

REPS MEMBER RAISES ALARM OVER ALTERATIONS IN TAX REFORM BILL AS PASSED BY HOUSE

The allegation made by House of Representatives member, Hon. Abdulsammad Dasuki recently that the soon-to-be implemented new tax laws were altered has stirred outrage from Nigerians. The lawmaker in a viral video on X alleged that there are discrepancies between the tax laws passed by the National Assembly and the versions gazetted and made available to Nigerians. He stressed that the alterations are not clerical errors, noting that they breached the Nigerian Constitution. “Mister Speaker, honorable colleagues, what was passed on this floor is not what is gazetted. I gave my vote, and it was counted, and I'm seeing something completely different. “This is a breach of the Constitution and our laws, and this should not be taken by this Honorable House,” he alleged. Responding, the speaker, Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, had assured lawmakers that the issue raised would be looked into by the House. Meanwhile, the allegations have drawn reactions from Nigerians, with some suggesting that it is an impeachable offense if found to be true. Speaking on X, a user known as OurFaveOnlineDoc alleged that “the presidency just played the National Assembly as fools. This is a total new low for this country,” he wrote. A Nigerian human rights activist and lawyer, Inibehe Effiong, said the allegation, if found to be true, is an impeachable offense. “This is an impeachable offense,” he wrote on X Wednesday. Similarly, Obiasogu David wrote on X, “If this is true, then the government has committed a constitutional fraud.” Meanwhile, the presidency is yet to speak on the allegation as of the time of filing this report. The allegation made by House of Representatives member, Hon. Abdulsammad Dasuki on Wednesday that the soon-to-be implemented new tax laws were altered has stirred outrage from Nigerians. The lawmaker in a viral video on X alleged that there are discrepancies between the tax laws passed by the National Assembly and the versions gazetted and made available to Nigerians. He stressed that the alterations are not clerical errors, noting that they breached the Nigerian Constitution. “Mister Speaker, honorable colleagues, what was passed on this floor is not what is gazetted. I gave my vote, and it was counted, and I'm seeing something completely different. “This is a breach of the Constitution and our laws, and this should not be taken by this Honorable House,” he alleged. Responding, the speaker, Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, had assured lawmakers that the issue raised would be looked into by the House. Meanwhile, the allegations have drawn reactions from Nigerians, with some suggesting that it is an impeachable offense if found to be true. Speaking on X, a user known as OurFaveOnlineDoc alleged that “the presidency just played the National Assembly as fools. This is a total new low for this country,” he wrote. A Nigerian human rights activist and lawyer, Inibehe

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SENATE CONFIRMS ALL TINUBU'S NOMINEES FOR AMBASSADORIAL POSTINGS

The Senate has confirmed a fresh batch of ambassadorial nominees forwarded by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, including prominent figures such as Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, the immediate past Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC); Femi Fani-Kayode, former Minister of Aviation; and Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas, former sole administrator of Rivers State. In plenary, the Senate approved a total of 64 ambassadorial appointments, comprising 34 career diplomats and 30 non-career envoy-designates. The decision followed the presentation and adoption of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs' report by its chairman, Senator Sani Bello (APC-Niger North), who told lawmakers that all nominees “were found worthy of their appointments” and that there were no substantive disqualifying petitions. Among the non-career ambassadors confirmed alongside Yakubu, Fani-Kayode and Ibas were former presidential adviser Reno Omokri, Jimoh Ibrahim, former governors Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi (Enugu) and Okezie Ikpeazu (Abia), as well as other high-profile politicians and public servants. Career diplomatic posts went to seasoned foreign service officers such as Arewa Esther, Adeola-Ibrahim Mopelola, Ramat Omonbolale, and others with varied experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. After the voice vote confirmation, Senate President Godswill Akpabio congratulated the ambassador-designates, encouraging them to “represent Nigeria well” in their respective missions around the world. Officials said the confirmed nominees will now return to the State House for swearing-in by President Tinubu, who will subsequently deploy them to various countries where Nigeria maintains diplomatic relations. President Tinubu had earlier transmitted multiple batches of names to the Senate. Starting in late November, he first sent three nominees, followed by an expanded list of 32, and later a combined list amounting to 65 names for confirmation. The nominations drew mixed reactions across Nigeria's political spectrum. Some parties — including the African Democratic Congress (ADC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) — criticized aspects of the list, questioning selections such as that of Prof. Yakubu on ethical grounds and calling for reconsideration. Proponents of the

appointments, however, argued that the mix of career diplomats and experienced non-career figures will help enhance Nigeria's international profile, boost bilateral engagements, and drive foreign policy initiatives.

