

SERAP asks INEC to probe alleged N800bn FAAC diversion for APC campaign funding

SERAP asks INEC to The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project, SERAP, has urged INEC Chairman Prof. Joash Amupitan to investigate allegations that APC governors diverted N800 billion from Federation Account Allocation Committee funds for political and campaign purposes. In a letter dated May 16, 2026, SERAP asked INEC to “promptly, thoroughly, impartially, independently, transparently and effectively investigate” the claims and request full disclosure from the governors and APC on any campaign fund contributions, including donor identities and the lawful origin of funds. The group also called on INEC to collaborate with anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies to enforce sanctions where violations are found, including prosecution, fines and forfeiture of unlawful contributions. It urged the commission to review compliance with Section 91 of the Electoral Act on political and campaign financing. SERAP said the allegations “raise serious concerns about political finance transparency, electoral fairness, and the constitutional right of Nigerians to participate freely in their own government.” “The abuse of state resources for electoral advantage undermines democratic integrity and public trust,” deputy director Kolawole Oluwadare wrote. Citing Section 91 of the Electoral Act, SERAP noted that INEC can set donation limits, demand disclosure of contributions, and impose fines and forfeiture for violations. It gave INEC seven days to act or face legal action. The organization argued that large-scale public fiscal flows combined with weak transparency create a basis for INEC to activate its constitutional and statutory mandates ahead of the 2027 elections.

Nigeria's inflation hits 15.69% in April as food, transport costs climb

Nigeria's inflation rate ticked up to 15.69% in April 2026, driven by higher costs for food, transport, hospitality, and healthcare. The National Bureau of Statistics said headline inflation rose from 15.38% in March, pushing the Consumer Price Index to 138.3 from 135.4. Food and non-alcoholic beverages remained the biggest driver, accounting for 6.40 percentage points of the annual rate. Restaurants and hotels added 3.56 points, transport 1.70 points, and healthcare 1.21 points. Housing, electricity, education, and clothing also contributed. Food inflation hit 16.06% year-on-year, with staples like millet, yam flour, ginger, beef, garri, pepper, tomatoes, beans, and plantain leading the surge. Month-on-month food inflation eased slightly to 3.63% from 4.17% in March. Core inflation, which strips out farm produce and energy, stood at 15.86% annually. Services inflation was higher at 16.7% year-on-year. There's a silver lining on monthly trends:

headline month-on-month inflation slowed sharply to 2.13% in April from 4.18% in March. Core monthly inflation also dropped to 1.03% from 4.03%. State-level data showed wide variation. Sokoto had the highest annual inflation at 25.74%, followed by Bauchi and Zamfara. Edo, Borno, and Jigawa saw the slowest rises. Enugu posted the fastest food inflation, while Borno recorded the slowest. The April figure came in slightly below the 16.42% projection from the Financial Market Dealers Association, even as food and energy prices kept pressure on households.

Nigeria's Debt Hits ₦80.5 Trillion as Spending Outpaces Earnings

Nigeria's domestic debt has risen to ₦80.5 trillion as of the fourth quarter of 2025, reflecting growing pressure on public finances as government spending continues to rise faster than earnings. Fresh data from the Debt Management Office (DMO) shows that the figure represents a 3% increase quarter-on-quarter and a 14% rise year-on-year, driven mainly by continued borrowing to finance budget deficits. The Federal Government remains the dominant borrower, accounting for about 95% of total domestic debt, while state governments and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) make up the remaining share. Overall, domestic debt now represents about 54.8% of Nigeria's total public debt stock, showing a continued reliance on local borrowing to fund government operations. Officials say the increase is largely tied to efforts to finance the 2026 fiscal deficit, as government expenditure continues to outpace revenue from taxes, oil earnings, and other sources. So far in 2025, the government has raised about ₦2.6 trillion from the domestic debt market through bond issuances and treasury bills, underscoring its reliance on internal borrowing to bridge funding gaps. A breakdown of the debt structure shows that FGN bonds remain the largest component, rising to ₦63.6 trillion and accounting for nearly 79% of total domestic debt. Treasury bills also increased to ₦13.9 trillion, reflecting continued short-term borrowing to meet immediate financial obligations. Although Nigeria's domestic debt is still considered within sustainable limits—about 19% of GDP for the federal government and nearly 20% when state debts are included—fiscal pressures remain high. The Debt Management Office notes that this is still below the 33% GDP benchmark set as a sustainability threshold. However, concerns persist over the cost of servicing the debt. Government data indicates that by the first half of 2025, about 84% of federal revenue was used to service debt, with a significant portion going to domestic obligations. This leaves limited fiscal space for infrastructure, education, healthcare, and other critical sectors. Analysts say the situation highlights a growing fiscal imbalance, where government spending continues to exceed earnings, forcing increased borrowing and raising long-term concerns about debt sustainability. The Federal Government has expressed hope that ongoing tax reforms will improve revenue generation and reduce reliance on borrowing. However, experts stress that the success of these reforms will depend on effective implementation and stronger fiscal discipline.

