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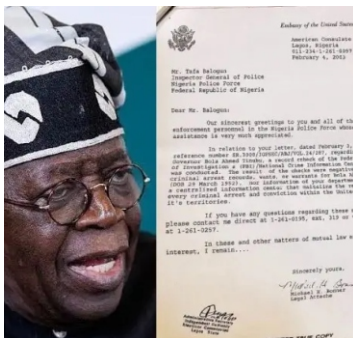
## IS IT BY FORCE TO RULE

what happened during those 12 years that made the party's  
hold on Osun eventually collapse?

## THE QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS ?

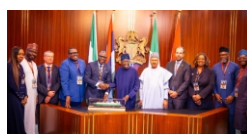
## Dangote Refinery IPO Set to Open September 14, SEC Approves #2.15tn Share Sale

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**Tinubu Urges NLNG to End  
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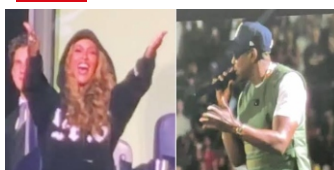


**Okin Biscuits Resumes  
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Politics Desk



**Jay-Z Turns Beyoncé's Birthday Into a  
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Relationship

# Osun APC and an Army of Useful Idiots

• Michael Adebayo

**POLITICS**



**By Adebayo Michael**

**R**eflecting on the just-concluded governorship election in Osun State, in which the Asiwaju of Ede land, Senator Ademola Nurudeen Jackson Adeleke, reclaimed victory for a second term, the election will remain memorable in the minds of many Osun citizens and residents.

The election was characterised by intense political activity, competing narratives and claims of federal influence. Despite the opposition's attempts to project what it described as federal might, the people of Osun State, according to supporters of the governor, remained determined to exercise their democratic choice.

Among those who received particular commendation from the Adeleke camp were state workers, who supporters said stood firmly behind the governor because of his administration's approach to salaries, workers' welfare and inherited arrears.

Governor Adeleke's first term, which concludes on November 26, has been strongly defended by his supporters as a period of improved workers' welfare. They argue that his

administration restored confidence among workers by paying salaries and addressing outstanding obligations inherited from previous administrations.

The administration's supporters have also pointed to its infrastructure projects across the state as one of its major achievements.

In Osogbo, the state capital, projects around Old Garage, Lameco, Oke-Fia and other major areas have been presented as efforts to reduce traffic congestion and improve movement. The dualisation of major roads and the construction of flyovers have



also been cited as evidence of the government's investment in urban infrastructure.

Similar projects have been highlighted in major towns

including Iwo, Ila-Orangun, Ilesa, Ede and Ile-Ife. Supporters say these interventions have improved road connectivity while contributing to economic activities across the state.

The education sector has also featured prominently in the administration's record. Supporters of the governor contend that Osun's position in national education rankings has improved significantly under Adeleke, alongside what they describe as improved stability in the state's schools.

In the health sector, the government has highlighted the upgrading of more than 200 primary healthcare centres across Osun State. The administration has also received recognition for its healthcare interventions, with its supporters describing the achievements as a major improvement from the situation they inherited.

However, beyond the government's record, the governorship election was also marked by intense political controversy.

The political struggle between the PDP and APC was accompanied

by allegations of intimidation, violence, unlawful arrests and attempts to influence voters. Some of these allegations were directed at political actors associated with the APC.

The local government crisis in Osun State also became a major political issue. Critics of the APC argued that the party's actions concerning the local government structure contributed to growing resentment among sections of the electorate.

For the supporters of Governor Adeleke, politics begins at the grassroots. They argued that the attempt to exercise political control at the local-government level without sufficient consideration for public sentiment ultimately worked against the opposition.

Security was another major issue during the election period. There were allegations of violence and intimidation in some parts of the state, while political actors exchanged accusations over the conduct of their supporters.

Statements attributed to some political figures also generated controversy.

Honourable Wole Oke, who represents the Oriade/Obokun Federal Constituency, was accused by Adeleke's supporters of making threatening comments concerning voters who intended to support parties other than the APC.

Senator Adenigba Fadahunsi, representing Osun East Senatorial District, was similarly embroiled in controversy over remarks attributed to him in a video circulated on social media. The senator was reportedly invited by the police following public reactions to the remarks.

The controversy surrounding the statements further intensified the debate about political rhetoric, security and the responsibilities of political leaders during elections.

Wole Oke, a fifth-term federal lawmaker, had also made strong claims about his political influence in Ijesa North during the campaign. According to Adeleke's supporters, some of those predictions did not materialise at the polls, as the governor's camp ultimately secured significant support in the constituency.

The role of security agencies during the election period also attracted public scrutiny. Statements attributed to the former Osun State Commissioner of Police, CP Ibrahim Gotan, concerning difficulties in apprehending suspected criminals operating in forested areas generated criticism and questions about the effectiveness of security operations in the state.

For Adeleke's supporters, the election result represented more than a victory for one candidate. They described it as a demonstration of the power of grassroots mobilisation and the willingness of voters to make their own political choices. The outcome also exposed the limits of relying solely on national political influence to determine the result of a state election. Despite the involvement of prominent political figures from outside the state, the electorate ultimately had the final say at the ballot box.

The Osun governorship election has therefore added another significant chapter to the state's political history.

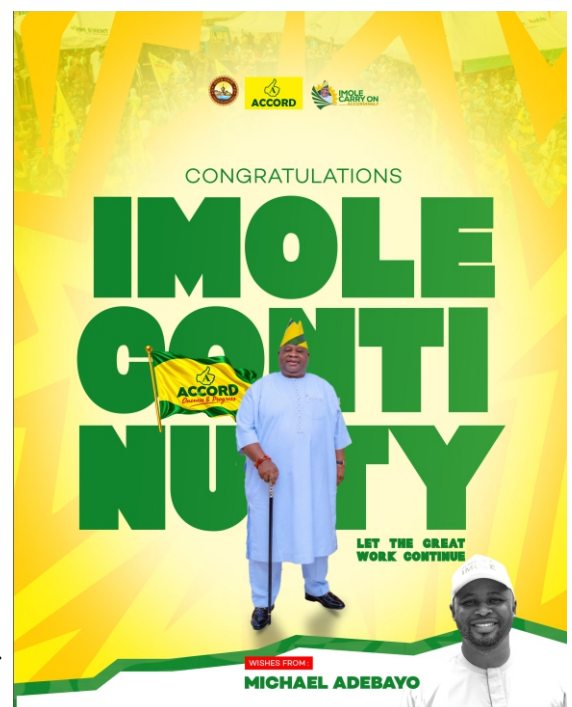
With the election now concluded, attention will shift from political campaigns to governance. Governor Adeleke will face the responsibility of consolidating his administration's achievements while addressing the challenges that remain in infrastructure, education, healthcare, employment and economic development.

For the opposition APC, the result provides an opportunity to reassess its strategy, reconnect with the grassroots and examine the issues that contributed to its electoral performance. Ultimately, the election has demonstrated one enduring reality of democratic politics: political power may be influenced by structures, personalities and resources, but the electorate retains the power to determine who governs.

**God Bless Osun State.**

**God Bless Governor Adeleke.**

**Adebayo Michael**



A Book Should Be Written About  
2026 Osun State Governorship  
Election And Be Titled

# WHEN GOD FAILED THE OPPRESSOR

• GBOYEGA BOLADALE

POLITICS

The APC Years in Osun, the Promises, the Contradictions and the Political Reckoning of 2026

This is an analytical opinion feature. The headline is used as a political metaphor, not as a claim about divine judgment.

There are moments in the political history of a state when an election becomes more than a contest between candidates. It becomes a referendum on memory — on what the people endured, what they gained, what they lost and what they believe should never happen again.

For Osun State, the story of the All Progressives Congress (APC) is one of such political chapters.

From 2010, when Rauf Aregbesola assumed office, through the four-year administration of Gboyega Oyetola between 2018 and 2022, the APC controlled the affairs of Osun for 12 consecutive years.

It was a period of ambitious infrastructure, education reforms, social intervention and attempts at fiscal restructuring. But it was also a period marked by salary controversies, pension obligations, political disagreements, public protests, internal party divisions and an increasingly difficult relationship between government and sections of the electorate.

The ultimate political verdict came in two stages.

First, in 2022, Ademola Adeleke defeated the incumbent Oyetola.

Then, in August 2026, despite returning to the state

with another candidate, the APC again failed to reclaim the Government House in Osogbo.

**The question now is not simply why APC lost.**

**The bigger question is: what happened during those 12 years that made the party's hold on Osun eventually collapse?**

## THE BEGINNING: THE AREGBesOLAYEARS



**T**he APC's Osun story effectively began with Aregbesola's victory in 2010.

His administration entered office with a strong reform agenda and pursued large-scale programmes in education, youth

empowerment, infrastructure and social welfare.