Why we imposed restrictions on Nigerians from entering the US — Trump's govt

The United States government has revealed that Nigeria was added to its expanded travel restrictions list over concerns bordering on terrorism-related security risks and high visa overstay rates. According to U.S. authorities, the presence and activities of extremist groups such as Boko Haram and the Islamic State in parts of Nigeria have created challenges for effective screening and vetting of travelers. The decision was also influenced by data showing elevated visa overstay figures, with Nigeria recording a 5.56 per cent overstay rate for B-1/B-2 visas and 11.90 per cent for F, M and J visas. “Radical Islamic terrorist groups such as Boko Haram and the Islamic State operate freely in certain parts of Nigeria, which creates substantial screening and vetting difficulties. According to the Overstay Report, Nigeria had a B-1/B-2 visa overstay rate of 5.56 percent and an F, M, and J visa overstay rate of 11.90 percent.” Tribune Online reports that United States President, Donald Trump, approved the expanded travel restrictions under a new proclamation aimed at strengthening national security and public safety. A White House statement said the proclamation retains full entry restrictions on nationals of 12 countries earlier classified as high risk: Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. Five more countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, South Sudan, and Syria were added to the list of nations facing full restrictions following a recent security review. The measures also apply to individuals travelling with documents issued by the Palestinian Authority. Lagos and Sierra Leone, which were previously under partial restrictions, have now been placed under full entry limits, while partial restrictions remain for Burundi, Cuba, Togo, and Venezuela. The proclamation lifts the ban on nonimmigrant visas for Turkmenistan, citing improved cooperation with the United States, but maintains restrictions on immigrant entry for Turkmen nationals. Nigeria is among 15 countries newly placed under partial restrictions, alongside Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominica, Gabon, The Gambia, Malawi, Mauritania, Senegal, Tanzania, Tonga, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The policy provides exemptions for lawful permanent residents, existing visa holders and specific categories such as diplomats and athletes, as well as individuals whose entry is considered to serve U.S. national interests. It also tightens family-based immigrant visa exemptions viewed as vulnerable to fraud, while allowing case-by-case waivers

Debt servicing, wages swallow 105% of Nigeria's revenue

Nigeria's public finances came under intense pressure in the first seven months of 2025, as the Federal Government spent more on debt servicing and salaries than it earned in revenue, according to official budget documents. Data from the 2026–2028 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategy Paper (MTEF/FSP), released by the Budget Office of the Federation, show that between January and July, the government earned ₦13.67 trillion, far below the prorated target of ₦23.85 trillion, resulting in a revenue shortfall of ₦10.19 trillion, or 42.7 per cent. Despite President Bola Tinubu's September claim that Nigeria had met its 2025 revenue target by August and stopped borrowing, the figures suggest otherwise. The shortfall was driven mainly by weak oil earnings, which stood at ₦4.64 trillion against an expected ₦12.25 trillion, a gap of 62.2 per cent. While some non-oil revenues performed better—Company Income Tax slightly exceeded target and VAT receipts rose by about 11 per cent—these gains were outweighed by declines in customs revenue, federation levies and oil-related inflows. On the spending side, debt servicing and personnel costs alone exceeded total revenue. Debt servicing reached ₦9.81 trillion, while salaries and related personnel costs amounted to ₦4.51 trillion. Combined, they totaled ₦14.32 trillion, about 105 per cent of the revenue earned during the period. Capital expenditure suffered the most severe cuts. Only ₦3.60 trillion was spent on capital projects, compared with a prorated allocation of ₦13.67 trillion, representing a shortfall of nearly 74 per cent. Spending by ministries and agencies was particularly weak. The Budget Office attributed the poor capital outturn partly to the rollover of the 2024 budget into 2025, which has led to overlapping fiscal commitments. To address this, President Tinubu has asked the National Assembly to pass a 2024 Appropriation Repeal and Re-enactment Bill, proposing spending of ₦43.56 trillion, aimed at ending the practice of running overlapping budgets.

