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IS NIGERIA'S GROWING INDEPENDENCE THREATENING AMERICA'S GRIP ON AFRICA?



Tinubu's non-aligned stance, which emphasizes regional autonomy, threatens to dismantle that long-standing balance, and Washington is clearly uneasy about it."

He further noted that Trump's recent statement should not be dismissed as an impulsive outburst, but rather as part of America's long-standing pattern of leveraging internal divisions within foreign nations to maintain influence without direct confrontation.

"This is not the first time," he recalled. "During President Buhari's first tenure, Trump made similar remarks. But after Buhari visited the White House, Trump's tone shifted completely; a classic example of how the U.S. uses diplomacy as a tool of submission rather than partnership." Abdulkarim stressed that Nigeria remains an easy target because of its deep-seated religious and tribal divisions, internal fractures that foreign powers have often exploited to shape narratives and justify interventions.

"We've made ourselves vulnerable," he added. "Our divided loyalties weaken our collective defense and make external influence easier."

However, he clarified that a direct invasion is unlikely. "America's real goal isn't war," he stated. "It's submission,

Abdulkarim Murtala, a political scientist, in an exclusive interview with African Media and Communications Consulting (AMCC), analyzed the recent claim by former U.S. President Donald Trump about a possible military strike on Nigeria, describing it as "a reflection of deeper geopolitical anxiety rather than genuine concern."

According to Abdulkarim, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration marks a historic shift in Nigeria's foreign policy, the first in the nation's history to resist paying direct allegiance to the United States. This quiet yet strategic repositioning, he said, has unsettled Washington because it suggests one thing: Nigeria's vast natural resources and raw materials may now be strategically aligned with a rival superpower, China.

"For decades, Nigeria has served as a crucial node in America's foreign policy across Africa," Abdulkarim explained.

to make Nigeria bow politically and symbolically. The U.S. prefers compliance over conflict."

He described Trump's statement as carrying symbolic weight, "the tone of a father demanding his son *dobale*, a Yoruba term for total submission." The near-unanimous reaction from both Democrats and Republicans in echoing Trump's position, he argued, shows that the message was deliberate and coordinated, not coincidental.

In conclusion, Abdulkarim observed that the tension transcends Nigeria's internal security challenges. It represents a global power struggle, a contest over who will control access to Africa's largest economy and its abundant resources. "Tinubu's independent posture may have triggered this reaction," he said, "but America's response reveals something deeper: a fear of losing its grip on Nigeria in a world increasingly tilting eastward."

Is this the dawn of a new era in Nigeria's foreign policy, one defined by sovereignty rather than submission?

PANTAMI CALLS ON NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES TO LEAD AI REVOLUTION



Former Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Prof. Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami, has urged Nigerian universities to establish Artificial Intelligence (AI) task forces that will drive innovation, research, and policy development in the country's digital space.

Speaking at a recent academic event, Pantami emphasized that universities must take the lead in shaping Nigeria's future through science and technology. He warned that as global economies invest heavily in AI, Nigeria risks being left behind unless its institutions move swiftly to build structured teams dedicated to advancing AI knowledge and application.

He explained that setting up AI task forces within universities would strengthen research capacity, support startups, and guide government agencies on the responsible adoption of AI tools. Pantami also encouraged university leaders to partner with industry experts, attract research funding, and prioritize the training of students in emerging technologies.

According to him, Nigeria's competitiveness in the global digital economy will depend on how quickly its academic institutions integrate AI into teaching, research, and national development strategies.

NLC PRESIDENT CALLS FOR UNIONIZATION OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES TO STRENGTHEN ASUU'S DEMANDS



Nigeria's federal universities have, for years, experienced repeated disruptions in academic activities due to strikes by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), strikes often rooted in the quest for improved educational standards and better welfare for lecturers.

While these industrial actions paralyze public institutions, students in private universities remain largely unaffected, primarily because there are no academic unions operating within those institutions.

Addressing this divide during The Toyin Falola Interview Series tagged "A Conversation with the President of ASUU, Professor Christopher Piwuna," the President of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Joe Ajaero, urged ASUU to initiate discussions around the unionization of private universities.

According to Ajaero, the creation of private universities was, in part, intended to weaken ASUU's influence. He called for greater synergy among university unions to unify their demands and strengthen the collective voice of Nigerian academia.

If private universities unite with ASUU in the fight for quality education and improved conditions, could this be the turning point that forces the government to act or will it simply expose deeper cracks in Nigeria's educational system?

