

Labour demands immediate renegotiation of minimum wage

Nigeria's organized labour movement has sounded the alarm over what it described as a deepening crisis of survival facing workers, declaring that negotiations for a new national minimum wage must begin immediately to prevent millions of Nigerians from sliding further into poverty. Speaking at the 114th International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva, leaders of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) said the current minimum wage framework no longer reflects the harsh economic realities confronting workers across the country. The labour leaders warned that inflation, soaring transportation costs, rising food prices, expensive housing and escalating healthcare bills have severely eroded workers' earnings, leaving many unable to meet their basic needs despite being employed. "This brings us to the National Minimum Wage," the labour movement said in a joint address. "The current Act expires early next year, and we have announced that renegotiation will commence by July 2026 to avoid the painful delays of the past." The unions revealed that they would formally write to the Federal Government upon their return from Geneva to demand the immediate commencement of talks on a new wage structure. According to them, the process must begin now if a fresh wage agreement is to be concluded before the expiration of the existing law.

Labour insisted that the next wage review must go beyond political promises and deliver what it termed a "genuine living wage" capable of restoring dignity to workers whose incomes have been ravaged by inflation and economic hardship. "We demand nothing less than a genuine living wage that reflects today's harsh economic realities," the NLC and TUC declared. "We once again demand immediate relief measures by governments at all levels until the new minimum wage is signed into law." The unions painted a grim picture of the nation's economic condition, arguing that official claims of economic progress have failed to translate into meaningful improvements in the lives of ordinary Nigerians.

Nigeria at dangerous crossroads... Jega, Gambari, others warn

Former chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Attahiru Jega, former Chief of Staff to the President, Prof Ibrahim Gambari, Chairman of Media Trust Group, Malam Kabiru Yusuf, and seven other prominent Nigerians have warned that Nigeria is facing a deepening crisis marked by rising insecurity, electoral manipulation and weakening democratic institutions. The group, which also includes Dr

Husseini Abdu, Dr Usman Bugaje, Prof. Jibrin Ibrahim and Abubakar Balarabe Mahmud (SAN), raised the concerns in a statement titled "Statement on the State of the Nation" dated June 8, 2026. The signatories said their assessment showed that Nigeria was "at a dangerous crossroads" where multiple challenges were converging to threaten the country's stability. "Our assessment of the state of the nation reveals that Nigeria stands at a dangerous crossroads where rising insecurity, an alarming level of electoral manipulation by government, and the weakening of democratic institutions are converging into a national crisis that threatens the country's survival," they said. The group expressed concern over what it described as the erosion of the constitutional principle of separation of powers, alleging that key democratic institutions had become weakened and increasingly subordinated to the executive arm of government. "The legislative branch has been placed under near-total control of the executive branch. The judiciary appears to have lost both its independence and its integrity," the statement said. It added that the weakening of institutional independence had fueled public distrust and contributed to growing political exclusion, impunity and insecurity across the country. The concerned Nigerians also linked Nigeria's security challenges to the worsening instability in the Sahel region, citing terrorism, arms trafficking, unconstitutional changes of government and p "The crisis in Nigeria cannot be separated from the broader instability engulfing the Sahel region," they said. To address the situation, the group urged the federal government to appoint a Special Envoy for the Sahel to rebuild trust between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Alliance of the Sahel States (AES). They also called on civil society organizations, professional bodies, religious leaders and the private sector to defend democratic values and demand accountability. The signatories further expressed concern over the electoral process, saying there were "clear and consistent indications of the lack of neutrality and competence of INEC." They urged civic groups, the Nigerian Bar Association and other stakeholders to engage the electoral body to ensure that the 2027 general elections are "free, fair and credible." The group also called on the judiciary and the National Judicial Council to strengthen accountability mechanisms and restore public confidence in the justice system

63 % of Nigerians now live in poverty...IMF breaks silence on Tinubu's economic reforms

