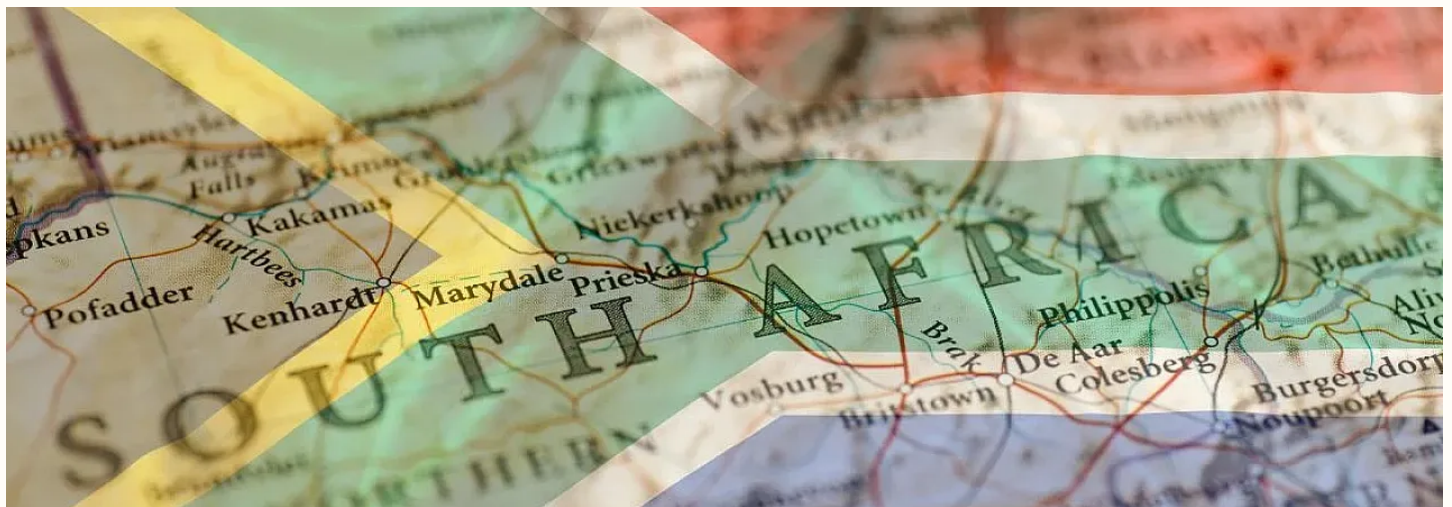


INTERNATIONAL

US Imposes Visa Restrictions Over South Africa Land, Race Policies

BY OLUWAGBOGO DADA



Washington has introduced new visa restrictions tied to South Africa, citing concerns over land policies and alleged racial discrimination, claims Pretoria has disputed.

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BUSINESS

Nigeria Inflation Falls to 15.39% in August 2026

Nigeria's headline inflation eased slightly to 15.39% in August, while monthly food inflation fell sharply, offering some relief from July's stronger price pressures.

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SECURITY

Police Tighten Security Over Threats to Schools, NYSC Camps

Security agencies have intensified surveillance around schools, NYSC orientation camps and places of worship following intelligence warning of possible coordinated terrorist attacks.

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POLITICS

ITURA 2027: Pelumi Takes 'New Voice' Message to Oriade, Obokun, Challenges 24-Year Political Order

Pelumi Olajengbesi is positioning ITURA 2027 as a new chapter for Oriade and Obokun, arguing that after decades of familiar representation, the constituency deserves a fresh voice in Abuja.