"I inherited a mess": Trump claims, promises economic boom, slams Biden in nationwide broadcast

United States President Donald Trump has promised Americans an economic boom in an address to the nation. Trump, on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, blamed Democratic predecessor Joe Biden for high prices of items in the United States. “Good evening America. 11 months ago I inherited a mess, and I'm fixing it,” the 79-year-old president said in his live speech from the White House. He insisted that prices of gas and groceries that have worried Americans were “falling rapidly, and it's not done yet. But boy, are we making progress.” In a surprise announcement,

Trump said 1.45 million United States military service members would each receive “warrior dividend” bonus checks for \$1,776 before Christmas, paid for with revenues raised from tariffs. “1,450,000 military service members will receive a special we call Warrior Dividend before Christmas... in honour of our nation's founding in 1776, we are sending every soldier \$1,776,” the billionaire president declared. He added that specific amount was in honour of the year of the founding of the United States, the 250th anniversary of which the country will celebrate next year. Trump promised that “we are poised for an economic boom the likes of which the world has never seen” in 2026, when the United States will co-host the FIFA World Cup, with Canada and Mexico. But while the White House had billed the speech as a chance for Trump to set out his economic agenda for the rest of his second term, much of it consisted on attacks on familiar targets. He repeatedly raged against Biden, the Democrats, and migrants whom he said “stole American jobs.” Democrats fired back after the speech, with Senator Chuck Schumer saying in a statement that Trump “just showed he lives in a bubble completely disconnected from the reality everyday Americans are seeing and feeling.” “The facts are that prices are going up. Unemployment is going up. And there's no end in sight,” Schumer added. Trump's speech comes at the end of a whirlwind year in which he has launched an unprecedented display of presidential power, including a crackdown on migration and the targeting of political opponents. But polls show what Americans are most concerned about is high prices, which experts say are partly fueled by the tariffs he has slapped on trading partners around the world. Trump got his worst approval ratings ever for his handling of the economy in a PBS News/NPR/Marist poll published on Wednesday, with 57 per cent of Americans disapproving and expressing concerns about the cost of living. A YouGov poll published on Tuesday showed that 52 per cent of Americans thought the economy was getting worse under Trump.

It's time to publicly name, prosecute financiers of terrorism, banditry...Rep tell FG

The House of Representatives has asked the Federal Government to publicly name, sanction and prosecute individuals and entities financing terrorism and banditry in order to tackle spate of insecurity across the country. This formed part of the House Resolutions on National Security Reform and Enhancement, following its three-day special plenary on security. The special session was convened in response to the rising wave of insecurity, including mass abductions across the country. “It is time we know them, we name them, we prosecute them, and put an end to this question of funding of terrorism”, Julius Ihonvbere, the House Leader had said while giving a summary of the recommendations. The House, while considering and adopting the report containing its recommendations, further urged the federal

government to establish a special court dedicated to terrorism, banditry and kidnapping cases, and to ensure that all terrorism-related prosecutions are transparent, and expeditious.

Benjamin Kalu, Deputy Speaker of the House who presided over the session said the recent terrorism trial of Nnamdi Kanu had demonstrated the need for all terrorism cases to be handled openly and transparently. The House also recommended the introduction of an effective national tracking system for all arms and weapons held by security agencies, using digital tracking tools and strict accountability mechanisms. For a comprehensive audit of all government-owned weapons. “Every firearm should be visible in the system. If it's moving beyond the jurisdiction, then we ask questions”, Kalu said. He said that many of the weapons being used by these terrorists are accessed “through backdoor business where government equipment are outsourced” while stressing the need for an audit. The House further urged the Federal Government to embark on massive recruitment into the armed forces to meet operational demands and to improve the salaries and welfare of all security personnel

INSECURITY NEC approves N100bn for rehabilitation of security Agencies training institutions

The National Economic Council (NEC) has approved the sum of N100 billion, subject to a final ratification by President Bola Tinubu, for rehabilitation of training institutions for police and other security agencies in Nigeria. This followed recommendations by the adhoc committee earlier constituted to assess the state of police and security agencies' training institution nationwide. At its 154th meeting held virtually on Wednesday, NEC also approved the sum of and N2.6 billion for consultancy services for the project. President Tinubu had at the 152nd meeting of NEC in October, proposed the overhaul and revamp of training institutions for security agencies nationwide. Chairman of the adhoc committee, Governor Peter Mbah of Enugu State, had in his presentation to Council, underscored the urgency and significance of the condition of the training facilities, saying most of the training institutions are in dire condition. Following the presentation by the Governor, the Chairman of NEC, Vice President Kashim Shettima, reaffirmed the commitment of government to address the situation. VP Shettima also charged governors of the 36 states of the federation to ensure that economic reforms by the state governments translate into clear, measurable improvements in the lives of Nigerians. Noting that governance is meaningful only when citizens can feel its impact, the Vice President particularly urged all tiers of government to focus on execution rather than rhetoric. He said the era of policy without results must give way to governance defined by tangible outcomes in communities across the country. “Our task is not to admire problems, but

to solve them. Not to explain challenges, but to overcome them. And not to hope for progress, but to engineer it. "Today's agenda speaks to our shared responsibility to build a nation where reforms translate into results, and where policies are not mere promises but convincing instruments of change felt in the markets, schools, clinics and farms across our federation," the VP said.

