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# Echonews

LAGOS COMMUNITIES EDITION

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# Sex Scandal: Police Interrupt Pastor Okafor's Honeymoon

By Kunle Awosiyan

The Lagos State Police Command has interrupted the one-month honeymoon of the founder of Mountain of Liberation and Miracle Ministries, Ojodu also known as Liberation City, Pastor Chris Okafor, following ongoing investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct circulating on social media.

The allegations, which surfaced on December 15, 2025, were made by Nollywood actress Doris Ogala, who accused the cleric of emotional and financial harm arising from an alleged personal relationship. Pastor Okafor has not publicly responded in detail to the claims.

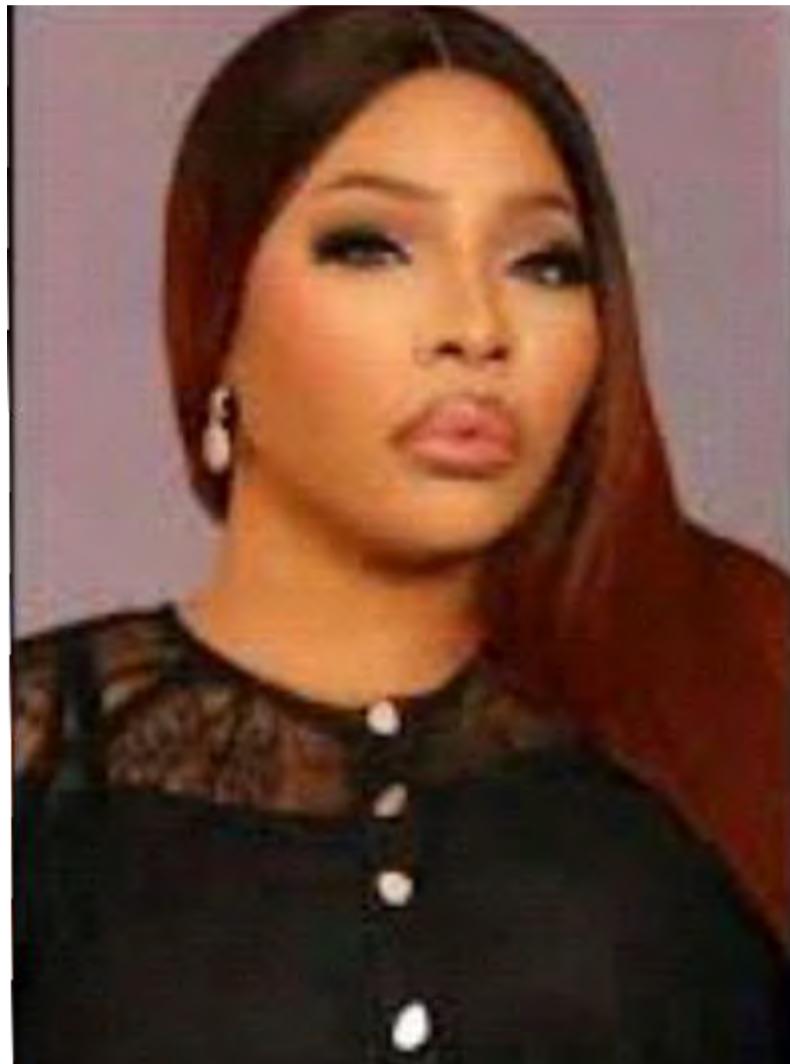
In the wake of the controversy, Pastor Okafor announced to his congregation that he would temporarily step aside from active pastoral duties throughout January 2026, citing the need for spiritual retreat, rest, family time and honeymoon following his recent marriage.

However, police authorities confirmed that the retreat and honeymoon were halted after the command commenced investigations into multiple petitions submitted against the cleric.

According to the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, CP Olohundare Jimoh, Pastor Okafor was invited for questioning but initially failed to appear in person, sending his lawyer instead, who reportedly informed investigators that his client was on retreat.

"We waited for him to appear on the date his lawyer indicated, and when he did not show up, I directed that he should be arrested," CP Jimoh said. "Subsequently, he presented himself."

The commissioner confirmed that the case has since been transferred to the Assistant Inspector-General of Police in charge



Okafor and Ogala

of Zone 2, AIG Sylvester Alabi, for further investigation.

Prior to the emergence of the allegations, Pastor Okafor had faced criticism from some residents of the Ojodu area of Lagos over property acquisitions linked to the expansion of his church headquarters.

Over the past decade, he reportedly acquired several residential properties along Oshofisan Street, off Ereke Street, which were later demolished and redeveloped as part of the ministry's expansion.

One of the properties, located on Alhaja Tijani Street, previously housed Zion Parish of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG). According to former parish members, the landlord requested the church to vacate the premises after the building changed ownership.

"We had to move to another RCCG parish within the council area after the property housing our church was sold," a former

parishioner told Echonews, requesting anonymity. "We reported the matter to the church authorities and were advised to relocate peacefully."

Community sources further disclosed that attempts by Pastor Okafor to acquire additional adjoining properties, including a family-owned house on Oshofisan Street, were resisted by the owners. The street later benefited from

road rehabilitation works using interlocking stones.

Despite the controversies, Grace Nation International continues to attract large congregations, with Sunday services remaining well attended.

Some current members described the allegations against the cleric as attempts to undermine the church, insisting that they do not reflect their personal experiences.

A former church member, who requested anonymity, said she stopped attending services due to concerns over what she described as "unverified miracle claims," while acknowledging the church's popularity.

An executive member of the Alhaja Tijani Community Development Association, Mr. Kabiru Oloyede, said the church has contributed positively to the community, particularly in infrastructure development.

"The church single-handedly rehabilitated Oshofisan Street, and the pastor pays community levies regularly," he said. "However, I cannot comment on issues relating to his personal life."

Pastor Okafor has stated that during his temporary absence, pastoral responsibilities are being overseen by Pastors Sylvester, Kelvin, Oliver, and Shadrach.

Police authorities say investigations are ongoing, and no charges have been filed as of the time of this report.



Lagos State Commissioner of Police, CP Olohundare Jimoh

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# MVAA Boss Calls For Renewed Discipline, Professionalism Among Staff

The Permanent Secretary of the Motor Vehicle Administration Agency (MVAA), Mr. Rasheed Muri-Okunola, has called on all officers and staff of the Agency to embrace renewed discipline, professionalism and teamwork as the Agency begins the 2026 working year, describing the New Year as a fresh opportunity to consolidate recent gains and improve service delivery to the motoring public. The attitude and professionalism of its staff, stressing that every officer, regardless of cadre or grade level, is an ambassador of the Agency. According to him, all staff must see themselves as promoters and salespersons of the Agency's products and services, adding that professionalism, courtesy and accountability must remain non-negotiable in all dealings with the public. The conduct would not be tolerated. He assured staff of the Lagos State Government's continued commitment to staff welfare, capacity building and the provision of an enabling work environment, urging officers to reciprocate these efforts with diligence, compliance with rules and dedication to duty. Highlighting the importance of continuous learning, the Permanent

In his New Year Address to management and staff of the Agency, the Permanent Secretary expressed gratitude to God for life and the privilege to serve Lagos State, while commanding staff for their collective efforts in positioning MVAA as a key revenue-generating and service-delivery institution of government. He reminded officers that with a workforce of about 400 personnel, the image and public perception of MVAA are shaped daily by the conduct of the Permanent Secretary called for deliberate and sustained knowledge sharing across departments and units, noting that learning should be embedded in daily operations rather than limited to seminars, retreats or promotion exercises. He encouraged officers to freely share best practices, innovations and operational insights, stressing that when one department improves, the entire Agency benefits. Muri-Okunola also reiterated management's support for staff participation in

conduct would not be tolerated. He assured staff of the Lagos State Government's continued commitment to staff welfare, capacity building and the provision of an enabling work environment, urging officers to service-wide engagement programmes such as the Head of Service Games, sporting activities, talent shows and initiatives like OTCI's Ideas Day, while cautioning that such activities should complement, and not replace, official duties.

reciprocate these efforts with diligence, compliance with rules and dedication to duty.

Highlighting the importance of continuous learning, the Permanent Secretary called for deliberate and sustained knowledge sharing across departments and units, noting that learning should be embedded in daily operations rather than limited to seminars, retreats or promotion exercises. He encouraged officers to freely share best practices, innovations and operational insights, stressing that when one department improves, the entire Agency benefits.