The International Monetary Fund has said that reforms implemented by the President Tinubu-led federal government have strengthened the country's economy, but warned that more than 63 percent

of Nigerians now live in poverty. During his swearing-in ceremony in 2023, President Tinubu announced the removal of a costly fuel subsidy that had kept petrol prices artificially low for decades, liberalized the exchange rate for its currency and overhauled the country's tax system. While economists said the policy changes were long overdue, poverty has continued to increase, affecting 63 percent of the population at the end of 2025. According to the IMF, more than 27 million Nigerians faced food insecurity during the year. "Strong reforms over the past three years have yielded improved macroeconomic outcomes and built resilience. Still, conditions for many Nigerians remain difficult. Poverty reached 63 percent (national poverty line) and 27 million Nigerians are estimated to have faced food insecurity in the fall of 2025," the IMF said in a statement after its annual review of the Nigerian economy. The poverty level in the country has been on the rise for years, with the World Bank reporting last that about 61 percent of the country's population lived in poverty, up from 40 percent in 2019. Three-quarters of the increase occurred before 2023, when Tinubu was sworn in, the World Bank noted at the time. Widespread insecurity from armed groups — especially in the north, where a large bulk of the country's food is grown — is "another risk to people and economic activity", the IMF said. According to the latest official figures, inflation accelerated to an annual rate of 15.7 percent in April, a five-month high. Analysts attributed the increase partly to higher fuel prices linked to the ongoing war in the Middle East. Economic growth is projected to reach 4.1 percent this year, after four percent in 2025. The IMF warned that while higher costs of food, fertiliser and fuel could boost Nigeria's revenues — the country is Africa's largest oil producer — they could also intensify inflationary pressures on poor households, "potentially aggravating poverty and food insecurity". IMF's statement comes less than a year before Nigeria heads to the polls in January, as President Tinubu seeks re-election for a second term.

Where is the balance?" Peter Obi challenges Tinubu over N14.48trn unspent capital funds

The 2027 presidential candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress, NDC, Peter Obi, has accused President Bola Tinubu's administration of "remarkably imprudent borrowing" and demanded accountability for funds borrowed but not deployed to capital projects. In a statement on his X handle, Obi said Nigeria's total debt has risen to approximately N200 trillion under Tinubu, an increase of over N100 trillion in just three years. He contrasted this with the N49 trillion accumulated during Muhammadu Buhari's eight-year tenure, which he said would have projected to around N80 trillion by now. Citing data from the Federation Budget Office, Obi said the Tinubu government

borrowed N11.89 trillion in the first three quarters of 2025, Jan-Sept, exceeding the planned target of N10.34 trillion by N1.54 trillion. "Under a responsible and accountable government, such an overshoot would necessitate rigorous scrutiny and explanation," Obi stated. He added that only N3.10 trillion of the borrowed funds was allocated to capital expenditure within that period. This, he said, represents just 17.66% of the N17.58 trillion earmarked for capital projects, leaving a deficit of N14.48 trillion, or 82.34% unfunded. "Where is the money?". "The most disturbing aspect is that there is no explanation regarding how the balance was utilized or deployed," Obi wrote. He asked: "What happened to the balance? Was it deployed for recurrent expenditure/consumption, for the entertainment of guests to Aso Rock, or transferred to the Renewed Hope Agenda 2027 election campaign fund? Nigerians deserve an answer." Obi said millions of Nigerians are grappling with the shock of unsustainable debt amid "a profound absence of accountability and transparency" in fund utilization. He concluded: "A New and Productive Nigeria is Possible, and Nigeria will be OK!"

Declare National Security Emergency Now, Northern Elders Tell Tinubu.