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INTERNATIONAL

US Imposes Visa Restrictions Over South Africa Land, Race Policies

BY OLUWAGBOGO DADA · 2 MIN READ



The United States has announced a new visa restriction policy targeting foreign nationals it says are responsible for or involved in policies enabling uncompensated land seizures, racial discrimination or incitement of violence against minority groups in South Africa. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced the measure on Tuesday, September 15, saying Washington believed the South African Government had failed to adequately address concerns previously raised by the Trump administration. The policy is being introduced under Section 212(a)(3)(C) of the US Immigration and Nationality Act, which allows the Secretary of

State to declare a foreign national inadmissible where their entry could have serious consequences for US foreign policy. According to Rubio, the restrictions can apply to people Washington considers responsible for or complicit in implementing laws or policies that permit uncompensated land expropriation, race-based discrimination or incitement of imminent violence against racial or ethnic minorities. Certain immediate family members of affected individuals may also fall under the restrictions. The announcement represents another escalation in already strained relations between Washington and Pretoria. The Trump administration has repeatedly criticised South Africa's land

reform programme and policies designed to address racial inequality, arguing that some measures discriminate against Afrikaners and other minorities. South Africa has strongly rejected that interpretation. President Cyril Ramaphosa's government has maintained that the country's Expropriation Act is intended to provide a constitutional framework for land reform and does not amount to arbitrary confiscation of private property. South African authorities have also said no land was confiscated following the passage of the legislation and that land acquired for restitution and redistribution had continued to be handled through legal processes. South

Africa's land question remains deeply connected to the country's history of apartheid and racial dispossession. The government says land reform is intended to address historical inequalities created when Black South Africans were denied ownership and access to large areas of land. Pretoria argues that the Expropriation Act provides legal safeguards while allowing the state to pursue redistribution and public-interest projects under the country's Constitution. Washington, however, has taken an increasingly confrontational position. Rubio said the United States remained concerned about what it considers discriminatory legislation, possible uncompensated expropriation and inflammatory

rhetoric targeting minority communities. He said such actions could undermine economic stability, the rule of law and US foreign-policy interests. The South African Government has previously described similar allegations from the United States as inaccurate and based on misinformation, while insisting it remains committed to engagement with Washington.

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BUSINESS

Nigeria Inflation Falls to 15.39% in August 2026

BY OLUWAGBOGO DADA · 2 MIN READ



Nigeria's headline inflation rate eased to 15.39 per cent in August 2026, down slightly from 15.43 per cent in July, according to the latest Consumer Price Index report from the National Bureau of Statistics. The decline represents a modest 0.04 percentage-point drop month-on-month, but the August figure is significantly lower than the 23.14 per cent recorded in the same month of 2025. On a month-on-month basis, inflation also slowed sharply. Consumer prices rose by 0.71 per cent in August, compared with 1.57 per cent in July, indicating that prices were

still increasing, but at a slower pace. That distinction is important for households. A lower inflation rate does not mean prices have started falling across the economy. It means the pace at which prices are rising has reduced. Food prices, which remain one of the biggest concerns for Nigerian households, also showed signs of easing. Food inflation stood at 19.57 per cent year-on-year in August, compared with 25.30 per cent in August 2025. More significantly, monthly food inflation dropped to 1.02 per cent in August from 5.56 per cent in

July, according to the NBS data. The bureau attributed the moderation partly to changes in the prices of items including palm oil, pepper, onions, cassava flour, beef, yam flour, water yam, fresh fish, Irish potatoes, wheat grain, frozen chicken and turkey meat. Food and non-alcoholic beverages remained the largest contributors to overall inflation, accounting for 6.16 percentage points. Restaurants and accommodation services contributed 1.99 percentage points, transport added 1.64 points, while housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels contributed 1.30 points. Core inflation, which excludes volatile agricultural produce and energy

prices, also moderated. It stood at 13.29 per cent year-on-year, compared with 22.93 per cent in August 2025. On a monthly basis, core inflation was recorded at -0.06 per cent, compared with 0.15 per cent in July. Inflation, however, continued to vary significantly across states. Lagos recorded the highest headline inflation rate at 23.68 per cent, followed by Zamfara at 22.56 per cent and Enugu at 22.06 per cent. Sokoto, at 2.11 per cent, recorded the lowest headline inflation rate. For food inflation, Adamawa recorded the highest rate at 38.85

per cent, followed by Zamfara at 37.96 per cent and Bayelsa at 36.20 per cent. Urban inflation stood at 15.88 per cent, while rural inflation was lower at 14.23 per cent. However, rural prices rose faster during August, with month-on-month inflation increasing to 1.79 per cent, while urban monthly inflation slowed to 0.28 per cent.