Muri-Okunola also reiterated management's support for staff participation in

The Permanent Secretary further congratulated officers and staff on the Agency's recent recognition with the "Most Improved Revenue Performance Award" at the 2025 Tax Reform Summit, describing the honour as a testament to MVAA's strategic approach, innovation and collective commitment to revenue generation. He expressed confidence that the planned digitisation and automation of the Agency's business processes, alongside sustained collaboration with relevant stakeholders, would further enhance revenue performance and service delivery going forward.

# LASURA Inaugurates Technical Project Monitoring Team



The Lagos State Urban Renewal Agency (LASURA) has taken a significant step towards enhancing its service delivery with the inauguration of its Technical and Project Monitoring Team. The inauguration ceremony took place during the agency's prayer and thanksgiving session, held on Monday to mark the beginning of full work week in 2026.

"With the inauguration of the Technical and Project Monitoring Team, LASURA is poised to take its service delivery to the next level. The agency is committed to transparency, accountability, and excellence in all its operations, and looks forward to working with stakeholders to achieve its goals," he stated.

The agency's mission forward.

According to the General Manager of LASURA, Tpi/Esv. Oladimeji Animashaun, the Technical and Project Monitoring Team is tasked with ensuring that LASURA's projects are executed efficiently and effectively, towards meeting the agency's goals and objectives for sustainable urban planning and regeneration. The team will oversee implementation of projects, monitor progress, and ensure adherence to quality standards. It will also facilitate communication between the agency and other relevant stakeholders.

While maintaining that the teams are expected to work closely with other departments within the agency to ensure seamless project execution, the GM averred that the team's establishment is part of efforts to strengthen its capacity to deliver on its mandate and to improve the overall quality of life for residents of Lagos State.

project planning, implementation, and monitoring for technical standards, ensuring projects are completed on time, within budget. He also charged staff to reciprocate the welfare of the government by improving their productivity and commitment to duty.

Animashaun emphasised the importance of the Monitoring Team in driving the agency's mission to transform Lagos State through sustainable urban renewal practices. He said the team's role is to commit the agency to a commitment to duly and deliver the goods of the government to the public in terms of quantity of services "Improve on your strength and seek assistance where necessary," said Animashaun.

renewal practices. He commended the Agency's staff for their commitment to excellence, urging them not to relent in their efforts to drive the Agency forward. The Director, Admin & Human Resources, Mrs Yemi Alaga, other directors, and senior officers, were also present at the event.



# LSTMB Collaborates With John Hopkins, Other Agencies To Tackle Clubfoot In Newborns

A partnership between the Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board, Johns Hopkins, General Hospital Odan, Lagos, and Lagos Island Maternity Hospital aimed at identifying and treating Congenital Talipes Equinovarus also called clubfoot in newborns was launched in Lagos, as part of the Project First Step initiative from the Bloomberg School of Public Health's MPH Field Experience Project.

The event brought together traditional birth attendants (TBAs) and traditional bone setters and sought to educate participants on early detection and referral of clubfoot cases.

In his welcome address, Dr Salami Olayinka, Head of Department of Orthopaedics at General Hospital Odan, emphasised the importance of interactive participation, stating that the topic is very important to TBAs and TBS in identifying club foot in children and making referrals.

Mrs. Aisha Adams, who represented the Acting Registrar of the Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board, Mr. Akeem Bello,

urged participants to be attentive and ask questions so as to greatly benefit from the lecture. She said the Lagos State government always prioritises health matters, particularly when it comes to mother and child care, emphasising the need for timely referrals and advising against attributing clubfoot to spiritual afflictions, thus saving both mother and child.

Dr. Adekule

Nurudeen, Head of Orthopaedic Surgery at General Hospital Odan,

delivered a lecture on congenital talipes equinovarus, highlighting the importance of early diagnosis and referral. He explained that clubfoot is a congenital deformity affecting 1-2 in 1,000 live births, with a higher incidence in males and often affecting the right foot.

Dr. Nurudeen

outlined the treatment stages, including initial diagnosis, treatment, and maintenance, which can last up

to 4-5 years with periodic check-ups till skeletal age. His words, "Early diagnosis and referral to a specialist is key. Unfinished treatment could make the case come back, so we advise participants to educate parents to make sure treatment is done fully."

He also noted that treatment is fully funded by Johns Hopkins for newborns, meaning parents don't need to pay for treatment. However, this funding doesn't

cover older children, he noted. Dr. Obaitan Iretenevesho, one of the conveners of the programme, discussed identifying clubfoot cases and referral pathways. She said a form was designed for TBAs and TBS to facilitate smooth referrals to treatment centres, including General Hospital, Odan, Federal Medical Centre Ebutte Meta, General Hospital, Gbagada, LASUTH, Alimosho General Hospital, Igando, and National Orthopaedic

Hospital Igbobi, where treatment is available free of charge.

Also, part of the conveners, Miss Temisan David, emphasised the importance of the referral form, stating that it would be distributed through the Traditional Medicine Board to TBAs and TBS.

The programme aims to improve early detection and treatment of clubfoot in Lagos, while enhancing the quality of life for affected children and their families.





## 2026: Sanwo-Olu to complete transformational projects across Lagos

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has promised to consolidate on the gains of his administration in the last six and a half years through the THEMES+ vision by completing and commissioning some iconic and transformational projects across multiple sectors in different parts of the State.

Governor Sanwo-Olu said all the projects and ambition of his administration for this year will be supported and enabled by the 2026 budget, tagged "The Budget of Shared Prosperity", which is currently before the State House of Assembly, noting that his government's final full-year budget is anchored on four pillars – human-centred approach, modern infrastructure, thriving economy, and effective governance.

He said with an expenditure profile in excess of N4 trillion, the 2026

budget will deliver a model Lagos: cleaner, safer, more prosperous, resilient, and inclusive.

Governor Sanwo-Olu spoke on Sunday at the 2026 Lagos Annual Thanksgiving Service themed 'Grateful for Unfailing Mercies'. The event held at Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos, was organised by the First Family of Lagos State with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

He said God is good to Lagos State; therefore, the 2026 Thanksgiving Service is an avenue to appreciate and celebrate God's everlasting mercy on the State and the residents.

Governor Sanwo-Olu said Lagosians will benefit from construction and rehabilitation projects, as well as educational and medical facilities, youth and sports centres, drainage and flood control systems, bus and ferry terminals, housing projects, water schemes,

waste management plants, court buildings and the Omi Eko project, among others.

He said: "We are now four days into a new year, with 361 days ahead of us—each day filled with promise, potential, and opportunity to improve our State, our country, and indeed, the world. By the special grace of God, Lagos State will not waste this abundance of opportunity that God has placed before us.

"Under my leadership, we will continue consolidating the gains of the past six and a half years, guided by our THEMES+ vision. We will complete and commission many transformational projects across multiple sectors and in different parts of the State. "The year 2026 is particularly significant for me, as it marks my last full year as Governor of Lagos State. For this reason, I am deeply driven and

compelled to make this year count – deliberately and decisively. It must be a year of extraordinary meaning, significance, and benefit for all of us."

Governor Sanwo-Olu said among the projects to be commissioned and put to use this year are Ojo General Hospital, the Odo Iya-Alaro Link Bridge, the new Massey Children's Hospital, the Central Food Security Systems and Logistics Hub in Epe, the new Psychiatric Hospital in Ketu Ereyun, Epe, and the new Multi-Storey Office Complex in Alausa. He also listed some of the road infrastructure projects to be completed and commissioned in 2026, such as the Igbo-igbo-Bola Ahammed Tinubu-Igbe Road; the Agric Isawo-Konu-Arep Road, Phase One; the Gberigbe Road, from Ewu Elepe through Gbodu Junction to Gberigbe Town; and the

Adamu-Akanu-Agunfoye-Lugbusi Road, all in Ikorodu, and the Opebi-Mende Link

Bridge and its approach roads in Ikeja.7

The Eti-Osa/Lekki/Epe Expressway, Phase 2A, from Eleko Junction through Awoyaya to Greensprings, and from Majek to Abraha Adesanya in Eti-Osa and the Magbon-Alade Township Roads in Ibeju-Lekki, as well as the Ijegun-Ijagemo Road and the Akesan-Igando Road in Alimosho, will also be completed and commissioned this year.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, during his

address, acknowledged "President Bola Ahmed Tinubu—our visionary leader and the father of modern Lagos—and his dear wife, the First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, who birthed this idea of an annual thanksgiving service during his

79<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary

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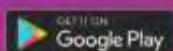
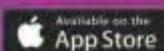
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# Lagos Approves Three - Month Rebate For Replacement of Faded Number Plates

The Lagos State Government has approved a three-month rebate window for motorists to replace faded and unreadable vehicle number plates, as part of renewed efforts to enhance road safety, improve vehicle identification, and strengthen security across the state.