The Northern Elders Forum (NEF) has called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to immediately declare a national security emergency, warning that worsening insecurity across the country is pushing Nigeria towards a dangerous situation. The forum said urgent and extraordinary measures were needed to halt the spread of violence, kidnappings, banditry and other criminal activities threatening national stability. In a statement issued and signed by its spokesperson, Prof. Abubakar Jiddere, the group expressed concern over what it described as the continuing collapse of security across the country. The forum said millions of Nigerians now live in fear as criminal groups continue to attack communities, abduct citizens and operate with increasing boldness. "The Northern Elders Forum expresses its deepest outrage and concern over the relentless collapse of security across the Federal Republic of Nigeria," the statement read. "No nation can claim progress when its citizens live in fear, its communities are under siege, and criminal elements operate with increasing boldness while millions of law-abiding citizens remain vulnerable." The group cited Section 14(2)(b) of the Constitution, which states that the security and welfare of citizens remain the primary responsibility

of government. According to the forum, many Nigerians are increasingly questioning the government's ability to protect lives and property amid growing attacks by kidnappers, terrorists, bandits and other criminal groups. The NEF noted that Nigeria had faced several security challenges since independence, including the Civil War, the Maitatsine uprisings, militancy in the Niger Delta and the Boko Haram insurgency.

N110bn lawmakers' vehicle, allowance spending illegal — Court

The Federal High Court in Lagos has declared unlawful the National Assembly's controversial N110 billion expenditure on vehicles and allowances for lawmakers, ruling that the spending violated procurement regulations, constitutional provisions and principles of public accountability. Justice Yellim Bogoro delivered the judgment in Suit No. FHC/L/CS/1606/2023 filed by the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) against the National Assembly leadership.

The court specifically faulted the planned expenditure of N40 billion for the procurement of 465 vehicles for lawmakers and N70 billion in support allowances for newly elected members of the National Assembly. In the judgment delivered on May 6, 2026, the court held that the spending lacked evidence of due process and failed to meet statutory procurement requirements. "Looking at the magnitude of the expenditure, coupled with the absence of demonstrable due process, leads me to conclude that the procurement is arbitrary, disproportionate and inconsistent with statutory procurement standards," Justice Bogoro ruled. The judge further held that the lawmakers who approved the expenditure were also direct beneficiaries, describing the arrangement as a case of self-dealing and conflict of interest. "The beneficiaries of the expenditure are the very officials approving it, and the expenditure confers direct pecuniary and material benefits. This constitutes a case of self-dealing and conflict of interest," she stated. Justice Bogoro also cited the prevailing economic hardship in the country, noting that allocating N110 billion for lawmakers' benefits demonstrated a failure to prioritize national interests. "The allocation of N110 billion for the benefit of lawmakers undermines the fiduciary duty owed to the Nigerian people. Public office must not be used for personal enrichment," the court held. The court rejected arguments by the defendants that the matter was protected by legislative autonomy, stressing that the doctrine of separation of powers cannot be used to shield unlawful conduct from judicial scrutiny. According to the court, the expenditure breached provisions of the Public Procurement Act 2007, the Code of Conduct for Public Officers and the constitutional oath of office.

Justice Bogoro consequently ordered Senate President Godswill Akpabio and Speaker of the House of Representatives Tajudeen Abbas to ensure that all future procurement and expenditure by the National Assembly strictly comply with due process, transparency, accountability and value-for-money principles. The suit was instituted by SERAP in August 2023 after reports emerged that the National Assembly planned to spend N40 billion on 465 vehicles and N70 billion in allowances for newly elected lawmakers despite widespread economic challenges facing Nigerians. The court also affirmed SERAP's legal standing to bring the action, holding that public interest organizations have the right to institute cases aimed at promoting transparency and accountability in governance. Reacting to the judgment, SERAP Deputy Director Kolawole Oluwadare described the ruling as a major victory for accountability and prudent management of public resources. Human rights lawyer Femi Falana (SAN) also commended the decision, saying the lavish spending by lawmakers amid economic hardship could not be justified. The judgment is expected to reignite public debate over the cost of governance and welfare packages for elected officials in Nigeria.