The administration introduced programmes such as O-YES, a youth empowerment scheme, Opon Imo, an electronic learning initiative, and O-MEALS, the school feeding programme. It also embarked on extensive road construction and other infrastructure projects.

For supporters, these programmes represented an administration willing to think beyond conventional

governance.

But there was another side.

Osun's financial difficulties became increasingly visible, particularly in the payment of workers' salaries. The administration introduced a modulated salary arrangement under which some categories of workers received less than their full monthly salaries. Between June 2015 and December 2017, workers on Grade Level 14 and above received **half salaries**, while those on **Levels 8 to 13 received 75 per cent**.

For many workers and pensioners, the experience became a defining memory of the APC years.

A government could point to roads, schools and social programmes.

But a civil servant who could not receive a complete salary had a different way of measuring government performance.

And politics, ultimately, is often judged at the point where government policy meets the dining table.

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## OYETOLA: A DIFFERENT APC, SAME POLITICAL FAMILY



In 2018, Oyetola inherited the APC structure and the enormous expectations that came with it.

His emergence was itself controversial.

The 2018 governorship election was initially declared inconclusive after the margin between Oyetola and Adeleke was narrower than the number of cancelled votes. A supplementary election was subsequently conducted, after which Oyetola was declared winner. The process generated intense political controversy and accusations from opposition actors about the conduct of the election.

Oyetola's government attempted to distinguish itself from some of the policies of its predecessor.

One major change was the return to full salaries for workers.

His administration also sought to address pension obligations, invest in healthcare and reduce dependence on fresh borrowing. It reversed some of the controversial school reclassification policies of the previous administration, including changes involving school structures, uniforms and names.

The administration also pursued infrastructure.

Perhaps its most visible legacy was the Olaiya Flyover in Osogbo.

Official Osun procurement records show that the flyover project was awarded at about **₦3.108 billion**, with the procurement record identifying the project as a 2021 budget item.

The project became one of the most recognisable physical symbols of the Oyetola administration.

But even with these achievements, the government could not escape the financial consequences of the preceding years.

The political argument over salaries and pensions did not disappear simply because full salaries resumed.

The unpaid obligations accumulated over previous administrations remained part of the state's political conversation.

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## THE DEBT QUESTION

This is where the APC narrative becomes complicated.

Supporters of the party have consistently argued that the administration inherited a difficult financial situation and worked to stabilise the state.

Critics, on the other hand, have argued that the APC years left behind substantial financial obligations.

When Adeleke assumed office in 2022, his administration said it inherited significant salary, pension and deduction liabilities from the preceding APC administrations.

In 2024, the Osun State Government announced the payment of about **₦1.69 billion** comprising cooperative deductions and another tranche of inherited half-salary obligations. The government attributed the liabilities to the previous

administrations of Aregbesola and Oyetola.

But the figures have always been politically contested.

Adeleke's administration had put the inherited salary and pension burden at about **₦75 billion**, while Oyetola, in his farewell statement, said he left about **₦14 billion** in the state's operating account and maintained that his administration did not take a loan during its tenure.

That disagreement illustrates one of the central problems in assessing the APC years:

Osun's political parties have often told the same financial story from completely different sides of the ledger.

## THE POLITICS INSIDE THE POLITICS

Perhaps the biggest weakness of the APC in Osun was not necessarily the absence of projects.

It was the inability to maintain political cohesion.

The relationship between Oyetola and Aregbesola deteriorated during the period after Oyetola became governor. What began as a political family gradually developed into competing camps.

**The consequences were serious.**

By the time the 2022 governorship election arrived, the APC was no longer presenting itself as the united political machine that had defeated the PDP in 2018.

The internal disagreement became part of the election.

And Adeleke capitalised on it.

In the 2022 election, Adeleke defeated Oyetola, polling about **403,371** votes against Oyetola's **375,027**, according to figures reported from the election.

The APC had lost the state after 12 years in power.

## 2022: THE PEOPLE SPEAK

Elections are not always straightforward judgments on whether a government was good or bad.

They are often combinations of several things — performance, personality, party structure, internal divisions, economic conditions, campaign strategy, voter sentiment and the desire for change.

In Osun in 2022, all these factors appeared to converge.

- **Adeleke offered voters an alternative.**
- 
- **Oyetola carried the burden of incumbency.**
- 
- **The APC carried the history of 12 years in government.**
- 
- **And the electorate made its decision.**

For APC supporters, the defeat was not necessarily proof that the party had failed completely. For its opponents, it represented a rejection of the party's record. For many voters, it was simply time for another government.

That distinction matters.

Because democracy does not require voters to prove that a government was completely bad before voting it out.

Sometimes, *“we want something different”* is enough.

## THE SECOND CHANCE THAT NEVER CAME

**F**our years later, the APC returned to the battlefield. This time, the party presented Bola Oyebamiji as its candidate for the 2026



governorship election.

The contest became another major political test.

- **Could APC recover from its 2022 defeat?**
- **Could the party rebuild its grassroots structure?**
- **Could it convince voters that its return represented a new chapter rather than a return to the past?**

The answer from the ballot was capital **NO**.

The Independent National Electoral Commission declared incumbent Governor Ademola Adeleke the winner after he polled **511,067 votes**, while APC candidate Bola Oyebamiji received **444,815 votes**.

Adeleke won by **66,252 votes** and carried 19 of the state's 30 local government areas, while Oyebamiji won 11.

The result was significant.

The APC had not only failed to recover the state. It had lost the opportunity to present itself as the preferred alternative after four years of opposition.

## SO, DID APC DO NOTHING IN OSUN?

Absolutely not.

That would be an inaccurate reading of history.

The APC governments left physical and policy footprints across Osun.

The Aregbesola administration expanded youth empowerment, education interventions, school feeding and infrastructure programmes. The Oyetola administration restored full salaries, worked on pension obligations, invested in healthcare and delivered projects including the Olaiya Flyover.

But governments are not judged solely by what they construct.

They are also judged by **how people experience government**.

A flyover can be physically impressive.

A school can be beautifully constructed.

A youth empowerment programme can produce beneficiaries.

But if workers are struggling with unpaid salaries, pensioners are waiting for their entitlements, or citizens feel excluded from government, the political value of those achievements can diminish.

That was one of the contradictions of the APC years.

## Omipidan Declares Interest in 2030 Osun Governorship Race, Says 'The Time Is Now'



Ismail Omipidan, a member of the All Progressives Congress (APC), has declared his interest in contesting the 2030 Osun State governorship election.

Omipidan made his political ambition known in a Facebook post on Sunday, August 30, 2026, with the declaration: “OSUN 2030 — THE TIME IS NOW!”

In the post, he wrote, “Allah grants power to whom He wills, at the appointed time,” signalling his intention to seek the governorship of the state ahead of the 2030 election.

He further described himself as “Osun Central L’Ókàn” and “Ila L’Ókàn,” while presenting the slogan, **“Omipidan, The People’s Choice!”**

The declaration marks a significant step into partisan politics for Omipidan, a journalist and public affairs commentator who has been actively involved in Osun

political affairs for years.

An indigene of Ila Orangun, Omipidan previously served as the Chief Press Secretary to former Osun State Governor, Alhaji Adegboyega Oyetola, after his appointment in August 2019. Contemporary reports also identify him as a native of Ila Orangun.

During his tenure as Oyetola's spokesperson, Omipidan was a prominent voice in defending the administration and commenting on political developments in Osun. He has also remained publicly active on issues concerning the APC and the political direction of the state.

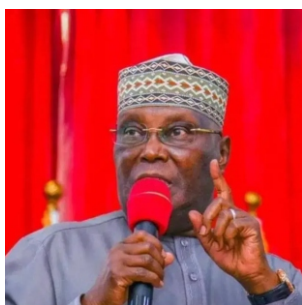
His latest declaration effectively places him among politicians positioning themselves for the 2030 Osun governorship contest, although the election remains four years away.

With the message "The Time Is Now," Omipidan appears to be signalling the beginning of a political mobilisation around his aspiration, particularly within Osun Central and his home base in Ila Orangun.

The 2030 contest is expected to generate considerable political realignment in Osun as aspirants across the major political parties begin to position themselves for the race.

## Atiku Pledges NELFUND Review, Debt Forgiveness for Eligible Students

Politics Desk



Former Vice-President and presidential candidate of the African

Democratic Congress (ADC), Atiku Abubakar, has pledged to review the operations of the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) and introduce debt forgiveness for eligible students if elected president in 2027.

Atiku's position was contained in a statement issued on Tuesday by his Senior Special Assistant on Public Communication, Phrank Shaibu. According to the statement, Atiku believes Nigerian students should not be forced to begin their working lives under the burden of education-related debts.