This approval by the State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu was disclosed by the Permanent Secretary, Motor Vehicles Administration Agency (MVAA), Mr. Rasheed Muri-Okunola, saying that the rebate is a proactive and citizen-friendly intervention aimed at encouraging compliance while reducing the financial burden on vehicle owners.

According to the Permanent Secretary, the condition of



vehicle number plates is critical to effective traffic management, crime detection, and overall public safety, noting that faded or illegible plates pose challenges to law enforcement agencies and traffic officials.

"Clear and properly maintained number plates are essential for vehicle identification and security. This three-month rebate is designed to give motorists ample

opportunity to replace faded plates at a reduced cost while supporting our collective responsibility to keep Lagos roads safe and well-regulated," Muri-Okunola stated. He explained that the rebate applies specifically to vehicle owners whose number plates have become worn, faded, or unclear over time due to weather conditions and prolonged use. Motorists are therefore

encouraged to take advantage of the window by visiting the agency's designated Pilot Centre at Oshodi (MVAA One Stop Centre, Oshodi) or any MVAA Stations across the state for the replacement process. The Permanent Secretary emphasised that the initiative aligns with the State Government's commitment to balancing enforcement with empathy while

promoting voluntary compliance through incentives rather than penalties. He further noted that beyond aesthetics, legible number plates play a vital role in curbing traffic violations, aiding investigations, and supporting digital vehicle tracking systems deployed by the state.

"This is not just a regulatory exercise; it is a public safety measure. When

number plates are clear and standardised, it improves efficiency across transportation, security, and emergency response systems," he added.

Muri-Okunola assured the public of seamless service delivery throughout the rebate period and advised motorists to avoid unauthorised agents, stressing that all replacements must be processed through designated government-approved centres.

He reiterated the Lagos State Government's commitment to innovative policies that prioritise safety, convenience, and accountability while urging residents to cooperate with authorities in building a safer and more orderly transport environment.

## Ikorodu North Chairman, Apanisile, rallies stakeholders to boost APC e-membership registration

By Emmanuel Daniji

In a strong show of unity and collective resolve, the Chairman of Ikorodu North Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mayor Ameen Olawale Ibrahim Apanisile, has led a strategic stakeholders' engagement meeting aimed at mobilising support for the ongoing APC e-membership registration exercise across the council area.

The high-level meeting brought together influential stakeholders from various sectors of the community to strengthen grassroots

mobilisation, promote inclusiveness, and expand party participation at all levels.

Among the notable personalities in attendance were the Deputy Mayor, Matthew Aliu Adesanya; Council Leader, Bose Benson; councillors; APC Lagos State Secretary, Dr. Myhdeen Jokomba; APC Ikorodu Divisional Chairman, Otunba Olasunkanmi Tijani (TJ); and other respected party leaders and community figures.

Welcoming participants, Otunba Olasunkanmi Tijani urged stakeholders to take ownership of the exercise by actively



mobilising their members and supporters to register and revalidate their membership. In his address, Dr. Myhdeen Jokomba

stressed the importance of the registration process, describing it as a gateway to strengthening party structure, enhancing

internal democracy, and ensuring that members can fully access the benefits and opportunities within the APC.

Mayor Apanisile, in his remarks, underscored the strategic importance of the e-membership registration drive, noting that it remains central to consolidating the party's foundation, expanding its grassroots base, and positioning it for future electoral success.

He called on all stakeholders to return to their various wards, communities, markets, and youth groups to sensitise residents and ensure widespread participation in the

exercise. The Chairman further reaffirmed his administration's commitment to inclusive governance, community engagement, and collaborative leadership, stressing that the success of the registration drive depends largely on collective effort and unity of purpose.

Stakeholders at the meeting pledged their support and commitment to mobilising members across Ikorodu North, expressing optimism that the coordinated outreach would ensure a successful and impactful e-registration exercise throughout the LCDA

# Commissioner Leads Staff In Prayers, Strategic Reflections For 2026



**T**he Honourable Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Bolaji Cecilia Dada, on Monday, held a meeting with all members of staff at the Ministry's Conference Room to set the tone for a successful 2026. The meeting commenced with an opening prayer, led by a minister of God present at the

meeting, during with prayers, which staff sought acknowledging God's guidance, God as the pillar protection, and blessings for the new year.

In her remarks, Hon. Dada expressed gratitude to God for His faithfulness in seeing the Ministry through 2025, noting with thanksgiving that no loss of life was recorded during the period. She emphasised that it is a longstanding tradition of WAPA to begin the year

achievements, another's keeper. programmes, and She also implored action plans for the staff to set clear year while goals, think reflecting on areas creatively, explore for improvement innovative from 2025. Staff approaches to were encouraged service delivery, to adopt renewed and prioritise staff commitment in development and executing tasks at mutual support. individual, The Permanent departmental, and Secretary, Mrs. unit levels, and to Rianat Ajibike foster intentional, Onigbanjo, also positive expressed relationships with gratitude to God colleagues and for guiding the subordinates, Ministry through emphasising the 2025. She prayed importance of for peace at all being one levels of

governance, from the Presidency to the States, especially Lagos State, and encouraged staff to embrace the spirit of "Dig Like the Aardvark". Drawing on the illustration, she highlighted that, like the aardvark, which digs diligently and deeply to uncover what is valuable beneath the surface, staff should approach their duties with focus, perseverance, and urgency.

She reminded staff that success requires action, discipline, and a willingness to dig into their responsibilities, goals, and talents, both individually and collectively, as they work towards tangible results and growth in 2026. The meeting provided staff with an opportunity to reflect, recommit to their responsibilities, and approach the year 2026 with renewed focus, determination, and a shared vision for the Ministry's growth and impact.

# Acting Surveyor-General Reaffirms Commitment To Productivity

The Office of the State Surveyor-General (OSSG) today held its customary prayer session to usher in the year 2026 and formally commence official activities for the new work year. Welcoming staff to the year 2026, the Ag. Surveyor-General of the State, Surv. Odupe Saliu Olalekan charged all members of staff to be more dedicated to their responsibilities than ever before.

He urged staff to "roll up their sleeves and get to work," stressing the need for renewed commitment, diligence, and professionalism in service delivery. Surv. Odupe described the Office of the State Surveyor-General as a flagship revenue-generating agency of the State Government, noting that specific revenue targets have already been apportioned to the Office. He referenced the recent allocation of project vehicles to various Directorates as a strategic intervention aimed at improving efficiency and enhancing operational performance. Surv. Odupe further stated that management would place a strong emphasis on punctuality and daily attendance, adding that

productivity would continue to be rewarded. He assured that staff welfare remains a priority, noting that issues bordering on well-being would be promptly addressed. He further emphasised that while performance and efficiency would be duly compensated, underperformance and lackadaisical attitudes would attract appropriate sanctions. On health and wellness, he encouraged staff to actively participate in the officers as Best Head of Service Officers for the year (HOS) monthly 2025, comprising fitness walk, while nine officers from also charging the the senior category OSSG football and four from the team to work junior category, in towards emerging appreciation of winner of the HOS their outstanding Cup 2026. performance, In the same vein, dedication, and the Office of the commitment to State Surveyor-duty. General recently The prayer session held its end-of-year and reflections on activities, which recent milestones included a send-reinforced the forth ceremony for Office's resolve to six statutory retirees sustain excellence, in recognition of enhance their meritorious productivity, and service to the deliver quality State. The Office service in the year also honoured 13 2026.





# Commissioner Charges Staff on Discipline, Teamwork

The Honourable Commissioner for Wealth Creation and Employment, Hon. Akinyemi Bankole Ajigbotafe, and the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Lolade Aina, have charged members of staff of the Ministry to embrace punctuality, hard work, dedication and teamwork for effective and efficient service delivery.