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SECURITY

Police Tighten Security Over Threats to Schools, NYSC Camps

BY OLUWAGBOGO DADA • 2 MIN READ



The Nigeria Police Force has directed commands and specialised formations across the country to strengthen security around schools, National Youth Service Corps orientation camps, places of worship and other vulnerable locations following intelligence indicating possible coordinated terrorist attacks. The heightened security measures come as schools resume for the 2026/2027 academic session, raising concerns over the safety of students, teachers and other members of the public at locations considered vulnerable to attack. According to a security communication circulated among police formations, intelligence available to the Force Department of Operations indicated increased

mobilisation by terrorist elements and possible reconnaissance of potential targets. The alert identified schools, places of worship, NYSC orientation camps and other vulnerable public locations among facilities requiring increased security attention. Police commanders were consequently directed to intensify intelligence-led surveillance, patrols, stop-and-search operations and rapid-response arrangements around sensitive locations. Commissioners of Police were also instructed to strengthen monitoring at state boundaries, major entry and exit routes and other strategic locations to restrict the movement of armed groups. The communication was reportedly circulated to Assistant Inspectors-General of Police overseeing the country's

police zones, Commissioners of Police, Mobile Police formations, counter-terrorism units and other specialised commands. Intelligence referenced in the communication also indicated possible movement of armed elements from Katsina through Kaduna towards Plateau State. Suspected members of the Islamic State West Africa Province and local collaborators were also reported to be conducting surveillance and reconnaissance of possible targets. The claims concerning specific terrorist movements remain intelligence assessments and do not establish that an attack will necessarily occur. The Defence Headquarters has acknowledged the security concerns, saying it is monitoring developments. Director

of Defence Media Operations, Maj. Gen. Michael Onoja, said the military was keeping watch on the situation. The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps has also strengthened intelligence operations around educational institutions following the resumption of schools. NSCDC spokesperson Babafemi Afolabi said state commands and tactical formations had been placed on heightened vigilance, with intelligence networks strengthened around schools. He said the corps was working with other security agencies, communities and private security personnel to improve information gathering and response. Parents and school communities have also been urged to remain

alert and report suspicious persons, vehicles or unusual movements to security agencies. The renewed security measures come amid wider concerns over attacks and abductions targeting educational institutions and vulnerable communities in different parts of Nigeria. In May 2026, students and teachers were abducted during attacks on schools in Oriire Local Government Area of Oyo State. Security agencies have since repeatedly emphasised the need for stronger early-warning systems and coordinated protection of schools.

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POLITICS

ITURA 2027: Pelumi Takes 'New Voice' Message to Oriade, Obokun, Challenges 24-Year Political Order

BY OLUWAGBOGO DADA · 3 MIN READ



For more than two decades, the representation of Oriade and Obokun Federal Constituency at the House of Representatives has revolved around one familiar political name.

Now, Pelumi Olajengbesi is entering the 2027 contest with a different proposition: that longevity in office should no longer be enough, and that the constituency should begin a new chapter built around younger leadership, stronger community engagement and representation residents can feel beyond election periods.

The Ijebu-Jesa-born lawyer, who emerged as the Accord Party candidate for the constituency in May, has branded the movement ITURA 2027, positioning himself as a new voice against what he has repeatedly described as 24 years of recycled leadership and underperformance.

Olajengbesi has argued that after such a long period of representation, residents should be able to point more easily to the impact of their representative in their communities, particularly in infrastructure, opportunities for young people and the general development of Oriade and Obokun.

His candidature is not, however, beginning from political obscurity.

Olajengbesi previously contested for the seat in 2019 and has remained active in grassroots mobilisation. He is also the convener of the Imole Grassroots Mobilisation Network and served as spokesperson of The Imole Campaign Council (TICC) that worked for Governor Ademola Adeleke's re-election.

That grassroots network became especially visible ahead of the 2026 Osun governorship election, when plans were unveiled for 10,000 canvassers across Ijesa North.

The August governorship election subsequently produced numbers that Olajengbesi has publicly cited in discussing the 2027 race.