The former vice-president's proposed policy would focus on reducing the cost of education while providing debt relief for students who meet specified eligibility requirements.



**Education should  
open doors, not mortgage  
the future,"**

Shaibu said, explaining Atiku's position on student loans.

The statement followed comments by President Bola Tinubu defending the NELFUND student-loan scheme and criticising Atiku's economic proposals.

Atiku's camp argued that expanding access to loans does not necessarily make education more affordable, particularly where families are already struggling with rising education costs.

Shaibu described the government's approach as "witchcraft economics," arguing that government should prioritise reducing the cost of education rather than increasing financial pressure on students and subsequently offering loans to help them cope.

He further maintained that student

loans should not be portrayed as scholarships because beneficiaries are expected to repay the funds, potentially leaving graduates with significant financial obligations at the beginning of their careers.

The ADC presidential candidate's proposed education reforms would therefore centre on reviewing the existing NELFUND framework, reducing the financial burden of education and forgiving debts owed by students who meet the stipulated conditions.

Atiku's pledge comes as political parties and presidential aspirants intensify their preparations and policy engagements ahead of the 2027 general elections.

## Governor Adeleke Reconstitutes UNIOSUN Governing Council, Sets Up Panel to Probe Ikire Killings

Politics Desk



OSOGBO — The Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke, has approved the reconstitution of the Governing Council of Osun State University (UNIOSUN) and ordered a Coroner Inquest/Panel of Inquiry into the killings, shootings, injuries and violence reported at Naira and Kobo Junction, Motor Park/Garage Area, Ikire, Irewole Local Government Area.

The two decisions were contained in

separate government announcements issued by the Osun State Government.

Under the new composition of the university's Governing Council, Sooko (Prof.) Adewale Abiodun Oladipo has been appointed Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council.

Other members of the council are Mrs Oludayo Olawale Abolade; Alhaji Gbadegesin Lawal; former Deputy Governor, Her Excellency Otunba Titi Laoye-Ponnle; Mr Akinola Franklin Omoniyi; Chief Funminiyi Awotide; Mr Orija Samuel Adebayo; and Mrs Adewale Adetayo Bola.

The inauguration of the new Governing Council is scheduled for 12 noon on Monday, August 31, 2026, at the Banquet Hall, Government House, Osogbo.

Meanwhile, Governor Adeleke has issued an Executive Order establishing a Coroner Inquest/Panel of Inquiry into the violence that occurred at Naira and Kobo Junction in Ikire on August 24, 2026.

According to the order, the panel is mandated to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident, determine the identities and number of victims, establish the immediate and remote causes of the violence and examine whether criminal responsibility may be connected to the deaths.

Magistrate Ayokunle Shiyabola has been appointed Chairman of the Coroner Inquest/Panel, while Mr Abiodun Badiora will serve as Secretary.

Other members include retired AIG (Dr.) Aderanti C. Kayode, mni; Mr Dele Akintayo; a representative of the Nigerian Bar Association; Comrade Wale Balogun, representing civil society organisations; a community

representative from Ikire; and Dr Babatunde Afolabi, who will serve as the Medical/Forensic Representative.

The panel is expected to examine the circumstances leading to the shootings and killings, including the role of security operatives. It will also determine whether live ammunition or other weapons were used and whether such use complied with applicable laws, rules of engagement and human rights standards.

It is further empowered to identify any individual, group, security personnel, political actor, transport union member, public official or other person whose actions or omissions may have contributed to the incident.

Where necessary, the panel may recommend prosecution, disciplinary action, compensation for victims and institutional reforms aimed at preventing a recurrence.

To facilitate its investigation, the panel has been empowered to summon witnesses, demand relevant police and medical records, inspect the scene of the incident and other relevant locations, receive oral and documentary evidence, and recommend measures to protect witnesses and persons at risk of intimidation or retaliation.

Governor Adeleke also directed the preservation of firearms and ammunition records, station diaries, communication logs, incident reports, duty rosters, medical records, autopsy reports, photographs, videos and other materials relevant to the inquiry.

The Executive Order further directed appropriate measures to protect witnesses and victims' families, secure medical and forensic documentation, and

maintain peace in Ikire while the inquiry is ongoing.

The Inspector-General of Police, Police Service Commission and Osun State Commissioner of Police have also been formally requested to take appropriate interim administrative measures concerning any police officer whose continued operational command could prejudice the inquiry or affect public confidence in the process.

The panel is expected to commence sitting within seven days of its inauguration and submit its final report to the Osun State Government within 30 days from the date of its first sitting, subject to any extension approved by the governor.

The state government has invited victims' families, eyewitnesses, journalists, transport workers, police officers, medical personnel, civil society organisations, political parties, community leaders, human rights activists and other concerned persons to submit memoranda and relevant evidence to the panel.

Governor Adeleke assured the people of Ikire, families of the deceased, the injured and the general public that the incident would be investigated thoroughly, fairly and transparently.

The Executive Order stated that no person found culpable would be shielded from justice, irrespective



of status, office, political connection or institutional affiliation. It, however, stressed that all allegations remain allegations until established by credible evidence before the Coroner Inquest/Panel.



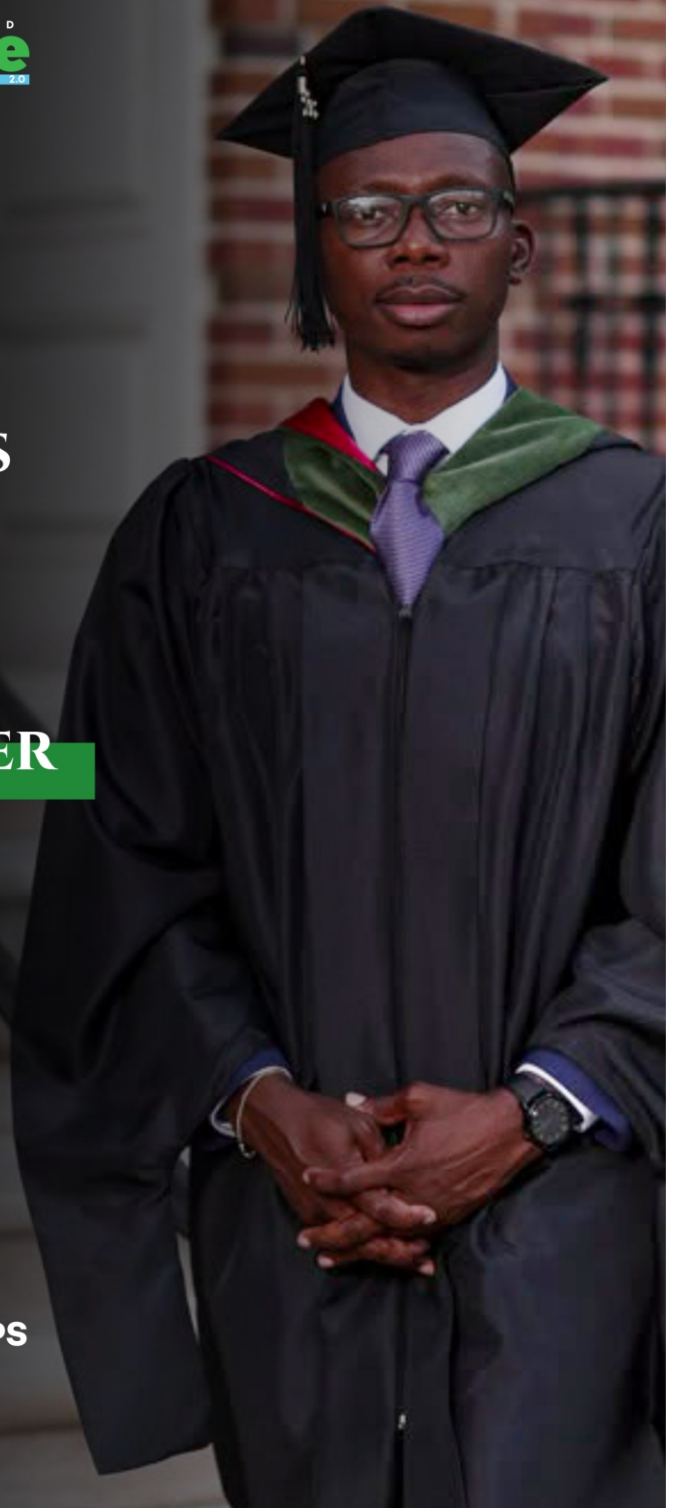
Babatunde Shuaib  
Owokoniran  
(BSO)



## WALKING ACROSS THAT STAGE AT A WORLD-CLASS INSTITUTION IS NOT JUST THE END OF A CHAPTER

It is proof that your discipline  
Was greater than your doubts.  
You didn't just earn a degree;  
You built the mindset to  
Conquer whatever comes next.