The charge was given at the inaugural First Work

Day Thanksgiving Session, held at the Ministry's Conference Room on Friday.

Speaking at the event, Hon. Ajigbotafe cautioned staff against lateness to work and idleness, stressing that public service demands discipline, commitment and a strong sense of responsibility. He commended staff for their dedication to duty and reminded them of the Ministry's

critical mandate of wealth creation and employment in Lagos State.

According to him, wealth creation and employment are not just policy objectives but key factors that affect the dignity, stability and future of the people of the State. He noted that every programme and service of the Ministry must be designed to improve livelihoods, expand job opportunities and promote inclusive economic

growth. "As public servants, we are entrusted with responsibilities that require integrity and accountability. I expect all of us to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, ethical conduct and teamwork," the Commissioner said.

He further encouraged collaboration across departments and units, noting that no single office can achieve the Ministry's mandate alone. He

emphasised that open communication and mutual support would be essential as the Ministry strengthens existing programmes and introduces new initiatives in response to the economic realities of 2026.

In her remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Lolade Aina expressed appreciation to the staff for their hard work and dedication. She called for sustained collaboration, excellence and unity in the workplace, stressing that teamwork remains key to achieving organisational goals.

Mrs. Aina assured staff that her leadership would continue to create an enabling environment where officers can thrive, grow professionally and be duly rewarded for outstanding performance. She encouraged staff to work together harmoniously and remain committed to the values of efficiency, accountability and service excellence.

# LNSA GM Oyekan Reaffirms Commitment to Inter-Agency Collaboration

By Emmanuel Daniji

The General Manager of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency (LNSA), Prince Dr. Ifalade Oyekan, FISN, has reiterated the agency's strong commitment to deepening collaboration with government institutions at the state, federal, and local government levels, describing synergy as critical to effective security delivery in Lagos.

Prince Oyekan made this known at the inaugural Lagos State Government-organised State-Federal Parastatals Summit, a landmark gathering convened to strengthen governance, accountability, and inter-agency cooperation across public institutions.

The summit, held on January 7, 2025, at the Adeyemi Bero Auditorium, Alausa, Ikeja, brought together



key government agencies and parastatals under one roof to explore new frameworks for cooperation and institutional efficiency.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, the LNSA General Manager highlighted the agency's ongoing rebranding and restructuring efforts, which he

said are designed to position the organisation for modern security challenges. According to him, this process has led to the creation of specialised units focused on addressing emerging neighbourhood safety and intelligence needs across the state. Prince Oyekan stressed that

effective security in a complex urban environment like Lagos cannot be achieved in isolation. "Inter-agency collaboration, operational efficiency, and accountability are no longer optional. They are central to delivering people-centred security services that Lagos residents can trust," he stated.

He commended the organisers of the summit and praised Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, for championing the initiative, noting that it aligns with the administration's broader reform agenda aimed at professionalising public institutions and strengthening

governance frameworks.

According to him, the summit provides a strategic platform to reset relationships among parastatals, enhance information sharing, and build institutional trust, all of which are essential to improving service delivery and public safety.

Prince Oyekan expressed optimism that the engagement would open new channels of cooperation between the LNSA and other government bodies, ultimately translating into more coordinated operations and improved security outcomes across Lagos State. Echonews reports that the summit marks the first of its kind in Lagos, signalling a renewed push by the state government to harmonise the activities of public agencies in pursuit of transparency, accountability, and effective governance.



# African Startups Rebound as Investor Confidence Surges

African startups are experiencing a major comeback, capturing the attention and trust of investors both locally and globally. After years of cautious capital flows and uneven funding, 2025 marked a turning point, driven by stronger business fundamentals, innovative financing strategies, and a renewed focus on revenue-driven growth. The continent's tech ecosystem demonstrated its resilience, proving that African

startups can offer securing scalable, high-impact solutions marking a 70% capable of jump over 2024 and attracting serious investment. Following two years of declining funding — dropping from approximately \$3.5 billion in 2023 to \$2.2 billion in 2024 — the tide turned decisively away from the in 2025. Total capital raised approach that across equity, debt, and grants previous years. surged to around \$3.1–\$3.2 billion, a nearly 40% year-on-year increase, surpassing levels seen in 2023. Large funding rounds have also gained traction, diversifying capital options beyond traditional

equity investments. While fintech continues to dominate, capital is increasingly flowing into healthcare, agribusiness, AI, and climate tech — sectors tackling some of Africa's most pressing challenges with innovative solutions.

Geographically, such as the funding landscape is in January, becoming more balanced. While Nigeria remains a leading hub, resilience reflects countries like Kenya, South Africa, Egypt, and Senegal are emerging as strong investment destinations. Nearly one-third of

Atume Terfa

investors are now Africa-based, a trend that strengthens the ecosystem by anchoring capital locally and into healthcare, reducing dependence on and climate tech — international markets. Early 2025 activity highlighted the breadth of the recovery, with funding surges

sound financial planning, making Africa an increasingly attractive long-term investment destination. With digital adoption accelerating and innovation spreading across both core and frontier sectors, analysts predict that investor confidence will remain high in 2026 and beyond. Startups that combine scalable technology with strong revenue models are expected to lead the next wave of growth, signaling that Africa's startup renaissance is entering a new, sustainable and promising chapter.

# Nigeria's Tax Overhaul Faces Its First True Test

**N**igeria's ambitious tax reform, hailed as the most sweeping revamp of the country's fiscal framework in decades, has officially moved from legislative promise to real-world scrutiny as it rolls out in 2026. What looked like a landmark achievement on paper is now being measured against public trust, legal clarity, and investor confidence.

Signed into law by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in June 2025, the overhaul consolidates a patchwork of outdated statutes into four central acts: the Nigeria Tax Act, Nigeria Tax Administration Act, National Revenue Service (Establishment) Act, and the Joint Revenue Board (Establishment) Act. The reforms aim to expand the tax base, simplify compliance, and

modernise revenue collection across federal, state, and local levels. However, as the laws took effect on January 1, 2026, cracks in perception quickly appeared. Alleged discrepancies between versions passed by lawmakers and the officially gazetted documents have sparked questions about a bout transparency and legitimacy, turning the rollout into a litmus test of government credibility.

Investor sentiment, already cautious, has been further challenged by concerns that higher capital gains taxes and stricter enforcement measures could weigh on returns and affect equity markets. Analysts are calling for clearer

communication among small businesses, to stabilise informal sector confidence and operators, and prevent panic. Every day, Civil society groups like Enough are frustrated by the complexity of Nigeria's tax system. Enough (EiE) has urged a pause in implementation. The coming warning that the months will show reform's success hinges not only on can translate enforcement but ambitious laws into on transparency, practical, accountability, predictable, and and public buy-in. user-friendly systems. Experts voluntary stress that even the compliance may best-designed falter, and policies will fail if resistance could implementation grow, especially falls short on

fairness and clarity. As 2026 unfolds, Nigeria's tax overhaul is emerging as more than a fiscal policy shift — it is a test of governance maturity. How effectively the government manages enforcement, engages stakeholders, and communicates changes will determine whether these reforms cement fiscal stability or erode public confidence at a critical juncture.



# NGX Soars to Africa's Top Three as Listings Hit 156

Atume Terfa

The Nigerian Exchange (NGX) has cemented its status as one of Africa's most dynamic capital markets, rising to third on the continent by number of listed companies, with 156 firms now quoted. Only Egypt's Exchange and South Africa's Johannesburg Stock Exchange surpass Nigeria in

the bourse's consumer goods. growing This breadth has influence, helped the NGX according to the latest regional OECD Africa volatility while Markets Report attracting both 2025. domestic and Nigeria's capital international market is notable investors. not just for size but for diversity and depth, hosting leading companies across banking, telecommunication, oil, manufacturing, energy, and

the bourse's consumer goods. growing This breadth has influence, helped the NGX according to the latest regional OECD Africa volatility while Markets Report attracting both 2025. domestic and Nigeria's capital international market is notable investors. not just for size but for diversity and depth, hosting leading companies across banking, telecommunication, oil, manufacturing, energy, and

Several firms have also crossed trillion-naira valuations, fueling liquidity and reinforcing investor confidence. The NGX's rise reflects structural improvements in Nigeria's capital market, including regulatory reforms, easier access for retail investors, and incentives like zero per cent capital gains tax for small businesses and tax exemptions for retail investors. improve investor education are expected to sustain growth and draw additional foreign portfolio inflows in 2026. With its growing roster of blue-chip and emerging companies, the NGX is increasingly viewed as a strategic platform for long-term investment and a key driver of economic growth across Africa.