In Oriade Local Government, Accord polled 21,343 votes, compared with 14,863 votes for the APC, according to the officially collated governorship results.

Across Oriade and Obokun combined, Olajengbesi later said Accord finished 2,383 votes ahead of the APC, a result he has pointed to as evidence that his party already has significant electoral strength across the federal constituency.

A governorship election is different from a House of Representatives contest, but the result gives the Accord candidate a political structure and voter base to build upon rather than starting his campaign from scratch.

Olajengbesi's aspiration has also received public backing from members of the Ijesa North Traditional Rulers' Council.

At a town hall meeting in Iloko-Jesa in July, the council expressed confidence in his ability to represent Oriade and Obokun at the National Assembly and offered prayers for his ambition.

For the ITURA campaign, that support adds another layer to a strategy already combining grassroots mobilisation, youth participation and an argument for political renewal.

Olajengbesi has repeatedly said the constituency requires a fresh generation of leadership capable of understanding the aspirations of younger residents while remaining connected to traditional communities, elders, farmers, traders and other groups whose expectations from government are often straightforward.

They want representation that produces visible results.

At the centre of the race is veteran lawmaker Oluwale Oke, whose lengthy association with the seat has become one of Olajengbesi's biggest campaign arguments.

Olajengbesi has described the existing political arrangement as one that has lasted too long without producing, in his assessment, development equal to the number of years invested in the same representation.

His campaign is therefore trying to make 2027 about more than personalities.

It wants residents to compare the past with what they expect from the next phase of representation.

For Olajengbesi, that means turning ITURA from a political slogan into a promise of a more accessible representative, stronger grassroots connection and a louder voice for Oriade and Obokun in Abuja.

The 2027 election will ultimately decide whether residents accept that proposition.

But Olajengbesi is entering the race with advantages many challengers spend years trying to build: a party ticket, an existing political structure, traditional backing, grassroots organisers and recent electoral results his campaign can point to.

And his message, as he has framed it since declaring his ambition, remains straightforward: after years of familiar representation, Oriade and Obokun should have the opportunity to open a new chapter and test a new voice.

That is the argument ITURA 2027 is now taking from community to community.

SECURITY

Police Recover Second Body From Ile-Ife Motor Park, Move Probe to SCID

BY OLUWAGBOGO DADA · 2 MIN READ



The Osun State Police Command has recovered another corpse from Mayfair Motor Park in Ile-Ife, bringing the number of bodies recovered following Sunday's deadly violence at the park to two. Police spokesperson Abiodun Ojelabi confirmed that the body was discovered within the motor park and had been deposited at a morgue. The latest discovery comes after Olalekan Oyeyemi, an Accord Party chieftain popularly known as Emir Ajagunbade, was shot dead during violence at the park on Sunday, September 13, 2026. Police have now transferred the investigation to the State Criminal

Investigation Department, as efforts continue to establish what happened inside the park and identify everyone involved. Ojelabi also urged individuals whose names have surfaced in connection with the incident to report to the nearest police station rather than attempt to clear themselves through social media. He said the Commissioner of Police had directed that anyone found culpable should be apprehended and dealt with according to the law. The police have not publicly disclosed the identity of the person whose body was newly recovered. Authorities have also not stated the cause

of death or whether the individual died from gunshot injuries during Sunday's confrontation. The recovery therefore widens an investigation that initially centred on the shooting of Oyeyemi. His death had sparked tension in parts of Osun after reports linked the violence to an ongoing struggle surrounding leadership and control within the state's transport sector. Governor Ademola Adeleke subsequently ordered security agencies to arrest those responsible and directed rival groups to vacate the affected motor parks. The governor also announced plans to reintroduce a Park Management System across Osun as part

of efforts to restore order to parks and garages. Police had earlier said they were investigating both the immediate and remote causes of the Ile-Ife incident and would bring anyone found responsible before the law.