19,980 Killed, 12,362 abducted since Tinubu took office

No fewer than 19,980 persons have been killed, while at least 12,362 others were abducted across Nigeria since President Bola Ahmed Tinubu assumed office in May 2023, a coalition of civil society organizations has disclosed. The coalition made the disclosure in a joint statement issued to commemorate the 9th National Day of Mourning themed "Nigerian Lives Matter." The statement, signed by 52 organizations, cited data collated from massatrocities.org, revealing that at least 1,486 security personnel were also killed in active service during the period under review. The coalition includes organizations such as Global Rights, BudgetIT, Centre for Social Justice, Centre for Transparency Advocacy, Centre LSD, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD), Citizens Advocacy for Social and Economic Rights (CASER), Clean Technology Hub, and CLEEN Foundation, among others. According to the report, at least 865 students have been abducted from schools across the country since 2023, while thousands of children remain displaced or out of classrooms, worsening Nigeria's education crisis. The groups also raised concerns over alleged extrajudicial killings and civilian casualties resulting from security operations, including repeated incidents of accidental airstrikes on civilian communities. They noted that the figures exclude casualties arising from conventional crimes such as armed robbery, stressing that the scale of killings and abductions reflects the severity of insecurity in a country "that insists it is not at war." "From insurgency and terrorist attacks to kidnappings and extrajudicial

killings, Nigerians across all regions continue to suffer violent attacks while perpetrators operate with boldness and impunity,” the statement read. The coalition argued that the continued violence points to deeper governance failures and a diminishing value placed on human life. “Communities are repeatedly attacked despite prior warnings and visible patterns of violence. Survivors are often left without justice, rehabilitation, compensation, or even acknowledgement from the state,” the organizations stated.

The groups further warned that insecurity is worsening food inflation as farmers are increasingly unable to access their farmlands safely, while schools continue to operate under fear of attacks and abductions. They also criticized what they described as a contradiction between the government's surveillance capabilities and its inability to dismantle kidnapping and ransom networks operating across the country. The coalition accused political leaders of prioritizing political calculations ahead of the 2027 elections instead of confronting the country's worsening insecurity. “We remind them that corpses do not vote and that the erasure of communities means those wards cannot record verifiable votes,” the statement added. The organizations explained that the National Day of Mourning was established as a citizen-led initiative to honour victims of violent killings and mass atrocities while demanding accountability from those constitutionally responsible for protecting lives and property.

Power crisis persists despite \$3.6bn World Bank support – Report

Nigeria's electricity challenges remain unresolved despite receiving over \$3.6bn in funding from the World Bank over the past two decades, a new report has revealed. An analysis of World Bank-backed power projects between 2001 and 2024 shows that a total of \$3.653bn was invested in efforts to stabilize the sector. These interventions covered transmission upgrades, rural electrification, renewable energy expansion, and reform programmes aimed at strengthening the industry. Key projects include the \$100m Transmission Development Project (2001), \$172m National Energy Development Project (2005), and the \$400m Nigeria Electricity and Gas Improvement Project (2009). Others are the \$145m Power Sector Guarantees Project (2014), \$486m Nigeria Electricity Transmission Project (2018), \$350m Nigeria Electrification Project (2018), \$750m Power Sector Recovery Programme (2020), \$750m Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up initiative (2023), and the \$500m Sustainable Power and Irrigation for Nigeria project (2024). Despite these investments, electricity supply across the country remains unreliable. Frequent grid collapses, weak transmission infrastructure, and generation shortfalls continue to affect millions of