# Lagos Defends Minors' Arrest in Lekki-Epe Sweep

Atume Terfa



Lagos State is standing its ground after widespread criticism over the recent Lekki-Epe Expressway sweep that saw minors detained during enforcement operations. Officials insist the move was not intended to punish vulnerable children but to safeguard their lives and uphold public safety along one of the city's busiest highways.

The backlash rather than intensified after punitive action. videos circulated on social media showing young boys being apprehended, sparking outrage from influencers and activists. Reality star Tacha weighed in, condemning the arrests and urging the government to tackle the root causes of child poverty and street begging through support and empowerment.

Responding to the criticism, Tokunbo Wahab, Lagos State Commissioner for Environment and Water Resources, defended the sweep as legally weighed in, sound and safety-condemning the arrests and urging the government to tackle the root causes of child poverty and street begging through support and empowerment.

not empathy," to allow minors to remain exposed to accidents and harm. The commissioner also pointed to government initiatives aimed at protecting and empowering youths, including tuition-free public schools and vocational programs in trades like fashion, shoemaking, and ICT. He explained that a t apprehended

children are officials argue that carefully profiled — enforcement is some reunited with necessary to ensure families, others safe and orderly enrolled in state- public spaces. supported training As conversations —emphasizing that continue across the operation is social media and part of a broader traditional plan for long-term platforms, Lagos solutions. authorities reaffirm The incident has their commitment to ignited debate a dual approach of over Lagos' law enforcement approach to and welfare managing street support, stressing beggars and that protecting public order. While children and critics call for more maintaining public holistic social safety are equally interventions, critical goals.

# Resident Commends Okanlawon's ₦1 Million Civic Support

By Emmanuel Daniji

Resident Assembly, Hon. Office, was improved thin. Alhaji Sanni Ganiyu approved and Yewande's "I am deeply Amoo Babatunde promptly released mobility, grateful to Hon. Street, Ward F, Okanlawon, under the independence, Sanni Okanlawon for his compassion Ojota, Ojo following the leadership and and overall quality of life. Elizabeth, has timely release of personal "I am deeply publicly expressed One Million Naira commitment of grateful to Hon. Okanlawon. support her urgent medical needs. The financial The fund is specifically designated for the assistance, procurement of a prosthetic limb, a critical intervention expected to significantly improve Yewande's mobility, independence, and overall quality of life. Ojo Yewande described the intervention as both timely and life-changing, noting that the swift response came at a moment when hope was wearing thin. "I am deeply grateful to Hon. Sanni Okanlawon for his compassion and quick action. This support has restored my hope and given me a chance at living a more independent and productive life," she said. She further praised the lawmaker for his accessibility, responsiveness, and human-centred approach to leadership, adding that his actions reflect a genuine concern for the wellbeing of constituents, especially those facing health and social challenges. Echonews reports that the intervention underscores the growing impact of the Lagos State Civic Engagement framework in bridging gaps between government and vulnerable citizens. Observers say the gesture not only brings relief to an individual in need but also reinforces public trust in purposeful and people-oriented governance. Hon. Okanlawon's support, many residents note, stands as a reminder that responsive leadership can go beyond policy statements to deliver tangible, life-changing outcomes at the grassroots.



# Dangote Sinotruk Engages Ikeja LG on Strategic Collaboration for Youth Development

Kehinde Adeleye

**A**s part of the New Year activities for 2026, executives of Dangote Sinotruk paid a courtesy visit to the Ikeja Local Government Secretariat to explore potential areas of partnership with the council.

The visit focused on strengthening institutional relationships and identifying opportunities to support youth empowerment, education, and community development within Ikeja.

Welcoming the delegation, the Ikeja Local Government leadership highlighted key initiatives that could serve as collaboration platforms, including the AKOD Holiday Job Initiative, which provides temporary employment and practical skills exposure for youths, and the AKOD Back-to-School



Programme, grassroots aimed at development, the improving access to education and providing learning materials for pupils across the local government. Emphasizing the importance of public-private partnerships in accelerating

was led by Mr. Brian Wang, Sales company's Manager, reaffirmed the commitment to alongside Mr. Sunday Dairo, Corporate Social Responsibility Assistant General (CSR) projects that advance youth Marketing and development, Sales. They education, and commended Ikeja's socio-economic people-oriented growth. The meeting concluded with

both parties expressing optimism about a sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership, aimed at enhancing opportunities and improving the well-being of residents across Ikeja Local Government.

# Faleke Donates State-of-the-Art APC Secretariat to Ojodu LCDA

Kehinde Adeleye

In a move aimed at strengthening party organisation and grassroots mobilisation in Lagos State, Rt. Hon. (Dr.) James Abiodun Faleke, OON, Member of the House of Representatives representing Ikeja Federal Constituency, has donated a fully furnished, state-of-the-art building to serve as the All Progressives Congress (APC) Secretariat for Ojodu LCDA. The new secretariat was officially unveiled

on Saturday at around 1:00 pm by the Lagos State APC Chairman, Pastor Cornelius Ojelabi, at Grammar School Bus Stop, Ojodu, within Ikeja Federal Constituency. Rt. Hon. Faleke, visibly elated, expressed gratitude to Almighty God for the successful completion of the project, noting that the donation reflects his commitment to strengthening the party at the

grassroots. "The facility is designed to provide a conducive and welcoming environment for robust party activities, strategic engagement, and effective mobilisation, while fostering unity, inclusiveness, and sustained growth of the APC," he said. Pastor Ojelabi congratulated the leadership and members of the APC in Ojodu LCDA and Ikeja Federal Constituency, describing the donation as a

landmark achievement that would strengthen party administration, coordination, and unity at the grassroots. He commended Faleke for providing a well-equipped secretariat, complete with offices and a hall, and urged party members to maximise the new facility to deepen grassroots engagement. The commissioning was attended by several dignitaries, including

Lateef Ibioroba, Executive Chairman of Ojodu LCDA Hon. Segun Odunmbaku and his Vice, Hon. Funmilayo Layeni, as well as the Executive Chairman of Ikeja Local Government Comrade Akeem Dauda and his Vice Chairman Hon. Abisola Omisore. Other notable attendees included Vice Chairman of Onigbongbo Southwest APC LCDA Hon. Organising Shamsideen Secretary Hon. Akerele, APC

Chairmen for Ojodu LCDA and Ikeja LGA, and state party officers. Party leaders and stakeholders hailed the donation as a major milestone that will enhance effective coordination and administration of party activities at the local level, particularly as the APC prepares to commence its registration exercise starting Monday, January 5, 2026.

The new secretariat underscores Rt. Hon. Faleke's commitment to investing in sustainable political structures and empowering party members, reinforcing his long-standing influence and leadership within Ikeja Federal Constituency. The commissioning ceremony, attended by councillors, party executives, and grassroots supporters, was marked by fanfare, goodwill, and renewed energy to consolidate the APC's presence in Ikeja LGA ahead of future political engagements.



# Ijede LCDA begins 2026 activities with interfaith thanksgiving

By Emmanuel Daniji



Ijede Local and Legislative new year. Council arms, top Addressing staff Development management after the prayers, Area (LCDA) on officials, and staff the Head of Monday, January a c r o s s Administration, Mrs. 5, 2026, formally departments. Oluwakemi commenced its The interfaith Ayodele Michael, official activities for prayer session commended the year with a featured both employees for their thanksgiving Christian and commitment, prayer session M u s l i m teamwork, and combined with the supplications, resilience, which January staff offering gratitude she said birthday celebration. The event, held at for the contributed The achievements significantly to the recorded in 2025, council's effective the Council Secretariat Hall while seeking operations in the divine guidance, past year. She urged staff to within the council peace, and progress for the council and its build on the existing momentum by demonstrating

greater calling on staff to professionalism, show improved dedication, and a positive work ethic in 2026.

Mrs. Michael also reaffirmed the

administration's dedication to staff

welfare, stressing that the Executive

Chairman remains attentive to workers' needs and

welfare-related concerns.

She noted that increased support

from the administration

comes with higher expectations, continued

commitment to welfare matters and constructive engagement with employees' requests, in line with established administrative procedures.