**Hon. Babatunde Shuaib  
Owokoniran (BSO) B.Pharm, MSPS**  
FOUNDER, GROWH FOUNDATION



# Tinubu Will Sink Nigeria If Re-Elected, Senator Garba Warns

Politics Desk



By Adekunle Juwon | PressPoint News

ABUJA — Senator Garba has launched a fresh criticism of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration, questioning the implementation of federal budgets, the country's rising borrowing and the management of government revenue.

The senator, while assessing the performance of the Tinubu administration, alleged that successive budgets under the government had not been fully implemented and questioned what had happened to revenues generated by government agencies.

“Three years into Tinubu government, no budget has never been implemented. We have borrowed more than expected. All the revenue agencies in this country told us they have exceeded their targets. Where is the money going?”  
*the senator said.*

Garba's comments come amid continuing debate over the Federal Government's fiscal management, particularly the level of borrowing, revenue generation and the implementation of approved budgets.

President Tinubu's administration has, however, acknowledged challenges with budget execution.

During the presentation of the 2026 budget, the President said the 2025 budget recorded N18.6 trillion in revenue and N24.66 trillion in expenditure as of the third quarter, representing 61 per cent and 60 per cent of the respective targets.

Tinubu also acknowledged that the country had been operating multiple budgets within a single fiscal year and pledged to end the practice, with existing overlapping budgets expected to be concluded by March 2026.

The senator's remarks also focused on Nigeria's borrowing requirements, which have remained a major subject of political and economic debate under the current administration.

The proposed 2026 budget presented by Tinubu includes projected revenue of N34.33 trillion, total expenditure of N58.18 trillion and a budget deficit of N23.85 trillion, according to the President's budget presentation.

Garba questioned the apparent disconnect between government agencies reporting strong revenue performance and the continued need for borrowing to finance government expenditure.

The senator further issued a warning over the possibility of Tinubu securing a second term, declaring that the President would “sink this nation if he gets a second term.”

The statement is expected to add to the growing political debate ahead of the 2027 general elections, as opposition figures and critics of the administration intensify scrutiny of the government's economic policies and fiscal decisions.

Supporters of the Tinubu

administration have consistently argued that the government's economic reforms are designed to stabilise Nigeria's finances, improve revenue mobilisation and create the foundation for long-term economic growth.

In his 2026 budget presentation, Tinubu said the government's reforms had begun producing measurable results, citing economic growth, improved oil production, expanded non-oil revenue and increased foreign reserves.

The contrasting positions are likely to remain central to political discussions ahead of 2027, with questions surrounding budget implementation, public borrowing, revenue mobilisation and the impact of economic reforms expected to feature prominently in the campaigns.

PressPoint News notes that the allegations and warning contained in this report are political statements attributed to Senator Garba and do not, by themselves, establish that public funds have been misappropriated.

PressPoint News  
*Get the story. Get the point.*

## 2027: Nwifuru Threatens to Remove Ebonyi LG Chairmen Who Fail to Deliver Councils for APC

Politics Desk



By John Ademola | PressPoint News

ABAKALIKI — Ebonyi State Governor, Francis Nwifuru, has warned local government chairmen in the state that they risk losing their positions if they fail to deliver their respective council areas for the ruling All Progressives Congress

(APC) in the 2027 general elections.

Nwifuru issued the warning while speaking at the inauguration of newly elected local government chairmen in Abakaliki, where he urged the council bosses to work towards securing victory for the APC across all levels in the forthcoming elections.

The governor, in remarks contained in a video that has since circulated widely online, told the chairmen that their political performance would be closely watched.

“

**As a local government chairman, if you like, go and sleep so that another person will take over your house. You will not stop us from winning. We will win. You know we will win. But when we win, we will remove you. It is as simple as that,** *Nwifuru said.*

He further stated that the warning should not be regarded as a secret, saying he was prepared for newspapers to publish his position publicly.

Nwifuru reportedly directed the council chairmen to ensure that the APC wins their respective local government areas, stressing that the party was targeting victory in all available positions during the 2027 elections.

The governor also urged the chairmen to confront efforts by opposition politicians to weaken the APC's influence in their councils.

“If you allow anybody to come to your local government and mess up, deal with that person

mercilessly,” he said.

The comments have generated attention amid increasing political activities ahead of the 2027 general elections, particularly over the relationship between elected local government officials and party politics.

Nwifuru also dismissed claims that his administration was threatening opposition figures, saying the state had not yet entered the full campaign period and suggesting that political activities would become more intense as the elections approach.

The governor's remarks were followed by a similarly strong statement from the newly inaugurated Chairman of Ohaukwu Local Government Area, Paul Ituma, who warned opposition politicians against political activities in the council area that were not aligned with the APC.

Ituma declared that individuals opposed to the governor would be treated as political enemies, further reflecting the increasingly confrontational tone surrounding political mobilisation in the state.

The development comes as political parties and their supporters begin positioning themselves ahead of the 2027 elections, with Ebonyi expected to witness heightened political mobilisation in the months leading to the polls.

For the local government chairmen, Nwifuru's directive places renewed emphasis on their ability to mobilise support for the APC within their respective councils, while also raising questions about the relationship between elected local government administration and partisan political expectations.

## Tinubu's US Records: Ex-Army General Alleges APC Figures Sought Confidential Files Before 2022 Primary



By John Ademola | PressPoint News

ABUJA — Retired Nigerian Army Major General Danjuma Hamisu Ali-Keffi has alleged that two prominent figures within the All Progressives Congress (APC) attempted to obtain confidential records on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu from United States government agencies ahead of the party's 2022 presidential primary.

Ali-Keffi, a former General Officer Commanding the Nigerian Army's 1 Division, made the allegation in an interview with SaharaReporters while discussing events surrounding the emergence of Tinubu as the APC's presidential candidate for the 2023 general election.

According to the retired general, the alleged attempt was brought to his attention by former Director of the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), Modibbo Hamman-Tukur, during the period leading up to the APC presidential primary.

Ali-Keffi claimed that individuals opposed to Tinubu's emergence allegedly entered the NFIU director's office without authorisation and sent communications to US government agencies requesting confidential information concerning the former Lagos State governor.

He specifically linked the alleged

request to issues relating to terrorism financing, although he stressed that he did not personally know the contents of any records allegedly requested or received from the United States.

The retired general said Hamman-Tukur subsequently became uncomfortable with the development and went to his office at about 2am, after which the individuals allegedly involved realised his presence and left.

Ali-Keffi further alleged that a response was later received from the United States regarding the request. However, he was careful not to claim that the alleged documents contained evidence of wrongdoing by Tinubu.

“

**I don't know what the record is or related to current issues regarding his forfeiture and other issues, if I am not mistaken,”** *he said, according to the report.*

The retired general said officials of the NFIU allegedly connected to the incident were later dismissed and that the matter eventually became the subject of legal proceedings.

He also alleged that former Kaduna State Governor, Nasir El-Rufai, was aware of some of the information relating to the alleged request for Tinubu's records.

According to Ali-Keffi, El-Rufai and other influential political figures were aware of the matter but opposed allowing confidential information to be used against Tinubu.

Ali-Keffi argued that had the alleged information been made public before the APC primary, it could have affected Tinubu's chances of securing the party's presidential

ticket.

Tinubu ultimately emerged as the APC presidential candidate after winning the party's June 2022 presidential primary with 1,271 votes.

The retired general also recounted an alleged conversation involving former Federal Inland Revenue Service chairman, Muhammad Nami, and an unnamed minister who he said was initially opposed to Tinubu's emergence.

According to Ali-Keffi, the minister warned that Tinubu could target certain individuals if he eventually became president. He said Nami nevertheless argued in favour of power shifting to the South, citing national unity.

Ali-Keffi said this political calculation eventually influenced his own decision to support Tinubu during the 2023 presidential election.

The former army commander, however, said he now regrets voting for Tinubu and stated that he would not support the APC in the next election.

The allegations come amid renewed political debates over Tinubu's political history, his emergence as the APC's presidential candidate and controversies surrounding records reportedly held by US authorities.

PressPoint News notes that the claims concerning the alleged attempt to obtain Tinubu's US records remain allegations attributed to Ali-Keffi. The retired general did not disclose the contents of the alleged US response, nor did he establish that the records contained evidence of criminal wrongdoing by Tinubu.

His account, as reported, was substantially based on information he said he received from former NFIU Director Modibbo Hamman-Tukur.

## FG Fails to Prove N33.75bn Cash Transfers Reached 3.29m Vulnerable Households — Auditor-General

Politics Desk



By John Ademola | PressPoint News

ABUJA — The Federal Government has been unable to provide sufficient evidence to auditors confirming that N33.75 billion released as cash transfers to vulnerable Nigerians actually reached the intended beneficiaries, the Auditor-General for the Federation has disclosed.