Pressure builds on Nigeria's Economy as Foreign Reserves fall since March 2026

Nigeria's economy is facing renewed pressure as its foreign reserves continue to decline, moving closer to the projected \$47 billion level. The reserves, which serve as the country's "dollar buffer" for trade, debt payments, and currency stability, have been steadily falling in recent weeks after reaching a decade high earlier in the year. BusinessNG gathered that at its peak in February, Nigeria's reserves stood at about \$50.45 billion, the strongest level in more than ten years. However, since March, the trend has shifted downward, with the reserves dropping almost daily. The latest figures now place them at around \$48.6 billion. The decline is being driven by a combination of factors. One major reason is the Central Bank of Nigeria's ongoing intervention in the foreign exchange market. The bank has been selling dollars to support the naira and reduce volatility, but this naturally reduces the reserve stock. Another factor is Nigeria's regular debt obligations. The country continues to make external loan repayments, which are usually settled in dollars, further drawing down the reserves. At the same time, inflows from foreign investors have slowed, as global uncertainty—including geopolitical tensions such as the Middle East conflict—has made investors more cautious about emerging markets. With these pressures combined, some analysts, including Fitch Ratings, expect reserves could slide further to about \$47 billion by the end of the year. However, the Central Bank of Nigeria has projected a more optimistic outlook, suggesting reserves could recover to around \$51 billion if conditions improve. This difference in projections highlights the uncertainty surrounding Nigeria's external position. The outcome will largely depend on oil earnings, foreign investment inflows, and how aggressively the Central Bank continues to support the naira. For now, the steady decline in reserves signals a tightening financial environment. While the levels are still considered adequate, continued pressure could limit policy flexibility and increase sensitivity to global economic shocks

35 million Nigerians risk acute hunger in coming months — UN

The United Nations has warned that about 35 million Nigerians are at risk of acute hunger from June to August. The UN Humanitarian Country Team in New York City, United States, said Nigeria was facing a deepening hunger crisis, with millions at risk as the lean season approaches. "Nearly one in seven people, that is 35 million people nationwide in Nigeria, are likely to face acute food insecurity during this year's lean season, which runs from June to August," it said. The UN said the latest report makes Nigeria one of the world's largest hunger crises, with the burden falling overwhelmingly in the

northern part of the country. "If assistance is further delayed, millions of families will be forced to reduce meals further, sell assets, or withdraw their children from school with the long-term impact that we know it has," it said. Across North-west and North-east Nigeria, the UN said an estimated 6.4 million children are likely to be acutely malnourished this year. "Our partners and we are appealing for urgent funding to scale up life-saving assistance," the global multilateral body said. The UN said the already hyper-prioritized 516 million dollars Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for the year 2026 is just over 40 per cent funded. According to the latest humanitarian response plan report, only 215 million dollars out of the 516 million dollars have been received as of May 2026.

Nigeria's Security Outlook Improving Under Tinubu, Says Defence Minister Gen. Christopher Musa

Defence Minister Gen. Christopher Musa says Nigeria's security and national outlook are improving under President Bola Tinubu's leadership. Speaking in Abuja recently after commissioning the annex of Haam Legal Consult Services, Musa said Tinubu remains "fully committed to securing the nation and strengthening national development." He credited the President's consistent support for boosting the Armed Forces' capacity to tackle insecurity nationwide. Musa noted that the military is also working closely with the U.S. and other partner nations to address the country's security challenges. He assured Nigerians that the Armed Forces are working "tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of all citizens." The minister urged citizens to back the military, stressing that security is a collective responsibility. He called on Nigerians to remain vigilant, report suspicious activity, and stop aiding criminal elements. "If all Nigerians decide today that there will be no more support for criminals, I can assure you that within one month, these security challenges would largely become things of the past," Musa said. On leadership, he said Nigeria needs credible, visionary leaders with genuine passion for the country, not criminal-minded individuals. "We all travel outside the country and see how things work; it is all about leadership. Once we have purposeful leadership, things will change. Nigeria is changing," he said.

Musa also appealed to citizens to join politics and support leaders committed to nation-building, warning against ethnic, religious, and money-driven politics. Commending the new law firm, he said law, justice, and respect for human rights are vital to nation-building. "Without law and order, humanity cannot thrive, and no nation can command respect if its laws are not obeyed," he said. Head of Chambers Barrister Abdulsalam Ibrahim said the firm will provide services in land agreements, legal advisory, election matters, property management, contract reviews, real estate, and CAC registration.