Defence Minister Gen. Musa vows tougher, unified security strategy to overwhelm Nigeria's enemies

Nigeria's Minister of Defence, retired General Christopher Musa, has pledged to deepen coordination across the Armed Forces and intensify nationwide security operations, declaring that the era of fragmented responses to insecurity must end. Speaking shortly after assuming office at the Ministry of Defence Headquarters in Abuja, Musa said his leadership would focus on unified, intelligence-driven joint operations capable of overwhelming criminal elements threatening the country. "Our goal is to overwhelm the enemy through joint and seamless coordination," he stated, announcing that an immediate review of all theatre commands and inter-service operations would commence to bridge gaps between policy formulation and field execution. Musa, who previously served as Chief of Defence Staff before his appointment by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, emphasized that national security must be treated as a shared responsibility requiring collaboration, clarity of purpose, and moral commitment from all stakeholders. The minister placed strong emphasis on troop welfare, describing it as a strategic pillar of operational success. "Welfare is not administrative; it is strategic. Morale is a force multiplier. Our personnel must receive their kits on time. Their operational allowances must be paid promptly. Accommodation, medical care, and support for injured personnel and families of the fallen must be priorities," he said. He stressed that men and women risking their lives for Nigeria deserve unwavering support, respect and dignity, adding that the Defence Ministry under his watch would ensure smooth, timely and accountable systems for troop welfare. Musa further urged national unity in confronting both kinetic and non-kinetic dimensions of insecurity. He noted that issues around governance, justice, fairness and equity also fuel instability and must be addressed alongside military efforts. "The shedding of innocent blood must end. Our children deserve to return to school. Farmers must return to their farms. Many of these issues require a comprehensive, balanced approach," he said, reaffirming his commitment to lead with fairness, integrity and accountability. Earlier, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Richard Pheelangwa, described Musa's arrival as a "homecoming," expressing confidence that his experience and leadership would further strengthen Nigeria's security architecture. The Chief of Defence Staff, General Olufemi Oluyede,

also pledged total support from the Armed Forces, noting that Musa had always been accessible, firm and committed to the nation's security. He called for unity, sincerity and collective action to help rebuild public confidence in the military.

Obasanjo to FG: Stop apologizing and negotiating with Terrorists

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo has firmly rejected calls for any form of negotiation with bandits, insisting that the Federal Government must adopt a tougher approach and embrace international support to tackle Nigeria's worsening insecurity. Obasanjo delivered the message on Friday during the Plateau State Unity Christmas Carol and Praise Festival held in Jos, the state capital. He criticized the government for what he described as a pattern of apologies and negotiations with violent groups, warning that such moves only embolden criminal elements. His comments come at a time when several communities across northern Nigeria continue to suffer from mass killings, kidnappings, and violent attacks. Recent incidents include the abduction of 315 students and 13 teachers from St. Mary's Catholic School in Papiri, Niger State, on November 21. Just days earlier, 26 schoolgirls were taken from Government Girls Secondary School, Maga, in Kebbi State. In another attack, bandits stormed Palaita community in Shiroro LGA of Niger State, abducting 24 people, including pregnant women, from a rice farm. Similar incidents were recorded in Kano and Kwara between Monday night and Tuesday morning, where about 20 people were kidnapped. These developments came only 24 hours after the release of 38 worshippers abducted from Christ Apostolic Church, Oke-Isegun, in Eruku, Kwara State, following negotiations between the government and their captors. Speaking during the event in Jos, Obasanjo expressed deep frustration over the situation, saying Nigerians are increasingly unsafe and have a right to seek global assistance when the government fails to protect them. "We Nigerians are being killed, and our government seems incapable of protecting us. If our government cannot do it, we have the right to call on the international community to do for us what our government cannot," he said. Obasanjo noted that modern technology has made the fight against terrorism far more efficient than when he was in office. He explained that Nigeria now has advanced surveillance and drone capabilities that can track and eliminate terrorists without ground combat. Before I left government, we had the capacity to identify and locate criminals anywhere in Nigeria. What we lacked was the ability to strike without moving troops. Today, we have drones that can take them out. So why are we apologizing? Why are we negotiating?" he asked. The former president emphasized the need for decisive action, insisting that sustained negotiations send the wrong message and undermine national security.