The programme concluded with a special celebration in honour of staff members born in January, an initiative aimed at promoting unity, boosting morale, and strengthening the sense of belonging within the Ijede LCDA workforce.

# Adeyemi Donates N2.2m To CAN



Kehinde Adeyeye

**H**on. Benjamin Adeyemi donated a total of 2.2 million to the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Ifako-Ijaiye and Ojokoro chapters, while also

launching the body's 2026 calendar with a contribution of 199,900 during the annual New Year prayer session. The event, led by Messenger Olubodun and Pastor Dr. CG

Coker (JP), brought together leaders and community members to pray for guidance, peace, unity, and effective leadership in Nigeria, Lagos State, Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government, and Ojokoro LCDA.

Dignitaries at the session included political officeholders; traditional chiefs; Executive and party stalwarts. Chairman of Ojokoro LCDA; Hon. Adeyemi, Deaconess (Mrs.) Motunrayo Tijani, wife of the immediate past Chairman; former

and serving political officeholders; traditional chiefs; party stalwarts. Chairman of Ojokoro LCDA; Hon. Adeyemi, Deaconess (Mrs.) Motunrayo Tijani, wife of the immediate past Chairman; former

**SNAPCIAL**

# Residents Celebrate As Ifako-Ijaiye LGA Establishes NIMC Centre

In a move set to improve access to essential government services, Prince Usman Akanbi, Chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government, has successfully facilitated the establishment of a National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) Enrollment Centre in Ifako-Ijaiye, within the local government area. The initiative follows

a high-level technical meeting held on Wednesday, January 7, 2025, between the Chairman and the services, Prince Lagos State NIMC Usman Akanbi office in Alausa, Hamzat (UAH), Ikeja, including a Chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government, has Wednesday, successfully January 7, 2025, facilitated the establishment of a National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) Enrollment Centre in Ifako-Ijaiye, within the local government area. The initiative follows

between residents and critical state and national services while enhancing grassroots service delivery. For years, residents of Ifako-Ijaiye had to travel long distances to other LGAs and the heavily congested Alausa NIMC Centre to register, correct, or update their National Identification Number (NIN), often facing delays

and inconvenience. The new NIMC Enrollment Centre, once fully operational, is expected to reduce travel stress, decongest the Alausa centre, and improve efficiency in NIN registration and data management.

Mr. Gbolahan Tobiloba, State Coordinator of NIMC (Lagos-

West), and Mr. Lasisi Mikhail Oladele, Regional Coordinator, commended Prince Hamzat's proactive leadership, highlighting that the centre will be fully integrated into the state network to serve the local population effectively.

Prince Hamzat assured NIMC officials of the local government's

readiness to provide a conducive environment, facilities, and tools to ensure the centre's smooth establishment and operation. The development is hailed as a major milestone for Ifako-Ijaiye residents, reinforcing the administration's commitment to people-centered governance and enhanced access to vital national identity services.



Kehinde Adeleye

# Biadun Okeowo Criticizes Colleagues Over Lack of Support for New Film

**N**ollywood actress Biadun Okeowo has expressed disappointment over the limited support she received from fellow actors for her latest movie, December Party.

Kehinde Adeleye

In a video shared on her Instagram page on Wednesday, Okeowo recounted how she has consistently promoted projects she wasn't involved in,

often reaching out to filmmakers directly to help publicize their films. She described these efforts as part of fostering unity and mutual support within the industry.

However, the

actress noted that the same level of encouragement has not been reciprocated for her own production, leaving her hurt and frustrated. She questioned why the industry seems more vocal during negative events than in supporting colleagues'

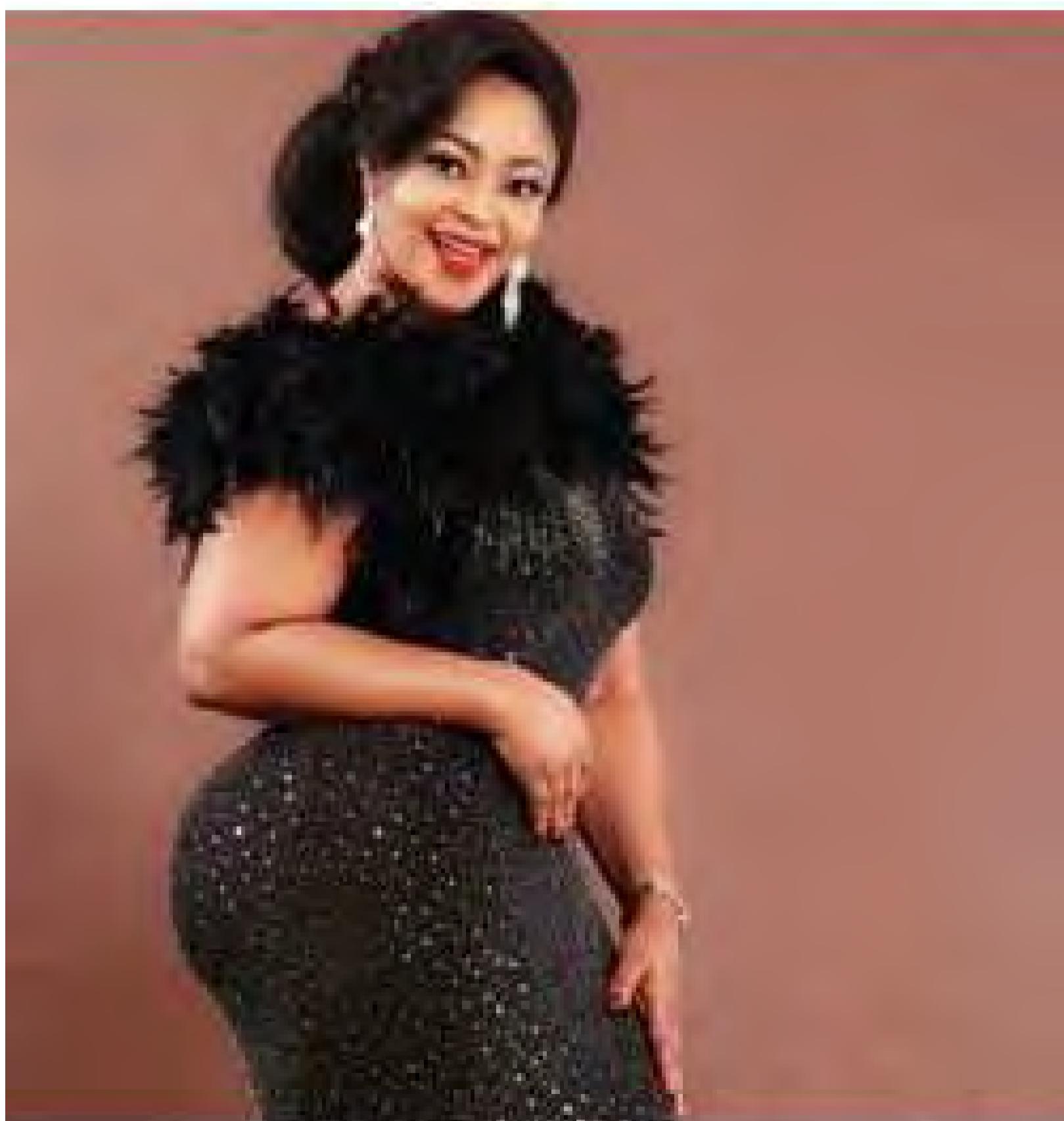
creative work. "I have posted a lot of movies that I didn't even feature in. Even though I have not produced any movie since 2013, I have been supporting people to the extent that I went to the DMs of producers to send their movies to me to promote. I have

now produced my own movie (December Party), but no one is supporting me," Okeowo said. She went on to describe the lack of backing as "wicked," adding that only a handful of colleagues stood by her during the promotion of the film.

Clarifying her stance, Okeowo emphasized that professional support should be deliberate and aimed at collective growth, regardless of personal preferences. She urged her peers to uplift one another while they are still active in the industry.

The actress also took a moment to thank those who supported her project, both within and outside Nollywood, appreciating their encouragement, prayers, and love.

"To everyone I asked for support and who supported me, both within the industry and beyond it, thank you. Your encouragement, shares, prayers, and love carried this journey. I do not take any of it for granted," she concluded.