The funds were reportedly earmarked for cash transfers to more than 3.29 million vulnerable households under the Federal Government's social intervention programme.

The Auditor-General raised concerns over the inability of the relevant authorities to produce adequate documentation that could independently verify the identities of beneficiaries and confirm that the funds were received by the households for whom they were intended.

The finding was contained in the latest audit report of the Federal Government's financial activities, highlighting accountability concerns surrounding the management and monitoring of public funds allocated to social protection programmes.

According to the audit observation, the absence of sufficient supporting evidence made it difficult for auditors to establish whether the payments were made to genuine beneficiaries and whether the full amount disbursed was utilised for its stated purpose.

The development raises fresh questions about the mechanisms used by government agencies to identify vulnerable households, authenticate beneficiaries and track the distribution of public funds.

Social intervention programmes involving direct cash payments are designed to provide financial support to economically vulnerable citizens and cushion the impact of rising living costs. However, effective beneficiary verification and transparent payment records remain critical to preventing fraud, duplication and diversion.

The Auditor-General's finding is therefore expected to intensify calls for stronger monitoring systems and improved documentation of government-funded social programmes.

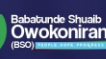
Authorities responsible for the programme would also face increased pressure to provide verifiable records showing the beneficiaries who received the funds, the amounts paid and the channels through which the payments were made.

The audit finding, however, does not by itself establish that the N33.75 billion was stolen or diverted. Rather, it points to the Federal Government's failure to provide auditors with sufficient evidence to verify that the money reached genuine intended beneficiaries.

The revelation comes at a time when accountability in the management of public funds remains a major issue in Nigeria, particularly regarding programmes targeted at vulnerable citizens.

PressPoint News will continue to monitor developments and any response from the Federal Government or agencies

responsible for the cash-transfer programme.



“

**MONDAY IS A  
BLANK PAGE  
AND A FRESH  
HORIZON**

Breathe In Courage, Let Go Of Yesterday,  
And Step Into This Week Knowing That  
Every Sunrise Brings A Renewed Hope  
To Chase what Matters Most

Hon. Babatunde Shuaib  
Owokoniran (BSO) B.pharm, MSPS  
FOUNDER, GROWTH FOUNDATION

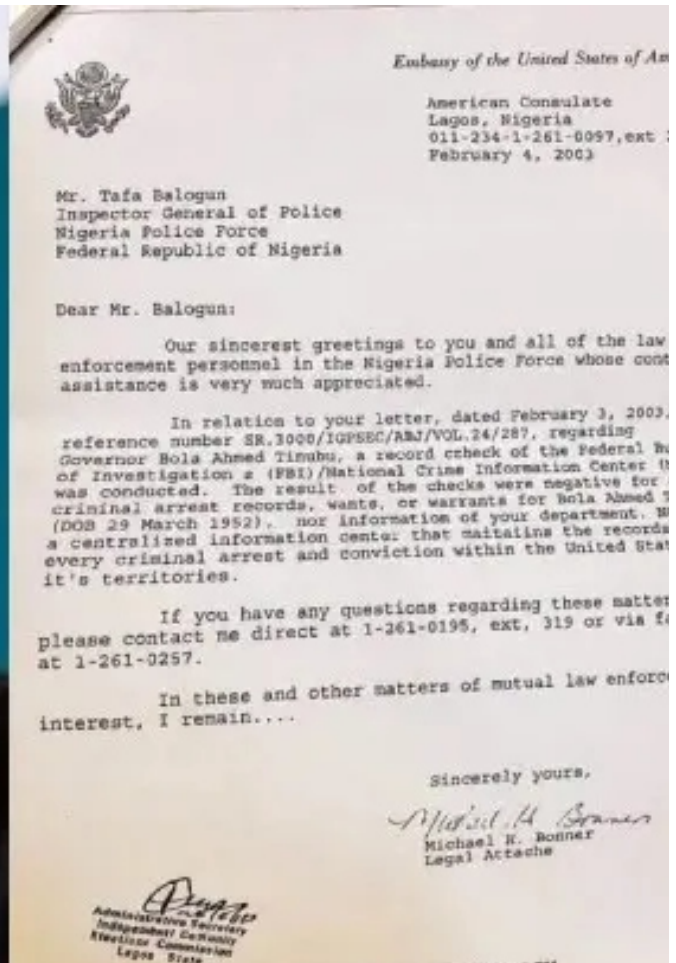


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# **THE** Security, Crime & Justice Desk



## **BUSTED: US Lobby Firm Alleges Tinubu Camp Forged Embassy Letter Over Security and Criminal Record Claims**

A fresh diplomatic and political controversy has hit the Nigerian presidency following a public declaration by the Washington-based political advisory firm, Von Batten-Montague-York, which explicitly accused President Bola Tinubu and his associates of circulating a forged United States Embassy document.

The controversy erupted when supporters of the President, including former presidential aide Reno Omokri, began sharing a purported U.S. diplomatic correspondence online. The document was heavily promoted to defend President Tinubu against historical U.S. criminal record and drug-trafficking allegations,

framing it as official recognition and appreciation of the administration's security efforts.

However, the U.S. firm quickly dismantled the narrative after reviewing the viral document, pointing out glaring typographical and formatting errors that would never appear in official U.S. government correspondence.

Among the obvious red flags highlighted by the firm were misspelled words, such as "czheck" instead of "check" and "maitatins" instead of "maintains". The firm stated that it found it extremely difficult to accept the letter as authentic without independent verification due to these amateur mistakes.

This development compounds an already delicate situation regarding international scrutiny of the Nigerian leader's historical records. Political analysts and international relations experts have expressed deep concern over the diplomatic embarrassment this brings to Nigeria's global reputation, noting that passing off fabricated documents as official U.S. communications undermines the credibility of the government abroad.

The U.S. lobbying firm also issued a stern caution regarding the legal gravity of falsifying foreign state papers, emphasizing that presenting a fabricated document as an official United States government communication crosses a dangerous legal threshold. As reactions continue to trail the development across local and international digital spaces, the Presidency is yet to issue an official rebuttal addressing the specific flaws highlighted by the American firm.

*Do you think the presidency will issue a formal statement to address these forgery allegations?*

## Police Intercept Stolen Vehicle Branded With APC Campaign Insignia in Ibadan

Security, Crime & Justice Desk



IBADAN, OYO STATE — Operatives of the Oyo State Police Command have arrested a suspect after intercepting a Toyota Sienna space bus allegedly stolen and later branded with All Progressives Congress (APC) campaign insignia in an apparent attempt to evade detection.

The vehicle was intercepted in the Mokola area of Ibadan during a stop-and-search operation, according to security sources. The suspect reportedly stole the vehicle and subsequently covered it with political campaign materials, allegedly hoping that the branding would enable the vehicle to pass through routine security checks without attracting suspicion.

Police sources said officers became suspicious after identifying discrepancies in the vehicle's registration details. Further checks reportedly showed that the chassis number matched details contained in a recently filed vehicle theft report.

The suspect was subsequently taken into custody without resistance, while the vehicle was recovered and secured by the police for further investigation.

The identities of the suspect and the vehicle's owner have not been disclosed by the authorities as investigations continue.

Detectives are expected to conduct further questioning, establish the circumstances surrounding the alleged theft and contact the rightful owner to complete the identification and recovery process.

The Oyo State Police Command is yet to publicly release further details on the case, including the suspect's identity or the specific circumstances surrounding the alleged theft.

The police are expected to provide additional information when investigations are concluded and formal charges, if any, are filed.

## Osun Court Orders Police to Transfer Tanfeani Case File to DPP Within 24 Hours

Security, Crime & Justice Desk

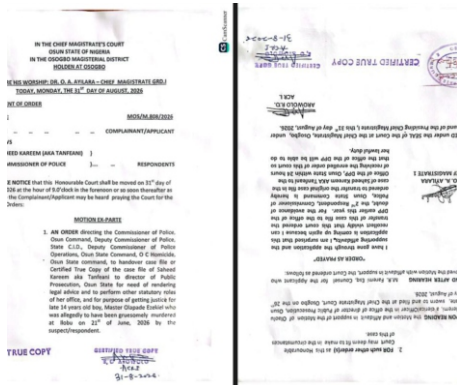
The Chief Magistrate's Court sitting in Osogbo, Osun State, has ordered the Commissioner of Police in the state to transfer the original case file involving Saheed Kareem, popularly known as Tanfeani, to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) within 24 hours.



The order was contained in an Enrolment of Order issued by the court on Monday, August 31, 2026, in Suit No. MOS/M.808/2026, between the State as complainant/applicant and Saheed Kareem (aka Tanfeani) and the Commissioner of Police as respondents.