households and businesses, many of which still depend on petrol and diesel generators. Experts attribute the persistent crisis to deep-rooted structural issues, including liquidity constraints in the power market, gas supply limitations, vandalism, policy inconsistencies, and inadequate investment. Recent World Bank programmes reflect a strategic shift towards decentralized and renewable energy solutions, particularly solar-powered electricity for underserved and rural communities. However, stakeholders say the impact of these initiatives has been slow and insufficient to meet national demand. The situation has also placed a heavy financial burden on businesses, with manufacturers and small enterprises spending significantly on self-generated power due to unreliable grid supply. In a related development, the Federal Government recently cancelled \$717.7m in undisbursed funding under a \$1.52bn World Bank-backed Power Sector Recovery Programme. According to official documents, the cancellation followed a joint decision by both parties after key reform targets were not met. The restructuring also brought forward the programme's closing date from June 2027 to May 31, 2026, effectively ending the initiative earlier than planned. Reacting to the development, a Professor of Energy at the University of Lagos, Dayo Ayoade, blamed corruption and weak governance for the sector's continued struggles. He warned that Nigeria's economy would keep suffering unless comprehensive reforms are implemented, noting that reliance on self-generation is both inefficient and costly for individuals and businesses. Ayoade called for a complete overhaul of the power sector, including the removal of electricity subsidies, improved transparency, and better management of resources. He also criticised the proliferation of agencies in the sector, urging the government to streamline institutions and plug financial leakages.

FG channels just 26% of N12trn loans to capital projects

The Federal Government utilized only N3.10trn for capital projects between January and September 2025, despite securing N11.89trn in debt financing during the same period, highlighting a significant gap between borrowing and infrastructure spending. Data from the third-quarter 2025 Budget Implementation Report released by the Budget Office of the Federation showed that total financing inflows comprised N7.08trn from domestic sources and N4.81trn from multilateral and bilateral loans tied to specific projects. However, actual capital expenditure stood at just 26.07 per cent of total borrowings, far below expectations. The figure also fell significantly short of the prorated target of N17.58trn for the first three quarters, leaving a deficit of N14.48trn, or 82.3 percent.

breakdown of the spending indicated that Ministries, Departments and Agencies accounted for N1.21trn, Government-Owned Enterprises spent N615.68bn, while grants and donor-funded projects contributed N1.08trn.

Notably, there was no recorded spending under multilateral and bilateral project-tied loans, despite a budget provision of N2.52trn for such projects within the period. The Budget Office attributed the slow pace of capital project execution to administrative hurdles and cash management constraints, including delays in bottom-up cash planning, which it said continue to hamper implementation and increase project costs. Economic analysts have raised concerns over the trend. The Chief Executive Officer of the Centre for the Promotion of Private Enterprise, Muda Yusuf, warned that rising government borrowing is crowding out private sector access to credit, as financial institutions prefer investing in government securities with higher returns and lower risk. Similarly, the Director-General of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Segun Kadir Ajayi, noted that the pattern reflects a growing reluctance by banks to lend to businesses, particularly in the manufacturing sector, which has been forced to scale back expansion due to high borrowing costs and weak economic conditions. Responding to concerns about the country's debt profile, the Director-General of the Budget Office, Tanimu Yakubu, defended the government's borrowing strategy, describing deficit financing as a standard economic tool used globally to stimulate growth, especially during periods of economic strain. He argued that Nigeria's fiscal challenges stem from longstanding structural issues such as dependence on oil revenue, subsidy burdens, and weak revenue mobilization, rather than current policies alone. He also stressed the need for improved revenue generation and more efficient use of borrowed funds. Meanwhile, the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Taiwo Oyedele, cautioned that the country must reduce its reliance on borrowing and develop a more sustainable fiscal framework to support key sectors, including infrastructure, education, healthcare, and security. The wide gap between borrowing and actual capital spending underscores ongoing challenges in Nigeria's budget implementation process.