# "Asked for another child, God blessed me double"- Adekunle Gold

Kehinde Adeleye

Popular Nigerian music stars Adekunle Gold and his wife, Simi, have welcomed twins, delighting fans and the entertainment industry. The award-winning singer shared the joyous news on his Snapchat story on Wednesday, confirming the expansion of their family. Simi wrote, "Asked God for another child and he blessed me double." While the couple



Simi & Adekunle Gold

has not yet revealed the gender of the newborns, their announcement has sparked an outpouring of congratulations from admirers, fellow celebrities, and colleagues in the music industry. Speculation about the pregnancy began in December when Simi shared a video on Instagram captioned, "From my baby, for my babies," showing

her baby bump and fueling excitement that the couple was expecting again. The twins arrive weeks after Simi

highlighted a scene from Adekunle Gold's married in 2019 latest music video, after years of "My Love is the friendship and Same," further musical collaboration, energizing fans.

Nigeria's most celebrated entertainment power couples. They welcomed their first child, Adejare Kosoko (Deja), in May 2020.

# West African Cinema Industry Hits N15.6 Billion in Box Office Revenue

Kehinde Adeleye



The West African film industry recorded a remarkable performance in 2025, generating a total box office

gross of N15.6 billion from theatrical releases across the region. Data compiled by FilmOne Entertainment showed that 2.79

million cinema-goers attended screenings in 2025, with 248 new films showcased across 122 cinemas in West Africa.

According to

Instagram scorecard released on Tuesday, 16 movies crossed the N200 million mark, while 14 Nollywood films earned over N100 million. The average movie ticket price for the year was N5,596.

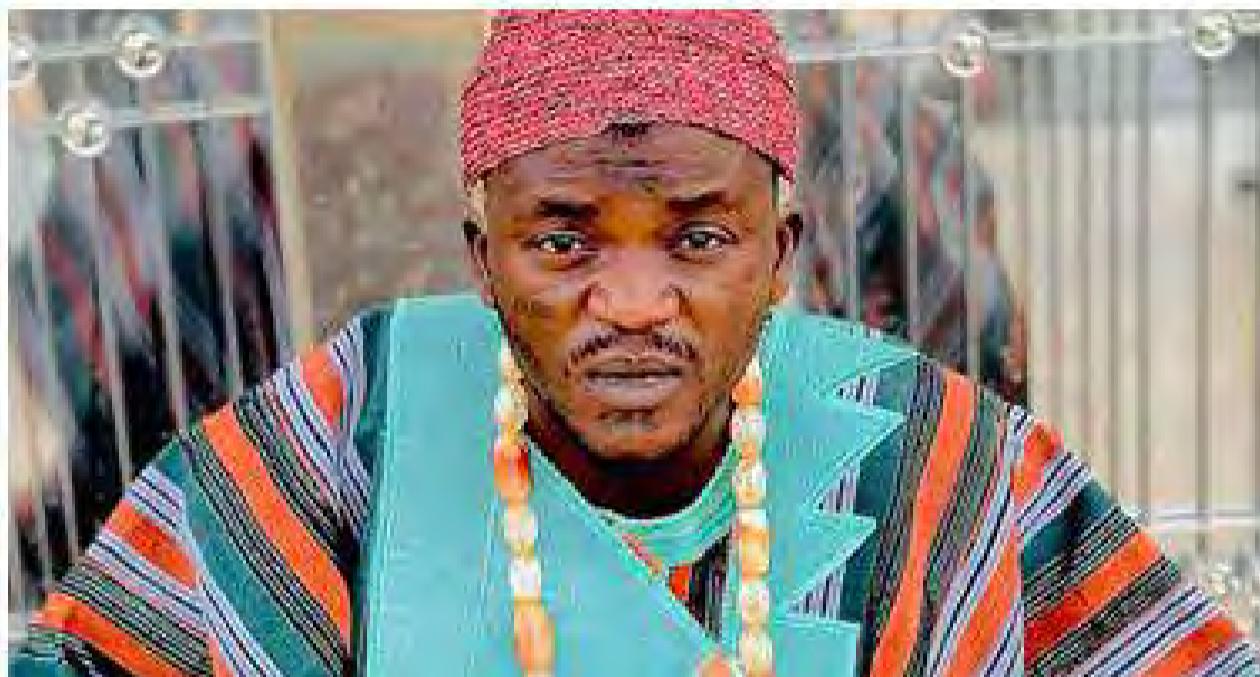
In the Nollywood category, "Behind The Scenes" emerged as the highest-grossing title, while FilmOne Entertainment was named the year's top-grossing

distributor. Other category leaders included "Zootopia 2" as the highest-grossing animation, "Sinners" as the highest-grossing Hollywood release, and "Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba – The Movie: Infinity Castle" as the top-grossing anime.

The figures highlight a growing cinema culture in West Africa and an increasing appetite for both local and international storytelling.

# 'My Father Has Been a Burden,' Portable Alleges

Kehinde Adeleye



**C**ontroversial singer Habeeb Okikiola Badmus, popularly known as Portable, has publicly accused negatively his father, Mr. Olalomi, of taking his personal belongings and impacting his life.

father, alleging that both were more interested in their children's possessions than their welfare.

Portable claimed that his life was more stable before his father became involved. He stated that his father did not sponsor his education or pay for his skill acquisition training in tailoring.

"My dad's presence in my life is doing me more harm than good. My life was better and more stable when he wasn't in the picture,"

Portable said. He added, "When I was younger, he didn't take care of me. He did not send me to school. He did not pay for my tailoring apprenticeship fee. His presence is affecting my life negatively. My dad is like Mohbad's dad. He has taken all my shoes and clothes, and he is just after my properties."

The singer's remarks have sparked conversations on social media about family responsibility and parental support in Nigeria's entertainment industry.

# Regina Daniels Threatens Legal Action Against Ned Nwoko

**A**ctress Kehinde Adeleye Regina Daniels has threatened to take legal action



Ned Nwoko, and others over allegations that she was involved in hard drug use. In a video shared on her Instagram page on Wednesday, Daniels presented laboratory test results from a California hospital, which showed that she tested negative for all hard drugs. The results indicated that the only substance associated with her was ecstasy

(molly). Speaking in the video, the actress said the accusations were damaging attempts to tarnish her reputation. "It's a new year, and with it came a moment of clarity. I realised there are certain narratives I can no longer allow to linger over my name as a public figure," Daniels stated. She continued, "I was never on any

hard drugs or any nonsense fabricated online. I will sue, I will definitely sue at the appropriate time. Honestly speaking, the only drug I was associated with was ecstasy."

Daniels emphasized that her action is not only to defend her reputation but also to protect her children. "The only reason I took this test is to give a strong, confident voice to those who

believe in me, and above all, to give my children something priceless—pride—so that when they grow up, they will know that their mother was never a drug addict," she said.

The clarification comes nearly three months after Senator Ned Nwoko publicly accused her of drug use, sparking widespread media attention and social media discussions.

# Lagos court to judge 31-yr-old man for stealing car part

By Felix Kuyinu

**A** 31-year-old man, Abubakar Saidu, has been remanded in prison custody after pleading guilty to stealing motor parts in Lagos.

Saidu was arraigned at the Ikorodu Magistrate Court where the magistrate, Adedeji Ogbe, found him guilty of the crime following his arraignment by the police.

The Police Prosecutor,

Adegeshin Famuyiwa, mentioned that Saidu, who is facing a two-count charge of illegal entry and theft, stole a vehicle starter worth N40,000 on January 4, in Owode area of Ikorodu, thereby, contravening the laws of the state. At the proceeding on Thursday, Famuyiwa said that the suspect, alongside other at large, jumped into the premises of one Ovins Company and

committed the offence. She added that individuals in the area held the

accused and handed him over to the police, leading to his trial at the court.

The police official stated that the transgression violate the provisions of Section 287 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

Ogbe, having listened to the guilty plea made by Saidu ordered his remand pending his next re-arrangement on January 15 for review of facts and sentencing.



## Police Arraign Two Suspects For Stealing Motorbikes

By Felix Kuyinu

**T**he police in Lagos have arraigned two suspects, Rasaki Adeniran and Olaoluwa Akingboju, in court on allegations of theft of two motorcycles in Ikorodu. Adeniran, 53, and Akingboju, 41, were said to have stolen the items, two Bajaj motorcycles valued at N2.4 Million. The prosecutor, Adegeshin Famuyiwa, held that the two defendants committed the offence on December 22, 2025, at the Elepe

Estate area, Ijede, Ikorodu.