The matter was heard before the Chief Magistrate I, Dr. O. A. Ayilara, following an ex-parte application filed by the State through its counsel, Mr. Faremi, Esq.

In the enrolled order, the court stated that it had considered the application and the affidavits filed in support of it. The court also recalled that it had previously directed that the case file be transferred to the Office of the DPP.



Consequently, the court ordered the Commissioner of Police, Osun State Command, to transfer the original case file to the Office of the DPP, Osun State, within 24 hours of receiving the enrolled order.

The court said the transfer would enable the prosecution authority to carry out its statutory responsibilities in the matter.

The latest development is connected to the case arising from the death of 14-year-old Olapade Ezekiel in Ilobu on June 21, 2026, during a violent incident around the Irepodun Local Government Secretariat.

Kareem, also known as Tanfeani, was subsequently arrested by the police in connection with the incident. He was later paraded alongside other suspects arrested over alleged political thuggery and related violent offences.

The court's latest order, however, does not determine the guilt or innocence of Kareem. It is limited to directing the police to transfer the case file to the DPP for consideration and the exercise of its statutory prosecutorial responsibilities.

The order was issued under the seal of the Chief Magistrate's Court, Osogbo, and certified as a true copy on August 31, 2026.

## NSCDC Rescues 15 Minors Allegedly Sold for N2m Each After Fake NGO Promise



By John | PressPoint News

ABUJA — The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) has rescued 15 minors allegedly trafficked and sold for N2 million each by a suspected member of a human trafficking syndicate operating under the guise of a child-rights organisation.

The NSCDC Public Relations Officer, Babawale Afolabi, disclosed the development on Friday during a briefing at the corps' headquarters in Abuja.

According to Afolabi, the suspect allegedly presented himself to parents as an official of the National Council of Child Rights Advocate and used a purported NGO and orphanage initiative known as the "Back to School Project" to gain their trust.

The suspect reportedly persuaded vulnerable parents to release their children with promises that the minors would receive free education.

The children were allegedly taken from Kama Madaki and Gudindi Mada communities in Kokona Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, with 15 of the 16 children involved in the reported trafficking operation eventually rescued.

The rescue operation was carried out by the NSCDC's Commandant

General's Special Intelligence Squad (CG's SIS), headed by Commander Dandaura Appollos.

Afolabi said the operation involved advanced field tracking, technical intelligence and coordinated tactical operations across several states as operatives worked to locate the children and their alleged buyers.

According to the corps, three of the rescued minors were found in Anambra, Imo and Enugu states, while the remaining 12 were recovered through coordinated operations along eastern transit routes.

The NSCDC spokesperson further disclosed that three suspected buyers — one man and two women — had been arrested in connection with the case.

The development has raised fresh concerns over the exploitation of vulnerable families by individuals and groups posing as legitimate organisations offering educational and welfare assistance to children. The NSCDC said it maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards human trafficking and other criminal activities, stressing that the investigation would continue.

Afolabi said suspects found culpable would be prosecuted after the completion of investigations.

The corps also reiterated the importance of vigilance among parents and guardians when approached by organisations offering to take custody of children for educational, welfare or orphanage programmes.

The rescue represents a significant intervention in the fight against child trafficking, while investigations are expected to establish the full extent of the alleged syndicate's activities and identify any other individuals involved.

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# Passenger Restrained After Racist, Anti-LGBT Outburst Forces American Airlines Flight to Divert



By Micheal Rose | PressPoint News

BALTIMORE — An American Airlines passenger was restrained with duct tape and zip ties after allegedly launching into a racist and anti-LGBT tirade and becoming violent during a flight from Dallas-Fort Worth to Newark.

The incident occurred aboard American Airlines Flight 618 on Thursday, September 3, 2026. The aircraft was forced to divert to Baltimore / Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport following the disturbance.

According to eyewitness accounts reported by TMZ and other outlets, the passenger appeared to be intoxicated and began shouting at another passenger about Jesus and going to hell.

A Black female flight attendant reportedly intervened in an attempt to calm the situation but was allegedly subjected to a racial slur and anti-gay remarks.

The situation subsequently escalated, with the passenger allegedly striking the passenger seated beside him and hitting the person's computer. A woman who attempted to intervene was also reportedly pushed away.

Three male passengers then stepped in to help restrain the man. With

assistance from the flight crew, they used duct tape and zip ties to secure him to his seat as he allegedly continued resisting. Video and photographs from the aircraft showed the passenger restrained around his arms and body.

American Airlines confirmed that Flight 618 was diverted to Baltimore because of a “disruptive customer.”

The airline said law enforcement officers met the aircraft after landing and assisted with removing the passenger before the flight continued to Newark.

“

The safety and security of our customers and team members is our top priority and we do not tolerate violence, the airline said.

The FBI also confirmed that the passenger was in custody on state charges while federal authorities were investigating the incident. The bureau said its agents were interviewing witnesses and would consult with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland to determine whether federal charges would be filed.

Authorities had not publicly established all the circumstances surrounding the passenger's behaviour at the time of reporting, and allegations made by witnesses remain subject to investigation.

The incident has renewed attention on the challenges faced by airlines and passengers when disruptive behaviour escalates into violence during commercial flights, where crew members have limited options to manage serious disturbances while an aircraft is airborne.

The flight eventually continued to

its original destination after the passenger was removed.

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# THE JAY - BEY

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## Jay-Z Turns Beyoncé's Birthday Into a Spectacular London Concert Surprise

By Micheal Rose | PressPoint News

LONDON — American rap icon Jay-Z gave fans an unforgettable moment in London after turning his wife Beyoncé's birthday into a surprise celebration during his concert.

The special moment unfolded during Jay-Z's JAY-Z 30 concert in London on September 4, 2026, when the rapper reminded the crowd that Beyoncé was celebrating her special day.

Although Beyoncé was not performing at the concert, Jay-Z ensured that she remained at the

centre of the celebration.

The rapper reportedly used a helicopter's spotlight to shine towards Beyoncé before encouraging thousands of fans to join him in singing "Happy Birthday" to the superstar.

The celebration then escalated as fireworks illuminated the London sky above the concert venue, creating a dramatic birthday tribute for Beyoncé while Jay-Z continued his performance.

In a moment that sent fans into a frenzy, Jay-Z subsequently launched into "Nias in Paris,"\*\* his

hugely popular collaboration with Kanye West, as the birthday celebration continued.

Videos and reactions from the concert quickly circulated online, with fans praising Jay-Z for the elaborate gesture and describing the moment as another memorable chapter in the couple's high-profile relationship.

The surprise comes as Beyoncé continues to maintain her status as one of the world's most influential music stars, while Jay-Z remains one of hip-hop's most celebrated performers and business figures.

For concertgoers in London, however, the night became more than a rap performance. It became an unexpected birthday celebration for one of music's biggest stars — with thousands of voices, a helicopter spotlight and fireworks combining to create a spectacular tribute.

The moment has since generated widespread excitement among fans across social media, with many describing Jay-Z's gesture as a major birthday surprise worthy of Beyoncé's status.

## Ghana Launches Marrify App to Help Couples Uncover Hidden Marriages and Divorce Records

Lifestyle & Fashion Desk



By John Ademola | PressPoint News

ACCRA — Ghana has launched a new digital platform that allows members of the public to verify marriage and divorce records, in a move aimed at promoting transparency and helping prospective couples make more informed decisions before tying the knot.

The platform, known as Marrify, was launched in Accra on August 28, 2026, by Marry Right Ghana Limited in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

Marrify operates as a searchable digital marriage and divorce registry, bringing together records covering ordinance, customary and

Islamic marriages. Users can search available records using details including names, spouses' names, towns, churches, denominations, marriage certificate numbers and Gazette numbers.

The platform also allows users to verify marriage-related officials and facilities, including registered marriage officers, licensed venues and authorised Imams.

According to information released about the platform, its database draws from records held by institutions including the Registrar-General's Department, courts, Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, and the Ghana Gazette.

### A Digital Check Before Saying 'I Do'

The launch comes amid efforts to make marriage administration more transparent and reduce the risks associated with undisclosed marital histories.

Ghana's Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Dr Agnes Naa Momo Larrey, urged prospective couples to independently verify the marital status of their partners rather than relying solely on assurances that they are single or divorced.

She also encouraged people to verify the legality of their chosen marriage venue and the credentials of the person officiating the ceremony.

The minister said access to reliable information before marriage could help prevent emotional, financial and legal complications that may arise when important information is concealed.

### Divorce Records Also Available

Beyond marriage verification, Marrify includes divorce records based on court rulings and judgments, with some divorce records linked to the marriages to which they relate.

The platform's records reportedly extend back as far as 1886, reflecting an effort to bring historical marriage-related information into a searchable digital system.