FG MOVES TO BRING EKWEREMADU HOME TO SERVE UK JAIL TERM



The Federal Government has begun the process of securing the transfer of former Deputy Senate President, Ike Ekweremadu, from the United Kingdom to Nigeria to serve the remainder of his prison sentence.

Ekweremadu was convicted in 2023 by a UK court for his involvement in an organ-trafficking case, where he, his wife, and a medical doctor were found guilty of conspiring to exploit a young man by arranging to harvest his kidney for a transplant. The conviction drew widespread attention both within and outside Nigeria, marking the first time a high-ranking Nigerian politician was jailed under the UK's Modern Slavery Act.

Government officials revealed that the transfer request is being processed under existing bilateral agreements that permit convicted persons to complete their sentences in their home countries. The Ministry of Justice is reportedly leading the negotiation, with support from diplomatic channels.

According to insiders, Nigeria's push for Ekweremadu's transfer is based on humanitarian and legal grounds, ensuring he serves his term closer to his family while remaining under lawful correctional supervision. However, questions remain about whether the former senator will serve his full sentence as imposed by the UK court once repatriated.

As discussions between both governments continue, the move has stirred public debate about justice, accountability, and the treatment of political elites in Nigeria's correctional system.

Will Ekweremadu's return truly uphold justice or will it test Nigeria's commitment to equality before the law?

KANO JUDICIARY SANCTIONS OFFICIALS OVER MISCONDUCT



The Kano State Judicial Service Commission (KSJSC) has disciplined several judges and court officials for misconduct, financial irregularities, and ethical breaches.

In a statement by the judiciary's spokesperson, Baba Jibo Ibrahim, the Commission said the decisions followed investigations by the Judiciary Public Complaints Committee (JPCC) during its 86th meeting on October 30, 2025.

Among those sanctioned are Isa Yuguda Wudilawa, demoted for diverting official funds; and Alkali Ibrahim Isah Usman, warned and denied promotion for executing judgment before the appeal window elapsed. Others include Alkali Shamsu Maul'ainaini, demoted and suspended for tampering with records, and Ibrahim Salim, dismissed for forgery and bribery.

The Commission commended Alkali Ali Jibrin Danzaki for exposing misconduct within his court and issued a public reprimand against retired judge Alkali Munzali Tanko for holding court sessions after retirement.

Reiterating its zero tolerance for indiscipline, the KSJSC said it remains committed to promoting integrity, transparency.

ALLEGED LAND GRABBING: WIKE, LT. YERIMA CLASH OVER ABUJA PROPERTY



A tense confrontation at Plot 1946, Gaduwa District, Abuja has laid bare more than just a land dispute. On Tuesday, November 11, FCT Minister Nyesom Wike led officials of the FCTA to reclaim a property flagged as an unauthorised development, only to be blocked by naval officer Lt. A.M. Yerima and his soldiers.

The heated exchange, captured on video, quickly went viral, sparking national debate over land governance, civil-military roles, and public accountability.

The incident comes amid allegations of multiple land-grabbing activities linked to Wike, claiming that prime Abuja plots have been reallocated to his children and allies.

While Wike's office denies wrongdoing and challenges critics to provide documented proof, civic groups and human rights advocates warn that such allegations, whether verified or not, highlight the urgent need for transparent and accountable land administration in the FCT.

Lt. Yerima, at the center of the confrontation, has been publicly praised for discipline and composure under pressure. Military protocol obliges officers to follow lawful orders first and question later, and many Nigerians recognize that Yerima was likely acting on orders, caught between his duty as a soldier and the minister's authority as a civilian leader.

For residents of Abuja, the Gaduwa clash highlights critical public interest issues. Landowners cannot have their property taken arbitrarily, and any government reclamation should be accompanied by due process, transparency, and fair compensation.

Experts and civic leaders emphasize the need for independent investigations into who authorized military presence at the site, public audits of land allocations, particularly those involving politically exposed persons.

WHEN SUSPECT DIES IN POLICE CUSTODY, WHAT'S THE CAUSE, AND WHO TAKES THE BLAME?



The Nigeria Police Force is the principal law enforcement and the lead security agency in Nigeria. The police officers enforces laws, prevent and investigate crimes, apprehend criminal suspect and protect life and property.

In the course of discharging these duties, there have been records of death of victims in custody and sometimes the causes of these deaths are undisclosed or discussed as they are usually swept under the carpet, and if taken to court it later becomes a dusty file kept under shelf.

However, there are many reasons that could cause the death of victims and suspects in police custody, this includes natural causes like injuries, medical conditions or heart problems which can be exacerbated while in detention. Suicide is equally a frequent cause of death in custody, and this include self harm.