CAN blasts Tinubu Govt, Nigerians are suffering

Eid Al-Adha, is meant for celebrations in the Islamic calendar, but with practical indications of little merrymaking even among many Muslims in different parts of the country, the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) pointed a finger at the federal authorities for the dire hardship being faced by majority ordinary Nigerians. In a statement on the occasion of Sallah (Eid Al-Adha), CAN told the President Bola Tinubu administration, without mincing words, that the socio-economic state of most of the people it is governing is indeed more precipitous than less. President Tinubu has routinely counseled Nigerians to continue to exercise patience as his administration is aware of what they are going

through, insisting that light at the end of the tunnel has come. But, apparently pushing back against the government's position on the matter, CAN, in the message signed by its National President, Archbishop Daniel Okoh, thumbed down such assertion as it does not tally with the hard realities on ground. Dismissing the usual resort to statistics, CAN stated that many Nigerians have stopped quantifying the hardship through such figures, numerals, and similar data, as the hard experiences are diametrically opposite. CAN pointed to irregular meals, owed or unpaid school fees, failed businesses and restless nights by Nigerians as signs that the grinding dust of poverty being experienced by them is no little matter. Painting graphic pictures of what Nigerians are going through, the Christian body stated: "Currently, many Nigerians do not assess hardship through statistics but through the reality of missed meals, unpaid school fees, shuttered businesses, and sleepless nights. "Families are grappling with the escalating cost of living. "Farmers are leaving their lands out of fear, while small enterprises are failing under economic strain. "Young individuals are increasingly anxious about their futures, and insecurity continues to loom over numerous communities. "In such times, the profound significance of Eid-el-Kabir becomes even more crucial." Urging a change of style in leadership, CAN noted: "Sacrifice should not solely be a burden borne by ordinary citizens; leadership must also embody sacrifice through integrity, moderation, service, compassion, and a visible commitment to the welfare of the populace." Advocating further for a U-turn, CAN implored government, politicians, the clergy, security agencies and other leadership stakeholders to use the occasion of Sallah to reinvent and do the needful to restore public trust. It stated: "This is a critical moment for leaders in government, politics, business, security agencies, and religious organizations to set aside apathy, blame-shifting, and self-serving interests, and concentrate on the urgent need to restore public trust and alleviate the hardships faced by millions of Nigerians." Apparently taking a swipe at the government's Renewed Hope mantra, criticized by many as not deep-affecting enough, given the steepening profile of poverty in the land, CAN said: "Nigerians require tangible hope, not mere promises that have lost their credibility. "Therefore, this season should act as a moral summons to conscience for all those in positions of authority. "Public trust cannot be reestablished through rhetoric alone; citizens seek leadership that listens, takes action, and is prepared to share in the sacrifices that ordinary individuals endure daily." The body maintained that Eid Al-Adha is a fundamental reminder of faith, obedience, sacrifice, and devotion to Almighty God.

NLC blasts govt. over hunger, insecurity, poverty

The Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, has accused the government at all levels of failing Nigerians through policies that have worsened hunger, poverty and insecurity across the country. In its Eid-el-Kabir message to Muslim faithful, the NLC lamented that millions of Nigerians were “bleeding under the weight of neoliberal policies”, insisting that worsening hardship and insecurity reflected poorly on the nation's leadership and governance model. In a Sallah message by its president, Joe Ajaero, the NLC said, “On behalf of the leadership of the Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, we wish all our Muslim brothers and sisters all over the world, especially in Nigeria, a happy Sallah celebration. “As we mark Eid-el-Kabir, a festival of sacrifice and obedience, the NLC reminds all Nigerians that this celebration should be different. The working class and the poor majority are bleeding under the weight of neoliberal policies, which, fortunately, have been widely acknowledged by our leaders. Our policy choices should then reflect this right understanding by placing workers over capital and people over profit. “We demand that those who govern us use this period for serious introspection about the impact of their policy choices. Governance is not about winning in the media or wishful thinking. It is about the security of lives and properties and the provision of basic necessities of life: food, shelter, healthcare, education, and decent work. “The worsening insecurity that now threatens the existence of our nation – from banditry to kidnapping, from herdsman bloodshed to urban violence – is a direct indictment of our governance model. Nothing can hide the fact that millions cannot sleep with their eyes closed, nor can they travel our roads freely without fearing for their lives. “The situation requires our continued sacrifice and unity as workers and people to build a nation that works for all. However, leaders ought to lead this charge for greater sacrifice and not gorge themselves full while demanding sacrifice from workers and masses who are already suffering. “This season demands that our leaders search themselves and decide to work for a Nigeria that will work for the majority and not for the few who occupy high public offices. “Furthermore, as the horizon draws nearer to the 2027 general elections, the NLC wishes to serve notice that the Nigerian working class and the progressive masses are watching. We shall not forget the promises not kept, the brutalization of peaceful protesters, and the deliberate impoverishment of workers under the guise of policy hard choices. “2027 must not be another theatre of elite-managed deception. It must be a moment of reckoning, a moment when workers, peasants, unemployed youth, and petty traders use their collective numerical strength and their ballots to reject every anti-people candidate and party. “We call on all Muslims, workers, and indeed all Nigerians to use this period not only for prayer but also for political education, grassroots organizing, and the building of a united front of the oppressed. The labour movement will not stand idly by while the ruling class auctions the