The initiative is expected to be particularly useful for people seeking to establish whether a prospective partner has an existing registered marriage or whether a claimed divorce is reflected in available records.

### 'No Record Found' Does Not Mean Someone Is Single

Despite its verification function, users have been cautioned against treating the platform as an absolute confirmation of a person's marital status.

Marrify states that records are still being uploaded and updated. Consequently, a search that produces no result does not automatically mean that the person has never been married.

Individuals and institutions can also submit marriage and divorce records, alongside supporting documents, for verification and inclusion in the database.

The developers say the continued cooperation of government institutions, religious bodies, traditional authorities and other stakeholders will be important in ensuring that the information available on the platform remains accurate and up to date.

The launch places Ghana among countries exploring digital tools to modernise marriage administration and give citizens easier access to information that could affect major personal and legal decisions.

For prospective couples, Marrify now provides another avenue to conduct basic due diligence before making one of life's most consequential commitments.

Statue Of

# Excellency Performing

Governor of Osun State

COURTESY:

**OTUNBA  
OLAGOKE  
OLADOSU**

COORDINATOR IMOLE  
2026 IN DIASPORA



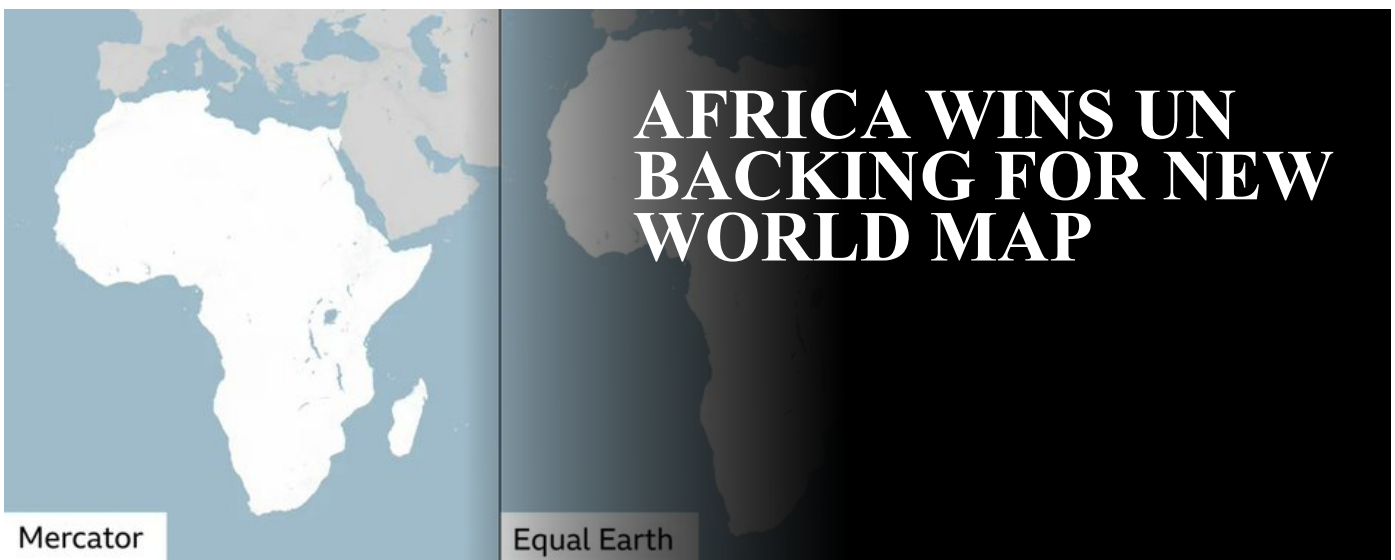
# WHAT'S TRENDING

WEEKLY GIST

ACROSS THE GLOBE

A PRESSPOINT NEWS WEEKLY GIST  
| SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

HERE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES AND CONVERSATIONS  
CURRENTLY ATTRACTING ATTENTION AROUND THE WORLD:



## Africa's True Size Gets Global Recognition

The United Nations General Assembly has backed an African-led campaign calling for greater use of maps that represent the continent's actual size more accurately. The initiative challenges distortions associated with the traditional Mercator projection, which makes areas closer to the poles appear disproportionately large.

## 2. UBER EXITS NIGERIA

Ride-Hailing Giant Leaves Nigerian Market

Uber has stopped operations in Nigeria, ending its ride-hailing service in one of Africa's largest economies. The company's departure has sparked reactions among drivers and passengers, while adding to concerns about the challenges facing international businesses operating in parts of Africa.

## 3. OIL PRICES RISE AS MIDDLE EAST TENSIONS CONTINUE

## Global Energy Market Feels Heat

Crude oil prices ended the week higher amid renewed military tensions involving the United States and Iran. Analysts say continued disruption around major energy routes is keeping pressure on global oil supplies and prices.

## 4. RUSSIA - UKRAINE WAR INTENSIFIES

## Fresh Strikes Keep Ukraine on Edge

The Russia-Ukraine conflict remains a major global security

story, with fresh Russian drone attacks reported against Ukrainian targets. The continuing attacks have kept pressure on diplomatic efforts to end the war.

## 5. SOUTHERN LEBANON HIT BY FRESH VIOLENCE

At Least Five Reported Dead in Latest Strikes

Fresh Israeli airstrikes in southern Lebanon have reportedly killed at least five people and injured 24 others, according to a September 5 international news briefing. The incident comes amid continuing tensions surrounding the ceasefire.

## 6. SOUTH AFRICA SEES FRESH ANTI-MIGRANT PROTESTS

Tensions Rise Over Immigration

Violence has reportedly erupted during an anti-migrant protest in South Africa, bringing renewed attention to tensions surrounding migration and the economic pressures facing communities. The development is being closely watched across the region.

## 7. KENYA ORDERS TATA CHEMICALS

## OUT

President Orders Major Company to Leave Country

Kenya's President has ordered Tata Chemicals to end its operations in the country, putting the company's activities under renewed scrutiny. The decision is among the latest major business developments attracting attention in East Africa.

## 8. AI RACE TRIGGERS NEW SAFETY FEARS

Experts Debate How Far Artificial Intelligence Should Go

The rapid development of artificial intelligence is generating renewed debate over safety, regulation and human control. As AI systems become increasingly capable, technology experts and policymakers are calling for stronger safeguards against potential misuse and loss of oversight.

## 9. AI BOOM DRIVES GLOBAL CHIP SHORTAGE

'RAMageddon' Threatens to Push Electronics Prices Higher

Surging demand for AI infrastructure is putting pressure on supplies of memory chips used in everyday electronics. Reports indicate that manufacturers are facing rising component costs,

raising concerns that smartphones, computers, gaming devices and other consumer electronics could become more expensive.

## 10. GLOBAL CHESS LEAGUE KICKS OFF

World's Chess Stars Return to the Spotlight

The 2026 Global Chess League has begun in Bengaluru, India, bringing some of the world's leading chess players together for another high-profile competition. The tournament features six teams competing in a fast-paced team format.

## 11. FIBA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL WORLD CUP UNDERWAY

16 Nations Battle for Global Glory

The 2026 FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup has tipped off in Germany, bringing together 16 national teams. Some of the biggest stars in women's basketball are competing for the world title.

AT'S TRENDI  
AT'S TRENDI  
NEWFACE

# POLITICIAN

OF THE

WEEK

NATHANIEL  
ODUYEMI

FOR SENATE OSUN CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT



# SPORTS NEWS

DUKE OF SPORTS

## BARCELONA COMPLETE GABRIEL JESUS MOVE

Barcelona have completed the signing of Brazilian forward Gabriel Jesus from Arsenal on a three-year contract.

The 29-year-old leaves Arsenal after four seasons in which he made 123 appearances and scored 32 goals. His opportunities became increasingly limited following the arrival and emergence of other attacking options at the London club.

British media reported that Barcelona paid approximately £8.6 million for the forward, although the clubs did not disclose the financial terms. The move gives Jesus a fresh opportunity to revive his career at the Spanish champions.

## PREMIER LEAGUE SMASHES TRANSFER RECORD AS SUMMER WINDOW CLOSES



The 2026 summer transfer window has closed with Premier League clubs setting a new spending record of approximately £3.46 billion, underlining the enormous financial power of English football.

Manchester City emerged among the biggest spenders, completing the signing of Argentine midfielder Enzo Fernández from Chelsea for a reported £125 million, matching the British transfer record. City also brought in Elliot Anderson and Iliman Ndiaye as part of a major squad rebuild.

Other headline moves included Morgan Rogers' £117 million transfer from Aston Villa to Chelsea, Bradley Barcola's move from Paris Saint-Germain to Liverpool and Sandro Tonali's £100 million switch from Newcastle United to Tottenham Hotspur.

