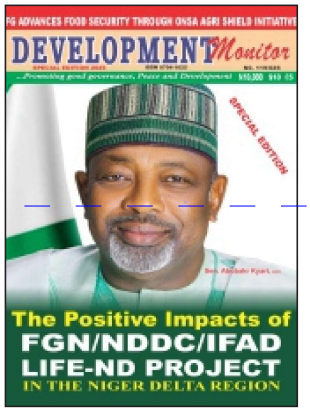
Dear Editor,

The people are suffering so who exactly is enjoying our resources



Imagine a mother watching her child suffer in a poorly equipped hospital while public money meant to improve healthcare disappears into a system nobody wants to explain. Imagine young people walking through terrible roads, unemployed and frustrated, while those entrusted with public resources enjoy privileges ordinary citizens can only dream of. This is where public service loses its meaning. Public office is not a personal business. Public money is not family inheritance. And government resources are not rewards for political loyalty. When public resources serve private interests instead of the people, poverty deepens, trust collapses, and injustice becomes normal. Citizens deserve answers. Communities deserve development. Those entrusted with public resources must be held accountable. A nation cannot rise when the people carry the burden while a privileged few enjoy the benefits. What should happen when those entrusted with public resources fail the people?

Dear Editor,

Bola Tinubu And Witch Craft Economics

Bola Tinubu took away the subsidy and the money that Nigerians were benefiting from, gave to Governors. We cried, but instead of alleviating our suffering, he told Nigerians that Governors now had more money and we should chase our Governors to reduce our suffering. Nigerians have been suffering since the very first day Tinubu came into office - "Subsidy is gone." Petrol was about ₦185/litre when Tinubu came into office. It went above ₦1,500/litre in many parts of the country. Food prices exploded. Transport costs increased. Businesses struggled. The cost of living became unbearable. Now, barely 100 days to the 2027 elections, after Nigerians have blacklisted this government, they suddenly want Nigerians to see cheaper fuel. Petrol discounts. A proposed ₦1,350 price ceiling. Suddenly, relief is possible. This is witchcraft economics and leadership. If you fall for this trap, you will cry blood until 2031. Nigerians must not allow temporary election-year relief to erase four years of economic hardship. Voting Bola Tinubu out in 2027 is a matter of national emergency. Nigerians must remember the pain. Nigerians must remember the failed promises. And Nigerians must vote accordingly. ***My name is Ajibola Okuromade, I am from Ekiti***

Obasanjo Slams Tinubu's Reforms, Says He Made Citizens 300% Poorer, Turned Nigeria into Poverty Capital of the World

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo has accused President Bola Tinubu of making every Nigerian poor by 300 per cent through the devaluation of the naira, saying the policy has turned Nigeria into "the poverty capital of the world." Obasanjo spoke at the Financial Times Africa Summit 2026 in London, United Kingdom. He said the naira lost its value overnight due to economic reforms undertaken by the Tinubu administration in 2023. The statesman argued, "We do not live in isolation as a country. We interact with the rest of the world. And overnight, you devalue the currency by 300 per cent. The naira went from N500 to a dollar to N1,500 to a dollar. What that meant was that every Nigerian is made poor by 300 per cent." Obasanjo said that had made Nigeria "the poverty capital of the world," which he said meant the country had the largest number of poor people in the world. "You cannot say to me that that is good for Nigeria. You cannot say to me that that is good for us in any sense," he noted. The former President also rejected the argument that Tinubu needed more time to complete his reforms, saying he did not see the economy improving. "For the economy, I don't see anything getting better. What policies are you seeing through? You impoverish your people, and you want to see impoverishment through?" he remarked. Obasanjo said the programmes Tinubu had put in place were "not in the best interest of Nigerians," adding, "Nobody can deny that." On the petrol subsidy, he said fuel affected "everybody and everything," but argued that a lot of what Nigeria called subsidy was corruption and should be tackled first. He said a country in a very bad economic situation must "curb corruption, wastefulness and unnecessary luxury and produce." Before the Central Bank of Nigeria unified the exchange-rate windows on June 14, 2023, the official exchange rate of the naira to the dollar stood at about N460.8 to the dollar. The naira fell 36 per cent against the dollar on the official market as the official rate became about N1,333.54 on October 19. However, it had fallen to a low of about N1,607.05 in early May 2025. In September, the National Bureau of Statistics said headline inflation stood at 14.63 per cent, down from 20.98 per cent a year earlier. However, food inflation stood at 19.59 per cent even as real GDP grew by 4.43 per cent in the second quarter. The Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Taiwo Oyedele, said on August 19 that subsidy removal saved N15.8trn between June 2023 and December 2025.

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Dear Editor

₦8.8 TRILLION IN THE DARK?

There are presidents who fail because they are weak. There are presidents who fail because they are unlucky. And then there is Bola Ahmed Tinubu, a president who has not failed at all, because failure implies he was trying to govern. The record now before Nigerians, certified this week by the International Monetary Fund itself, suggests something far darker: a presidency that succeeded brilliantly at the only project it ever truly pursued, the conversion of the Nigerian state into a private estate, managed in the dark, for the benefit of its landlord. On 1 July 2026, the IMF Resident Representative in Nigeria, Christian Ebeke, stood before business leaders in Lagos and delivered, in the dry dialect of multilateral finance, the most damning verdict ever passed on a sitting Nigerian government by an international institution. Public spending equivalent to about two per cent of GDP, roughly ₦8.8 trillion of a ₦441.5 trillion economy, was never recorded in Nigeria's official budgets. It was spent on large government projects executed outside the budget. It made the fiscal deficit look smaller than the borrowing that actually financed it. And, in the Fund's carefully chosen words, it raises concerns about procurement processes and oversight.

Strip away the diplomacy and hear what was actually said: the Government of Nigeria has been spending trillions of naira that appear in no budget, passed through no appropriation, faced no Auditor General, and answered to no one. No coup plotter ever seized the treasury so completely. No military decree ever suspended the constitution's money clauses so thoroughly. Sections 80 and 81 of the 1999 Constitution, the provisions that make every kobo of public spending the business of the people's representatives, have not been amended. They have simply been ignored, at a scale of ₦8.8 trillion, and the man who swore an oath to defend that constitution is the principal beneficiary of its suspension. This is why the title fits and must be said plainly. Not underperforming. Not controversial. The worst president Nigeria has ever had, because every previous failure, civilian or military, at least left the books intact enough to be judged. Tinubu abolished the books.

By Aare Amerijoye DOT.B Ikeja Lagos