Trump wrote to Israeli President Isaac Herzog earlier this month, asking him to pardon Netanyahu, who has repeatedly denied wrongdoing in the proceedings.

"The trial in my case has been ongoing for nearly six years, and is expected to continue for many more years," Netanyahu said in a video statement, without admitting guilt.

He explained he wanted to see the process through until acquittal, "but the security and political reality the national interest dictate otherwise."

The cases against Netanyahu have exposed divisions in Israeli society between his supporters and opponents. Netanyahu's backers dismiss the trials as politically motivated.

The premier and his wife, Sara, are accused in one case of accepting more than \$260,000 worth of luxury goods such as cigars, jewellery and champagne from billionaires in exchange for political favours.

He is also accused of attempting to negotiate more favourable coverage from two Israeli media outlets in two other cases.

Extraordinary Request'

Netanyahu said the demand for him to testify three times a week had "tipped the scales", calling it an "impossible requirement".

"An immediate end to the trial will greatly help to lower the flames and promote the broad reconciliation that our country so desperately needs."

Netanyahu's statement was accompanied by a 111-page letter his lawyers submitted to Herzog, which likewise did not admit culpability.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Herzog's office confirmed it had received Netanyahu's request.

"This is an extraordinary request which carries with it significant implications. After receiving all of the relevant opinions, the president will responsibly and sincerely consider the request," it said.

In September, Herzog indicated that he could grant Netanyahu a pardon, saying in an interview that the prime minister's case "weighs heavily on Israeli society".

Netanyahu, 76, is Israel's longest-serving premier, having spent more than 18 years in the post across three spells since 1996.

During his current term, Netanyahu proposed far-reaching judicial reforms that critics say sought to weaken the courts.

'Only The Guilty Seek Pardon'

The timing of Netanyahu's request submitted a few weeks after Trump's letter to Herzog was "an orchestrated move," Israeli legal expert Eli Salzberger said.

Herzog's decision could take weeks, and if he grants the pardon, it is likely to be challenged in the Supreme Court, dragging out the process even further, said Salzberger, a law professor at the University of Haifa.

Under Israeli law, however, a pardon can only be granted to a convicted criminal.

Salzberger predicted that

"if the pardon request is denied, it will be an easier path for (Netanyahu) to settle on a plea bargain" an option the premier has so far rejected.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid insisted Sunday that a pardon must be conditioned on Netanyahu's "admission of guilt, an expression of remorse and an immediate withdrawal from political life".

Yair Golan, head of the left-wing opposition party the Democrats, said: "Only the guilty seek pardon."

However, senior ministers backed Netanyahu's request.

Defence Minister Israel Katz said a pardon would end the "deep rift that has accompanied Israeli society for nearly a decade".

And Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said Netanyahu had "been persecuted for years by a corrupt judicial system that fabricated political cases against him".

'End Of Israeli Democracy'

Netanyahu is the first sitting Israeli prime minister to face a corruption trial.

Ex-premier Ehud Olmert was questioned in a corruption case, but resigned in 2009 before being tried and sentenced to 27 months in prison for fraud.

Dozens of protesters demonstrated outside Herzog's private home in Tel Aviv, urging him to reject Netanyahu's request.

"People of Israel understand what is at stake and it really is the future of our country," prominent anti-government activist Shikma Bressler, 45, told AFP.

She said Netanyahu had been trying to "destroy the judicial system" and because it wasn't happening fast enough, "now he's approaching the president".

Moshe Radman, 40, claimed Netanyahu was trying to "run from his trial".

World Cup qualifiers: D'Tigers defeat Rwanda, earn first win in three games

D'Tigers of Nigeria defeated Rwanda 75-69 in their third qualification game for the 2027 FIBA World Cup.

Nigeria left it late in an intense match to claim an overtime victory over the Rwandans at the Salle Multidisciplinaire de Rades, [Tunisia](#), on Sunday.

The victory was Nigeria's first in three games of the qualification series after losing to Tunisia and Guinea in their previous games.

D'Tigers were poor in their first two games of Group C of the qualifiers, with cheap turnovers and lacklustre defence and offence. The team initially continued the abysmal form in the opening minutes of the match against Rwanda and lost the first quarter 21-12.

Nigeria's performance only improved in the second quarter, and the margin was



reduced to 27-25 by halftime.

D'Tigers' momentum carried into the third quarter, and they finally wrested the lead from the Rwandans 45-36. But the lead was surrendered again in the final quarter as Rwanda forced the match into overtime.

Nigeria held on during the added minutes and grabbed a vital 6-point win to keep their qualification hope alive. The

team sits third in the group with one win in two games.

All three teams in the group will play one another again for the second phase of the qualification round.

The top three teams from the group will qualify for the final round.

The top five African teams will qualify for the World Cup in Qatar, scheduled for August 27 to September 12.