Arsenal strengthened with Bruno Guimarães and Ezri Konsa, while Manchester United signed Carlos Baleba. The spending spree has once again raised questions about the widening financial gap between the Premier League and several other European leagues.

## LIVERPOOL FIND FORM AS ISAK FIRES EARLY DOUBLE

Liverpool made a winning start under new manager Andoni Iraola, defeating newly promoted Ipswich Town 2–0 in the Premier League.

Alexander Isak was the hero, scoring twice inside the opening nine minutes, with Cody Gakpo providing assists for both goals. The victory moved Liverpool to five points from three matches after two previous 2–2 draws.

Liverpool also introduced new signing Bradley Barcola in the second half as the club continues to integrate its expensive summer recruits. The result will provide confidence for Iraola as Liverpool attempt to challenge near the top of the table.

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RETURNS WITH BLOCKBUSTERS

The 2026/27 UEFA Champions League is set for another season of heavyweight clashes, with the league phase beginning from September 8 to 10.

The competition features Europe's biggest clubs, including Real Madrid, Barcelona, Liverpool, Manchester City, Arsenal, Manchester United, Bayern Munich, Paris Saint-Germain and Inter Milan.

The draw has already produced several intriguing storylines. Barcelona are set for a reunion with former Manchester City midfielder Rodri, while several other clubs will face familiar opponents in the new league-phase format.

The final will be played at Madrid's Estadio Metropolitano

on June 5, 2027, as Europe's elite battle for the continent's biggest club prize.

## NIGERIA & GLOBAL SPORTS D'TIGRESS SUFFER WORLD CUP SETBACK, SEEK HUNGARY BOUNCE- BACK

Nigeria's D'Tigress suffered a difficult start to their 2026 FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup campaign, losing 99–81 to South Korea in Berlin.

Nigeria remained competitive for long periods but struggled to contain South Korea's attacking efficiency as the game progressed. The defeat leaves D'Tigress needing a strong response in their next Group B fixture against Hungary.

The tournament is taking place in Berlin from September 4 to 13, with Nigeria among the 16 teams competing for the world title. The African champions will be hoping to recover quickly and keep their hopes of progressing alive.

## AJAYI MAKES NIGERIAN

# ATHLETICS HISTORY

Nigeria's sprint star Kanyinsola Ajayi has added another major achievement to his breakthrough season after winning bronze in the men's 100 metres at the 2026 Diamond League Final in Brussels.

Ajayi clocked 9.97 seconds to finish third behind Jamaica's Oblique Seville, who won in 9.90 seconds, and Cameroon's Emmanuel Eseme, who took silver in 9.93 seconds.

The result makes Ajayi the first Nigerian to win a men's 100m medal at the Diamond League Final. His performance caps a remarkable season in which he has repeatedly broken new ground in international athletics.

# US OPEN: ALCARAZ, SABALENKA LEAD CHARGE INTO FOURTH ROUND

The 2026 US Open has entered an exciting stage, with several leading names advancing through the men's and women's singles competitions.

Defending men's champion Carlos Alcaraz continued his impressive return from a wrist injury by defeating China's Wu Yibing in straight sets. World number one Aryna Sabalenka also moved into the fourth round after defeating Kamilla Rakhimova 6–3, 6–4.

American players are also making their presence felt, with Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe

progressing, while Jessica Pegula survived a difficult encounter against Leylah Fernandez.

The tournament continues at Flushing Meadows as players battle for a place in the second week and ultimately the final Grand Slam titles of the year.

# MONZA HEATS UP AS FERRARI AND MERCEDES BATTLE FOR SUPREMACY

Formula One has arrived at Monza for the Italian Grand Prix, with Ferrari and Mercedes showing strong pace during Friday practice.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc topped the opening practice session ahead of teammate Lewis Hamilton, giving the home team an encouraging start in front of its passionate supporters.

Mercedes responded in the second session, with George Russell setting the fastest time ahead of Leclerc and Kimi Antonelli. Hamilton remained competitive as the teams prepared for Saturday qualifying and Sunday's race.

With the championship battle intensifying, the Italian Grand Prix promises another major test of speed, strategy and tyre management at one of Formula One's most famous circuits.

# GOLDEN EAGLETS

# DRAWN AGAINST CÔTE D'IVOIRE, NIGER

Nigeria's Golden Eaglets have been placed in Group B alongside Côte d'Ivoire and Niger Republic at the 2026 WAFU-B U-17 Championship.

The young Nigerians will face two difficult West African opponents as they begin their pursuit of success in the regional tournament.

The competition is particularly important for Nigeria's youth football programme, with the Golden Eaglets carrying the country's reputation as one of Africa's strongest forces in age-grade football.



# SPORTS QUICK LOOK

\* **TRANSFER:** Premier League clubs spent a record £3.46bn during the 2026 summer window.

\* **BASKETBALL:** D'Tigress lost 99–81 to South Korea and now turn attention to Hungary.

\* **ATHLETICS:** Kanyinsola Ajayi won historic 100m bronze at the Diamond League Final.

\* **TENNIS:** Alcaraz and Sabalenka have reached the US Open fourth round.

\* **FORMULA 1:** George Russell led FP2 at Monza after Ferrari's Friday FP1 one-two.

\* **CHAMPIONS LEAGUE:** The new league phase begins September 8, with Europe's biggest clubs entering the race for the trophy.

*PressPoint News*  
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## Lionel Messi Announces Retirement From Argentina's National Team

Lionel Messi has announced his retirement from international football after a 21-year Argentina career. PressPoint reports that the 39-year-old leaves with 207 appearances and 125 goals, having won the 2022 World Cup, Copa América titles in 2021 and 2024, and the 2022 Finalissima. His international career closes one of football's defining chapters, although he remains a professional player for Inter Miami.

PRESSPOINT NEWS • 31 Aug 2026

# WHY IS THE ADELEKE'S SO UNITED?

QUESTIONS THAT MANY ARE ASKING AFTER GOVERNOR ADEMOLA ADELEKE WIN HIS SECOND TERM AS THE GOVERNOR OF OSUN STATE



By PressPoint News Desk | PressPoint News

**OSOGBO** — Governor Ademola Adeleke's return to the Osun State Government House for another four-year term has sparked fresh political discussions across the state, with many asking a simple question: what made the Adeleke political camp so difficult to break?

The August 15, 2026 governorship election provided a clear answer to part of that question. Adeleke, running on the platform of the Accord Party, defeated the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate, Bola Oyebamiji, polling 511,067 votes against Oyebamiji's 444,815 votes.

But the victory was not built on election day alone. It followed months of political mobilisation, grassroots campaigning, endorsements and strategic alliances that helped the governor maintain a broad support base.

## Adeleke's Grassroots Advantage

One of the strongest factors behind



voters. Throughout the campaign period, his administration repeatedly pointed to projects and interventions across different sectors as evidence of performance.

Several groups also publicly backed his second-term ambition. Traditional security organisations, ethnic associations and community-based groups endorsed Adeleke ahead of the election, with supporters citing his performance and grassroots engagement.

The governor also received support from political figures outside his immediate political circle. Even with the complicated political realignments surrounding the election, his campaign was able to maintain a coalition broad enough to withstand the challenge from the APC and other parties.

## The Tinubu Factor

Perhaps one of the more interesting aspects of Adeleke's political strategy was his open support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's 2027 re-election bid.

Despite being elected on an opposition platform, Adeleke repeatedly reaffirmed his support for Tinubu. The governor argued that his relationship with the President should not be confused with his disagreements with some APC leaders in Osun.

That position gave Adeleke an unusual political advantage: he was able to maintain his opposition-party identity in Osun while simultaneously presenting himself as someone willing to work with the Federal Government.

## The Opposition Was Not Without Problems

Adeleke's victory cannot, however, be explained only by his own popularity. The opposition faced its own challenges, including political realignments and competition among parties.

The APC entered the election determined to reclaim Osun, while the ADC also presented a significant alternative. Analysts had described the contest as a battle between Adeleke's grassroots appeal and the APC's federal political strength.

Yet, in the final count, Adeleke's support proved sufficient to keep him ahead.

## So, Why Is Adeleke So United?

The answer may lie in a combination of grassroots mobilisation, political alliances, visible campaign structures, personal popularity, government performance and strategic political positioning.

His ability to attract support beyond traditional party lines also played a major role. In the final days before the election, even candidates from smaller parties withdrew and endorsed Adeleke, further strengthening the perception of a broad coalition around his candidacy.

Now that the election is over, the bigger question is no longer whether Adeleke can win a second term. He has already done so.

The question confronting the governor is whether the political unity that delivered victory can now be converted into effective governance, stronger institutions and tangible improvements in the lives of ordinary Osun residents.

For the APC, meanwhile, the result offers a serious lesson: reclaiming Osun will require more than political structures and federal influence. It will require rebuilding a compelling grassroots connection with the electorate.

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