Famuyiwa added that the suspects connived with others at large to steal the items and also carted away with another on the same day valued at N1.2 million with registration number FKJ 583QN, all acts contrary to Sections 287, 410 and 411 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2015.

The Presiding Magistrate, Adedeji Ogbe, granted the accused persons bail in the sum of N500,000 each, with two sureties in like sum and adjourned the case till January 22.



# Man Faces Trial Over Alleged Theft of 103 Cement Bags

By Felix Kuyinu



One offence on December 29, 2025, at the Oreta area of Igbogbo in Ikorodu, Lagos, contravening the laws of the state. Adeyanju is on trial over accusations of stealing 103 bags of cement in Ikorodu. Adeyanju was arraigned at the Ikorodu Magistrates' Court where police alleged that he stole the items valued at N1,045,400 as submitted by the Police Prosecutor, Adegeshin Famuyiwa. Famuyiwa mentioned that the suspect, on a count charge of stealing, committed the

Ogbe adjourned the case till January 22 and remanded Adeyanju in prison pending the fulfilment of the bail conditions.

## Court Jails 35yr Old Man For Drug Trafficking

The Federal High Court in Lagos has sentenced a 35-year-old man, Deji Adesanya, to jail for contravening the state's law through illicit drug trafficking.

The court found Adesanya culpable after he pleaded guilty to peddling five kilograms of cannabis sativa, otherwise known as marijuana, after which he was sentenced to a six-month prison sentence over the crime.

The convict was arrested by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, and arraigned over charges of dealing in the prohibited substance, an offence under the body's act.

NDLEA prosecutor, Peter Ekuri, told the Presiding Judge, Akintayo Aluko, that the convict was nabbed on November 22 in Ikate-Elegushi area of the state, after which he reviewed the facts

of the case and tendered several exhibits as evidence against the lawbreaker.

Ekuri submitted that the offence is contrary to and punishable under Section 11(c) of the

National Drug Enforcement Agency Act, Cap N30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004.

At the trial held yesterday, the prosecutor prayed the court to sentence

Adesanya accordingly, however, defence counsel, Rita Nyiew, urged for leniency in the judgement. Nyiew asked the judge to consider her client's early guilty plea and

remorse, as well as his promise to refrain from further deals in criminal activity.

Aluko consequently sentenced the litigant to six month sentence with an option of fine of N450,000.





# AFCN With Saheed Afolabi



**N**igeria right back, Bright Osayi-Samuel is elated with his top notch performance against Algeria in the quarter final of the 2025 Africa Cup Of Nations (AFCN) at the Grande Stade de Marrakech. Osayi-Samuel was adored by fans with his standout performance while shielding the right back position of the Super Eagles. Speaking to accredited CAF journalists at the

mixed zone, the creative fullback said the win and clean sheet against the Desert Warriors was really important as Nigeria surge ahead to claim the title. He credited his fantastic form to his confidence, self beliefs on his abilities and his teammates who made play seamlessly.

"It was really important to win the game and the clean sheet. "I've been more confident now, I wasn't as confident as I know I want to be but against Algeria I just said, I want to go out there and play my game. I don't care what anyone says but play my game and today, it came off thanks to

God and my teammates. "We played fantastic as a team and anyone could have been the Man Of The Match today." Nigeria will meet host, Morocco in the semifinal at the 69,500 capacity Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium on Wednesday, January 14th by 9pm.

## Osayi-Samuel Delighted With Impressive Performance



## Dele-Bashiru Satisfied With Eagles Winning Mentality

**N**igeria defender, Fisayo Dele-Bashiru is relishing the national team winning mentality which significantly sheltered the team to five wins in five games. The Super Eagles sealed a place in the last four of the continental showpiece as they outclassed Algeria 2-0 at the Grande Stade de Marrakech on Saturday, January 10.

Dele-Bashiru said it was a satisfactory performance from the Eagles who implemented their training routine in the match against the Desert Warriors. The midfield maestro added Mahrez is a legend who has had a great career worth



Dele-Bashiru

emulating. "Very very good performance from the team. I think it was a convincing breakthrough, and everything we worked on on the

said. "Mahrez is a legend and he has a great career, it's an honor playing against him on the pitch. "Everyone collectively, the coach and staff, the players, everyone has really been gelling over the last few weeks and I think everything we're doing in training, our mentality, our mindset, we're putting into practice on the pitch and we're showing in our performances."

The Super Eagles faces an herculean task as they trade tackles with Morocco in the semifinal at the Prince Moulay Abdellah Stadium, Rabat.

## Ajaii Draws Positives From Eagles Quarter Final Win

**N**igeria defender, Semi Ajaii has taken valables from the team 2-0 win against Algeria in the quarter final of the 2025 Africa Cup Of Nations (AFCN) at the Grande Stade de Marrakech on Saturday, January 10.

Ajaii has been a stronghold in the Super Eagles defense with his interceptions and integral blocks. The defense marshal believes the Eagles has seen tremendous improvement as they target a win against Morocco in the semifinal.

He credited the Eagles defense for standing tall and securing two consecutive clean sheet. "We're not taking the game lightly. I feel like we've improved gradually with every small game. We'll be



Ajaii

looking to take a massive step forward in the next game.

"Yeah, the defence, that's what we pride ourselves on. It's not easy so we're glad to get two in a row now. It's still just the things that we can be better on and be more dominant. "It brings confidence. We know we're ok for the world, but a win like this is a real statement. It brings us to the point where we have it ourselves."



## AFCN With Saheed Afolabi



# Osimhen Set Sight on Surpassing Yekini Record

**N**igeria clinical forward, Victor Osimhen is optimistic of surpassing ex international, Late Rashidi Yekini record of the national team highest goal scorer. Yekini holds the all time highest goal scorer record with 37 goals while Osimhen is two goal shy of equalling the record of the Nigeria legend.

The 27 year old striker netted against Algeria to take his tally in the AFCON to four goals and provided an influential assist to give the Super Eagles a two nil victory in the quarter final of the AFCON against Algeria.

Osimhen who now has scored 35 goals in 50 appearances for Nigeria said he's not under pressure to equal

or surpass Yekini's record but his main focus is to win the AFCON in Morocco. "Not at all. It doesn't matter if I equal the record or surpass it. Yekini is the best striker Nigeria has ever produced. I just want to win something for my country and I am happy that with my team mates, I'm on that path."

Osimhen made his debut for Nigeria in June 10 2017 in a two goal defeat to South Africa in the 2019 AFCON qualifiers.

The lanky striker scored his first goal for Nigeria in the 2-2 draw against Ukraine (Friendly game) on September 10 2019



Osimhen

## Mahrez Proud Of AFCON Legacy

**A**lgeria legend, Riyad Mahrez has revealed that he's proud of his Africa Cup Of Nations (AFCON) legacy after exiting the competition in the quarter final against Nigeria.

Mahrez who won the AFCON in 2019, made six appearances in the competition as he quieted the continental showpiece at the age of 34.

Speaking to ECHONEWS exclusively, He described his AFCON experience as an incredible legacy



which included a title win in 2019.

"My AFCON experience have been

incredible, six AFCON tournaments appearances. I have won one title. I'm really

happy with everything we have done."

The former Manchester City winger said he

wanted to win the 2025 AFCON but it was difficult to accomplish because luck and the right direction wasn't on their side.

"Of course I tried to win the 2025 AFCON but it is really difficult to win this tournament because you really need everything to be together and be in the right direction, a bit of luck but we missed and it's football."

The Algeria skipper admitted the Super Eagles were the better side and deserved the win in their quarter final game at the Grande

Stade de Marrakech. "It's unfortunate we lost, Nigeria were the better than us, they were the better side. We have to be honest."

Mahrez made his AFCON debut in 2015, and went on to play in the 2017, 2019, 2021 2023 and 2025 editions. His remarkable milestone was winning the 2019 edition in the lone goal win against Senegal in the final on July 19, 2019.

The playmaker is Algeria AFCON all time highest goalscorer with eight goals as he surpassed former international Lakhdar Belloumi on six goals.



Fuel Prices Continue To Fall

Fuel prices started to fall two weeks ago. Total price increase has stopped



Read Our Edition For Electric Car

20 million city dwellers likely commute less than 5 hours



Building Solar To Electricity  
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