'Permanent ban' — NSC moves to criminalise age falsification in Nigerian sports

The National Sports Commission (NSC) says it has secured the National Council of Sports' approval for a policy that formally criminalises and institutionalises sanctions for age falsification in Nigerian sports.

In a statement on Saturday, NSC said the decision was endorsed at the second National Council on Sports in Calabar.

"The sanctions will apply to athletes, coaches, team officials, officiating officials, state delegations and administrators involved in any form of age fraud," the statement reads.

"Offending athletes will face immediate disqualification, loss of medals, withdrawn records and suspensions ranging from one to two years for a first offence, and longer or permanent bans for repeat violations."

"Coaches and officials involved in falsification risk licence suspensions of up to three years, removal from all duties and permanent disqualification in severe cases."



Kids playing age-grade football in Nigeria

"Entire teams and state delegations may be disqualified, stripped of results and fined to cover administrative and investigation costs."

"The NSC also issued a clear warning: age cheating will no longer be treated as a minor internal issue. Athletes, parents, officials and state representatives who assist, conceal or participate in falsification will face penalties without exception."

"These guidelines take effect immediately across all national age-grade competitions, and Nigerians representing the country at continental and international

events are not exempted."

Bukola Olopade, the director-general of NSC, says any individual caught manipulating age for sporting reasons in the country "will face the full weight of the law".

"The era of impunity is over. [Age falsification is] a national disgrace and a systematic sabotage of Nigeria's sports future," he said.

"Age cheating steals dreams, destroys careers and tarnishes our flag," Hon. Olopade said. "These new sanctions send a clear message: If you manipulate, falsify or misrepresent ages in Nigerian sport, you will face the full weight of the law."

"Genuine 17-year-olds should not be competing against falsified 20-year-olds. These reforms protect our children, our reputation and our future."



THE TRUMPSPORTS

With
Usman Abbas Shehu



1st West Africa Para Games Begins in Abeokuta, as Nigeria Defeats Benin Republic in Amputee Football



Team Nigeria's amputee football team set the ball rolling at the inaugural West Africa Para Games taking place in the sporting capital of Ogun State, Abeokuta.

The amputee football match between Nigeria and Benin Republic was one of the major highlights of the opening ceremony held at the MKO Abiola Stadium.

The Nigerian team dominated from start to finish, defeating their opponents 11-0 to send a strong message to the rest of the competition.

Striker Usman Ahmed Tijani scored four goals, while Michael Akachi and Daniel Tochukwu each netted a hat trick to contribute to the emphatic scoreline. Ibrahim Ndako also found the back of the net to complete the rout.

Earlier, all participating countries took part in a march-past, and fans were treated to an exciting cultural display as Ogun State entered the history books as the first-ever host of the West Africa Para Games.

President of the Africa Paralympic Committee Samson Deen, who officially declared the Games open, thanked the Nigerian government and the Ogun State government for hosting the historic maiden edition.

"Nigeria has once again shown its big brother status, and the entire West African region is very grateful because this will mark the beginning of stronger cohesion, solidarity, and development of African para sports," he said.

President of the Paralympic Committee of Nigeria, Sunday Odeode, in his welcome address, also expressed appreciation for the passionate commitment of the National Sports Commission (NSC), led by Chairman Mallam Shehu Dikko and Director General Hon. Bukola Olopade, noting that their support made Nigeria's hosting of the Games possible.

Meanwhile, Director General of the NSC Hon. Bukola Olopade, who witnessed the Nigeria-Benin Republic match, said agreeing to host the Games was an easy decision for the Commission given Nigeria's longstanding success in para sports.

"We all can see that hosting these Games has given renewed hope and assurance to people living with disabilities, and personally, I cannot be tired of associating with them because they symbolize resilience and determination," he said.



Bauchi spends N20m monthly for selected Tsangaya schools



Gov. Bala Mohammed Abdulkadir of Bauchi State

The Bauchi State Government has said that it spends N20m monthly for selected Almajiri Tsangaya Centres and Imams across the state.

The Senior Special Assistant to the State Governor on Religious Affairs, Alhaji Mai Sule Zirami, who disclosed this during a visit to new turban emirs in the state, said that the initiative is aimed at strengthening religious education and promoting social stability within the local communities.

Alhaji Mai Sule said the beneficiaries were drawn from 20 local government areas, based on assessments conducted in collaboration with community and religious leaders,

He further said that the financial support is part of the government of Kauran Bauchi's efforts to improve the welfare of vulnerable children within the Almajiri school system and enhance the operations of Tsangaya schools in the state.

According to the SSA, the allowance aims to strengthen the traditional religious institutions and ensure that the young

Disciples of Late Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi call on his heirs to follow the footsteps of their father

Tijjaniyya followers and students of Late Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi, have been enjoined to build on the teaching and legacies of the late erudite scholar.

