Court freezes Osun accounts over $13.9m arbitration award

By Nnamdi Ojiego

The Federal High Court in Lagos has ordered commercial banks to place a 'Post No Debit' restriction on accounts operated by the Osun State Government over a $13.9m arbitration award in favour of Gamji Nigeria Company Limited. Justice D.E. Osiagor issued the interim order following an application filed by Gamji through its counsel, Yunus AbdulSalam, SAN, in a suit marked FHC/L/CS/1233/2026. The company is seeking to preserve $13,924,343.32 and N157.5m which, it said, were awarded to it following an arbitration arising from water infrastructure projects in Ilesa West Local Government Area of Osun State.

The financial institutions named in the application include Guaranty Trust Bank, Access Bank, First Bank, Zenith Bank, United Bank for Africa, Ecobank, Fidelity Bank, Stanbic IBTC, Sterling Bank, Union Bank and Wema Bank, among others. Disputeoverwaterprojects According to an affidavit filed in support of the application, the dispute arose from two contracts awarded to Gamji by Osun State Government in June 2017 for water infrastructure works.

The projects involved the construction of transmission mains and booster pump stations under Slot 1, and water reservoirs under Slot 2, as part of a broader water supply and sanitation project in Ilesa West. Gamji said the projects were to be financed through a loan from the Islamic Development Bank, arranged by the Federal Ministry of Finance. The company said the original contract value for Slot 1 was about $15.98m, while Slot 2 was valued at approximately $9.70m. It alleged that changes to engineering designs, variations in the scope of work and variation orders resulted in delays and increases in the contract values. According to the affidavit, subsequent amendments raised the value of Slot 1 to about $20.24m and Slot 2 to approximately $10.95m. Gamji further claimed that about 93 per cent of the work had been completed by October 2023 and that the state government issued a Substantial Completion Certificate on November 14, 2024. Arbitration

The company said disagreements later arose over claims relating to extensions of time, price adjustments and increases in the cost of materials, labour and other inputs. Gamji said it submitted several claims which were rejected by the state government, prompting attempts by the parties to resolve the dispute through mediation. It said it subsequently issued an arbitration notice on April 3, 2025, while the state government accepted the arbitration process and nominated its arbitrator

The arbitration panel commenced proceedings, with a preliminary meeting held in Lagos on May 15, 2025. According to Gamji, the panel delivered its final award on July 24, 2026, ordering the Osun State Government to pay $13,924,343.32 and N157.5m described as reimbursable arbitration fees.

The company also said the award provided for interest at 20 per cent per annum on any outstanding portion of the debt after the stipulated compliance period. Gamji said the deadline for compliance expired on August 24, 2026, but that the awarded sums remained unpaid when it filed the court application. Court order.



TAGM – From left: Mrs. Oluwakemi Jafojo, Company Secretary; Mr. Patrice Alberti, Chairman; Mr. Marco Storari, Managing Director; Mr. Aliyu Abubakar, Director; Mrs. Priscilla Ogwemoh, Director and Mr. Matthew Akinlade, Director, during the MRS Oil Nig Plc 57th Annual General Meeting at the Company's Corporate Head Office, held in Apapa, Lagos.

Police arrest suspect for allegedly raping, impregnating minor

By Kingsley Omonobi

The FCT Police Command has arrested a man, identified as Zayyanu Halilu, for allegedly raping and impregnating a 12-year-old girl.

The suspect was arrested on October 2, 2026, by operatives of the command's Anti-Kidnapping Unit during a routine patrol around Airport Bridge Taxi Park in the Federal Capital Territory.

In a statement on Saturday, the command's spokesperson, SP Josephine Adeh, said officers noticed a fully tinted navy-blue Volkswagen vehicle with registration number KMC567LQ parked at the location with its windows wound up.

She said the officers became suspicious after observing that the vehicle was shaking.

"The officers, suspecting foul play, approached the vehicle and opened it, only to see one Zayyanu Halilu raping a 12-year-old minor.

"Following the discovery, the suspect was promptly arrested and the victim rescued," Adeh said.

She said preliminary investigations revealed that the suspect had allegedly lured and sexually abused the victim on several occasions in the same vehicle at the location, threatening to "deal with her" if she disclosed the abuse.

Adeh added that medical examination showed that the victim was about three months pregnant.

She said the victim was receiving medical care and assessment, while the suspect remained in police custody and would be charged to court after investigations.

Minor arrested over alleged viral hotel assault video in Delta

By Ochuko Akuopha

Operatives of the Delta State Police Command have arrested a 16-year-old boy in connection with the alleged viral sexual assault video of a 16-year-old girl at a hotel in Ughelli.

Recounting her ordeal in a video released by the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Bright Edafe, at the command's headquarters in Asaba, the victim said two boys, identified as Goodluck and Godstime, had sexual intercourse with her against her will.

She said a friend, whom she identified as Nicemoney, had asked her to meet him at a hotel.

According to her, she told him she had no money for transportation, but he assured her that her fare would be paid upon arrival.

She said that on getting to the hotel, Nicemoney told her that a friend would come out to pay her transport fare. After the fare was paid, she went into the hotel room with the boy.