BUSINESS

Police Assure Calm After Lagos Trade Fair Protest Over Chinese Retail Sales

BY OLUWAGBOGO DADA • 2 MIN READ



Traders at the Lagos Trade Fair Complex have protested the alleged expansion of some Chinese-owned businesses into direct retail sales, saying the practice is threatening local traders who depend on reselling imported goods. The demonstration, which took place within markets at the complex along the Lagos-Badagry Expressway, drew a response from the Lagos State Police Command on Tuesday, with security officials assuring traders, customers and foreign investors that the area remained peaceful. Videos from the protest showed traders carrying placards and calling for Chinese businesses they accused of selling directly

to final consumers to stop retail operations. One of the protesting traders said their concern was not the presence of Chinese businesses in Nigeria itself, but what they described as a movement from wholesale supply into the same retail market occupied by Nigerian traders. According to the protesters, Chinese businesses enjoy direct access to manufacturers and suppliers in China, allowing them to import products and sell at prices local traders sometimes struggle to match. They argued that the situation could gradually push Nigerian retailers out of business. One trader said

some Chinese businesses had established warehouses and shops within the complex and were allegedly dealing directly with customers who would ordinarily purchase through local retailers. The protesters also insisted that the demonstration was intended to remain peaceful and that participants were not calling for attacks on Chinese nationals or destruction of their businesses. The allegations against the affected businesses have not been independently established, and no regulatory agency had publicly confirmed that the Chinese businesses accused by the protesters were operating outside the terms of their permits as of the

time of reporting. Reacting to the protest, Area E Commander, ACP Chike Oti, said there had been no violent confrontation at the complex. Oti, who spoke alongside Amuwo-Odofin Local Government Chairman Lanre Sanusi, market officials, security personnel and representatives of the Chinese community, described the situation as peaceful. He said those responsible for disrupting activities had been cautioned, adding that arrests could follow. President of the Auto Spare Parts and Machinery Dealers Association, Nnamdi Ngozi Emechebe, also described the incident as a limited protest and said market leaders had met

to address the concerns raised. The police response came after videos of the protest attracted attention online, particularly because some placards carried language demanding that Chinese traders leave the market. The wider complaint from protesters, however, centred on competition between foreign wholesalers and indigenous retailers rather than a reported physical clash.

■

EDUCATION

ASUU-SLUK Two-Week Warning Strike Takes Effect Today

BY OLUWAGBOGO DADA • 2 MIN READ



The Academic Staff Union of Universities at Sule Lamido University, Kafin Hausa, is entering a two-week warning strike from Tuesday, September 15, 2026, following the expiration of its ultimatum to the Jigawa State Government over unresolved staff welfare and funding demands. The strike takes effect under a resolution adopted by the ASUU-SLUK branch at its 54th Regular Congress on September 8 after members rejected the latest offer presented by the state government's negotiating team. The union had resolved that the industrial action would begin from midnight on September 15 if

its demands were not satisfactorily addressed. As of early Tuesday, no public announcement indicating that a last-minute agreement had been reached between the union and the Jigawa State Government had been found. The dispute centres partly on the implementation of the 2025 agreement between ASUU and the Federal Government, including a revised salary structure and arrears accruing from January 2026. The branch is also demanding payment of outstanding promotion arrears dating back to 2024, responsibility allowances, annual increments and third-party deductions. It has further called for the release of the



approved 2024/2025 Earned Academic Allowance. Another major point of disagreement is the payroll system used for the university. ASUU-SLUK wants Sule Lamido University exempted from the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Management System, arguing that the platform does not adequately address the institution's peculiarities. Funding has also featured prominently in the dispute, particularly disagreements over the statutory two per cent Local Government contribution to the university and the need for a sustainable funding arrangement for the state's other university. The Jigawa State Government had opened talks with the lecturers in an

effort to prevent academic disruption. A stakeholders' meeting involving the state's higher education authorities, Attorney-General, Accountant-General, ministry officials and the university's Vice-Chancellor was held as part of efforts to resolve the disagreement. However, the union subsequently said the government's proposal did not sufficiently address its concerns and maintained its September 15 strike date. ASUU-SLUK has warned that the two-week action could escalate into a total, comprehensive and indefinite strike if the state government's response remains unsatisfactory.

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