future of our children. “We are entering a phase where every vote must be a weapon against hunger, insecurity, and exploitation.”

Nigeria cancels \$717.7m World Bank power loan as reforms stall

The Federal Government has cancelled \$717.7 million in undisbursed World Bank financing for the power sector after failing to meet key reform conditions. The cancellation affects the remaining balance of the \$1.52 billion Power Sector Recovery Performance-Based Operation approved between 2020 and 2023. The World Bank confirmed on Tuesday May 26 that no further disbursements will be made following a joint agreement to terminate the programme. The initial \$752.5 million tranche, approved in June 2020, was fully disbursed and met its performance targets. It reduced tariff shortfalls by 71% from N581 billion in 2019 to N166 billion in 2022, improved regulatory cost recovery from 56% to 94%, and increased grid electricity supply by 13% between 2018 and 2021.

The additional \$763.5 million approved in June 2023 stalled due to unmet reform milestones. The World Bank said the programme became misaligned with Nigeria's realities after two major shocks: the liberalization of foreign exchange in June 2023, which raised gas costs for generation, and a freeze on electricity tariffs for most consumers. With over 70% of grid electricity gas-fired and priced in dollars, the changes severely strained sector finances. Persistent issues remain, including high technical and commercial losses in distribution, weak transmission capacity, underused generation assets, and inadequate cost recovery. These continue to create liquidity gaps across the power value chain. Accountant-General Dr. Shamseldeen Ogunjimi had warned that prolonged delays in loan approval and disbursement could lead Nigeria to reject future World Bank loans. He said delays beyond six months undermine project execution and fiscal planning. The World Bank has moved the programme's closing date forward from June 30, 2027, to May 31, 2026, ending the initiative more than a year early. The cancellation signals a shift in Nigeria's approach to power sector financing and highlights the difficulty of aligning international funding with rapidly changing domestic economic conditions. Many Nigerians have already registered their disenchantment and displeasure over the Federal Government collection of more loans citing lack of performance of previous loans which they claim is being diverted into areas that have not met the expectations of the people. They argued that these loans are being diverted by the Federal Government into projects and programmes that have failed to meet the yearnings and aspirations of Nigerians. Many also argued that these loans are being used to pamper political patronage and private pockets other than meeting genuine development needs of the people.