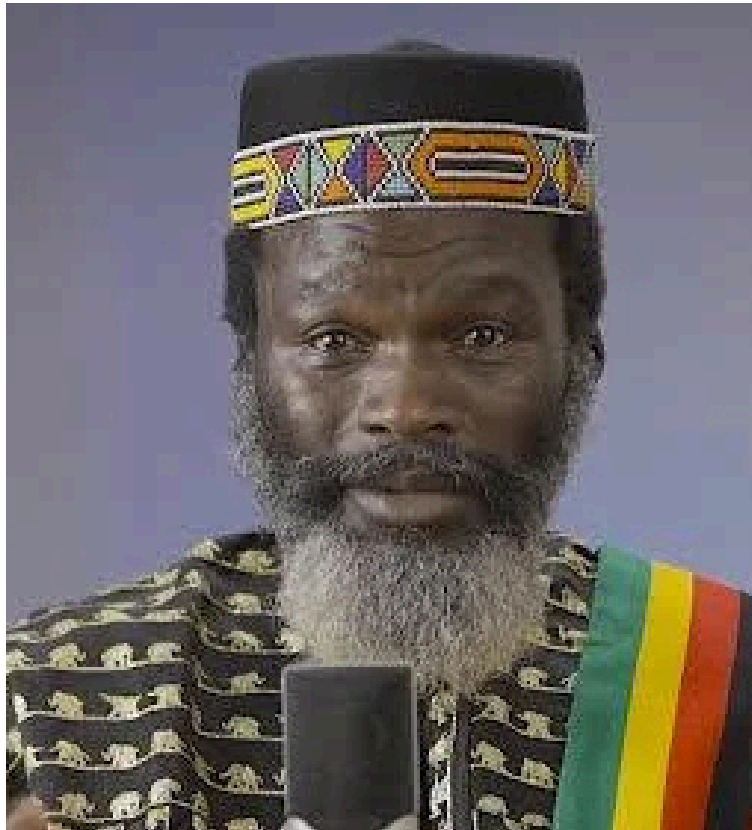
Restraint and force, this can happen when an individual is held in prone situation, their agitation can lead to asphyxiation.

One very important aspect is mental health, the effect of alcohol, mental health issues and stress from the situation can contribute to death.

Another causes of death in police custody is torture through several physiological and physical mechanisms.

There is a recent story from Abia state, where the family of Mr. Wilson Okorie Akobundu is calling for justice for their son who was allegedly tortured to death during interrogation by police officers at the Bende Police Division. The family is insisting it should not be swept under the carpet.

UNEMPLOYMENT ACROSS AFRICAN NATIONS, ZIMBABWEAN SPEAKER IMPORE YOUTH TO CONSIDER SKILLS ACQUISITION



Zimbabwean Public Speaker, Joshua Maponga has admonished youth to leverage their education on skills acquisition

Zimbabwean Public Speaker, noted that the unemployment rate across Africa nation has continue to increase rapidly, with unending development and hunger.

According to him, students across African nations have been bent on job seeking, immediately after graduation, while failing to leverage their education for innovation and starting up businesses in their respective communities.

He noted that for changes to be seen and felt across African nations, the onus is not only on government in power, rather youth across African nations should develop the culture of reinvesting in their homelands and equally creating job opportunities.

Joshua Maponga is a Zimbabwean born public speaker, author, philosopher, leader, musician, and social entrepreneur. He relocated to Zimbabwe from South Africa where he had spent over 20 years saying he had bowed to pressure to leave the country.

WAR IN SUDAN SEEMS UNENDING AS CITIZENS FACE DIRE HARDSHIP



The Northeast African nation of Sudan continues to grapple with a devastating war that has left nearly half of its population in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. As fighting intensifies across various regions, millions of Sudanese face hunger, displacement, and widespread insecurity.

The conflict, which erupted in April 2023, stems from a bitter power struggle between the Sudanese Army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The fallout traces back to the collapse of an alliance between the army's leader, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the RSF commander, General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti), following the 2021 military coup. The core of their dispute centered on the integration of the RSF into the national army and the broader question of who would control Sudan's political and security future.

Since the conflict began, tens of thousands of people have been killed, and nearly 12 million others displaced, creating what humanitarian agencies describe as one of the world's worst crises. Entire communities have been uprooted, while food insecurity and inadequate medical support continue to deepen the suffering of civilians.

OFFICE LOCATION

CBN QUARTERS, HOTORO, KANO STATE

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