Two disciples of the late Tijjaniyya leader, Malam Balarabe Isah Tafawa Balewa, and Malam Musa Wase, made the call while fielding questions from journalists on the history and lifetime achievement of Late Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi.

They disciples identified Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi as a symbol of peace, unity and harmonious coexistence in the society and called on his followers to emulate the late scholar.

Malam Balarabe Isah and Malam Musa Wase described the preaching of Sheik

Dahiru Bauchi as true reflections of Tijjaniyya teaching which encompasses recitation of the Glorious Qur'an and remembrance of Allah, among others.

They said Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi was well known for his dearest love to Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Speaking on their relationship with revered Islamic scholar, Malam Balarabe Isah and Malam Musa Wase, revealed that

Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi was humanity personified, full of wisdom, generous and above all, an erudite scholar who taught them and a quite a number of renowned Islamic clerics within and outside Nigeria methodologies of Islamic preaching.

Northern Governors Seek 6-month mining suspension, unveil security trust fund

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

Northern governors have placed illegal mining at the centre of the region's security crisis, calling on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to order an immediate six-month suspension of all mining activities to allow for a comprehensive audit and revalidation of licences.

This major resolution was contained in the communiqué issued after the joint meeting of the Northern States Governors' Forum (NSGF) and the Northern Traditional Rulers' Council held on Monday at Sir Kashim Ibrahim House, Kaduna.

The meeting brought together governors of the 19 northern states and chairmen of traditional councils to deliberate on the drivers of insecurity affecting the region.

The Forum noted that illegal mining has become a major catalyst for banditry, violent crimes, and community unrest, with criminal gangs funding operations through unregulated



mineral extraction.

To curb the escalating menace, the governors urged the President to direct the Minister of Solid Minerals to halt all exploration activities for six months, pending a thorough audit of operators and a strict revalidation of mining licences in partnership with state governments.

Beyond the mining-related crisis, the Forum expressed concern over recent killings and abductions in several northern states and

commiserated with affected communities.

It commended President Tinubu's efforts in facilitating the release of abducted victims and supporting security agencies battling insurgency and banditry.

As part of broader measures to address the security fallout of illegal mining, the governors also approved the establishment of a Regional Security Trust Fund, with each state contributing ₦1 billion

monthly, deducted at source.

The fund is expected to bolster coordinated security interventions and intelligence operations across the North.

The Forum further reaffirmed its support for the creation of state police as a long-term solution to regional security challenges.

Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State signed the communiqué on behalf of the Forum.

Tinubu nominates Ex Defence Chief, Gen. Musa, as new defence minister amid shifts in security leadership

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

Nigeria's evolving security landscape entered a decisive new phase on Tuesday as President Bola Ahmed Tinubu nominated former Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Gwabin Musa (rtd), as the nation's new Minister of Defence.

The nomination forwarded to the Senate for confirmation was formally communicated in a letter to Senate President Godswill Akpabio and announced by the Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga.

General Musa is set to replace Alhaji Mohammed Badaru Abubakar, who resigned from office with immediate effect, citing health reasons.

The development comes at a sensitive moment for the Tinubu administration, which recently declared a national security emergency amid rising insecurity across regions.

According to the

presidency, General Musa's nomination reflects President Tinubu's determination to reinforce ongoing reforms within the defence sector and to consolidate efforts aimed at strengthening the country's security architecture.

Musa, who was born in Sokoto in 1967 and turns 58 on December 25, brings to the role more than three decades of military experience marked by operational depth and strategic command.

His academic journey began in Sokoto, where he completed primary and secondary education before attending the

College of Advanced Studies, Zaria.

In 1986, he entered the Nigerian Defence Academy, graduating in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree and earning his commission as a Second Lieutenant the same year.

General Musa's military

career is distinguished by a blend of field command and high-level administrative responsibilities.

From 2019 onward, Musa played pivotal roles in Nigeria's counterinsurgency operations. He served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Training and Operations at the Infantry Centre and Corps, Commander of Sector 3 under Operation Lafiya Dole, and later as Commander of the Multinational Joint Task Force in the Lake Chad Basin.

In 2021, he was appointed Theatre Commander of Operation Hadin Kai before rising to command the Nigerian Army Infantry Corps.

His career reached its peak in 2023 when President Tinubu appointed him Chief of Defence Staff, a position he held until his retirement in October 2025.

President Tinubu

Printed and Published by Bauchi Publishing and Printing Company Limited, No. 8A Adamu Jumba Road, P. O. Box 1534 Bauchi, EDITOR: SALIHU ISHAQ MAKERA. All correspondences to P. O. Box 1534 Bauchi. Tel: 08034145674, 07036084944

Wednesday 3rd December, 2025