She said: "On getting there, he said his friend would come out to pay my transport fare. The friend came and paid, and I went with him into the hotel room.

"I saw two other boys in the hotel room, but Nicemoney was not there. I called Nicemoney, and he said he was coming. One of the boys then slapped me and ordered me to take off my dress, which I did.

"They had sex with me and started recording me. I begged them to delete the video, but they said they would delete it if they had sex with me again.

"They had sex with me eight times, and I was begging."

The victim said she had informed the boys that she was menstruating, but they proceeded to have sex with her.

One of the suspects, Godstime, said they recorded the video because the girl was menstruating.

He also said he and his friend, Goodluck, had sex with the victim twice each.

Meanwhile, Edafe advised parents to ensure they could adequately care for their children, warning that failure to do so could create problems in society.

Nearly half of Lagos health facilities lack adequate infection control — GMDs

By Chioma Obinna

Nearly half of 415 healthcare facilities assessed in Lagos have inadequate infection prevention and control, IPC, systems, raising concerns over the preparedness of health facilities to contain emerging and re-emerging disease outbreaks.

The finding was disclosed by Dr Olayemi Daudu while speaking at the 2026 Scientific Conference of the Guild of Medical Directors, GMDs, Lagos Branch, held in Lagos with the theme, "Emergency Preparedness for Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases."

Daudu said 48.8 per cent of the 415 facilities assessed under the World Health Organisation, WHO, Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Framework, IPCAF, scored within the inadequate range, underscoring gaps that could compromise patient and healthcare worker safety during outbreaks.

She said the assessment covered 214 private and 201 public primary and secondary healthcare facilities between July and October 2023.

According to her, although private facilities performed better than public facilities in the assessment, neither sector had facilities that reached the advanced level of IPC preparedness.

She said: "Infection prevention is not a department or a department of activity, but a standard of care that is driven by governance, and we as directors are charged with that responsibility."

Daudu stressed that quality healthcare goes beyond treatment to include patient safety, warning that facilities without effective infection prevention systems could become amplifiers of disease outbreaks.

"Every major outbreak has shown the same thing. The hospital without an infection prevention and control system becomes an amplifier," she said.

She urged private healthcare providers to strengthen outbreak preparedness through effective triage and screening, designated isolation areas, referral pathways, surveillance, hand hygiene, surgical-site infection monitoring and antimicrobial stewardship.

She also called for stronger laboratory capacity, describing the laboratory as "the engine of infection control" because it enables healthcare providers to turn specimens into evidence-based clinical decisions.

Earlier, Chairman of GMDs Lagos Branch, Dr Omoniyi Fagbemi, said the choice of the conference theme was informed by the growing threat posed by emerging and re-emerging diseases.

Fagbemi recalled Nigeria's experience with Ebola in 2014, including the role played by the late Dr Ameyo Adadevoh and First Consultant Hospital, as well as the more recent re-emergence of diseases such as diphtheria.

Digital risks threaten funds, data, business decisions, IIA Nigeria warns

...Calls for appropriate regulation of AI

Nigerian organisations face growing risks from cybercrime, financial fraud and artificial intelligence, with funds, sensitive data and business decisions increasingly exposed to digital attacks and manipulation, the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Nigeria, has warned.

Chief Executive Officer of IIA Nigeria, Don Umeha, gave the warning at the institute's 2026 conference, themed, "Future-Proofing Assurance in Nigeria: Confronting Cybersecurity Threats, AI Complexity and Global Volatility."

Umeha said the shift from manual to technology-driven operations had improved productivity, speed and accuracy, but also created new vulnerabilities through weak passwords, intercepted transactions and manipulated records.

He urged organisations to identify and address vulnerabilities before they are exploited, rather than responding only after losses occur.

According to him, the growing use of AI has added another layer of risk, particularly where the technology is adopted without adequate controls.

He said internal auditors must move beyond reviewing past transactions to identifying weaknesses in policies, processes and transaction patterns and recommending preventive controls.

Umeha also called for appropriate regulation of AI, including clear rules and penalties for misuse, while urging young people to deploy the technology for productive purposes rather than fraud

The Board Chair of IIA Nigeria, Ibukun Beecroft, said the changing risk environment required internal auditors to take on a more strategic role.

Beecroft identified AI, cybersecurity, environmental, social and governance concerns, digital transformation and global volatility as key areas requiring greater professional preparedness. She said auditors should evolve from retrospective reviewers into trusted advisers who help management and boards understand risks before major decisions are taken.

2027: Akano urges youths to shun spectator role in elections

Aspirant for Eti-Osa Constituency I in the Lagos State House of Assembly, John Akano, has urged youths, particularly those in the constituency, to become active participants in the forthcoming general elections, saying they must jettison the spectator mentality.

Akano lamented that many young Nigerians had expressed concerns about governance, leadership, employment, education, security and infrastructure, among others, saying participating directly in elections was the only way to determine who represents them.

In a statement, he said the future of the country's democracy could not be separated from the active participation of young people, adding that their voices must be represented at the ballot box.

His words: "As we approach the forthcoming general elections, I wish to make a passionate call to the youths of Eti-Osa Constituency I, Lagos State, and Nigeria at large: our voices must not only be heard in conversations; they must be represented at the ballot box.

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