Banditry in Nigeria was created by APC Leaders for political gain — Adeniyi Alleges

A senior citizen and former Editor-in-Chief of the defunct Daily Times of Nigeria (DTN) Chief Tola Adeniyi, has said that the current insecurity situation backed by terrorism and banditry did not emerge by coincidence, but was primarily linked to political actions and power struggles that took place before the All Progressives Congress (APC) came to power in 2015. Chief Adeniyi, who was also former Managing Director of the Nigerian Tribune, said that some leaders of the APC had publicly admitted to inviting armed groups into the country as part of efforts to weaken the administration of former President Goodluck Jonathan. His statement has expectedly sparked fresh controversy on the matter as he also accused some prominent leaders of the APC of playing a role in the emergence and growth of banditry in Nigeria. Adeniyi, stated these when he featured on State Affairs, a podcast hosted by Edmund Obilo, spoke extensively about the country's worsening insecurity and political history. In his words; "All the leaders of the APC, all their prominent leaders said publicly that they invited bandits into this country to drive away former president Goodluck Jonathan". Adeniyi also claimed that the activities of armed groups operating across parts of Nigeria today were allegedly strengthened and encouraged by political interests. According to him; "So the bandits we have, by their own ambition, were created, enhanced and influenced by the APC". He specifically criticized comments previously made by some political figures advocating reconciliation with repentant bandits, stressing that such positions raised concerns about the relationship between politicians and armed groups. Adeniyi further said; "That is why some APC leaders or their agents will say bandits are our brothers; when they repent, we will re-absorb them". While referencing the 2014 abduction of schoolgirls from Chibok, Borno State, Adeniyi opined that the scale of the incident suggested possible internal collaboration, saying that Nigerians were told that when bandits needed women, they went to Chibok and they were given 360 girls. Adeniyi said; "There was no way 360 girls would be taken away from anywhere on earth without government involvement. It's not possible". While referencing a statement usually attributed to former Head of State, General Sani Abacha, suggesting that prolonged insurgencies usually indicate some level of government complicity, Adeniyi noted that there was nothing to add than to believe.

Insecurity: We must tell ourselves truth in the North — Lamido

The chieftain of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) attributed the rising insecurity to poor leadership and collapse of moral upbringing in the region. At least 70 local government areas across six states in northern Nigeria faced bandit attacks between 2024 and 2025, with over 4,700 people affected. But during the interview, the former minister argued that establishment of state police could help tackle insecurity more effectively in the region, but emphasized adequate training and discipline must be prioritized. He said, "Where are Boko Haram members and bandits coming from? They are our children from the North, they were not thrown from the sky, they are among us, and today they seem stronger than us because of moral decay. The fault is ours, and we must fix it, starting from the foundation and proper upbringing at home." Lamido added that parents, political and religious leaders from the region must set aside their political and sectarian differences to confront the insecurity challenge. "Someone will say Izala, another Qadiriyya, someone else this and that. This one says APC; another says PDP. We are busy talking politics, while this menace continues to confront us. "There is nowhere in the world where what is happening in Nigeria is acceptable. Of course wars are being fought in different places. But there is always a reason behind them, whether to defend religion, or country. Here, however, the bloodshed defies every description. There is absolutely no justification for it. "This has been happening for almost ten years. A human being, whether a Muslim or your neighbour, has become a commodity for transaction. We are at a critical juncture in the North. We must wake up and do something substantial to address the issue or face the consequences. Today political activities have overshadowed everything in the North. Politics on what? Politics in a land plagued by madmen, kidnappers or bandits? What is the essence of power? You are governor in Katsina, Sokoto or Zamfara, yet criminals have taken over your people. Where is the power? In diplomacy, if you cannot protect your people, whoever controls them has become their leader. The rogue simply becomes the governor. "If it were an Igbo man or Yoruba man or a Christian, we could perhaps argue differently. But this madness is happening among us. Such lawlessness is hardly unimaginable anywhere in the world. Someone can invade your home, rape your wife and abduct you, only to regain freedom after paying ransom. We have drifted far from the natural order of humanity as ordained by God. "Look at our children. During political campaigns, they came out carrying sticks and all kinds of weapons. Is this how it is done in Ghana, Niger Republic or England?" According to Lamido, People from the region must tell themselves the truth to overcome the challenges.