

Criticism as Tinubu heads for France in newly acquired \$100m aircraft

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President Bola Tinubu on Monday, traveled to Paris, France, in Airbus A330, drawing criticisms from Nigerians.

The aircraft left the capital Abuja for Nice, according to FlightRadar24. The model was purchased last month for \$100 million, according to Premium Times. It had been advertised on Aircraft24, a platform to buy and sell aircraft, according to Bloomberg.

Ajuri Ngelale, special adviser to the President on media and publicity, had, in a statement on Sunday night, said the President would be traveling to France, even though the purpose of the trip was not clear.

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Bloomberg reported that the president was going on a 'work stay.'

The new aircraft prompted an outcry from Nigerians on the social media, who felt the president is distanced from the people that he governs.

Nigeria faces a cost-of-living crisis, which triggered a protest that killed 22 persons in early August, according to Amnesty International.

Security forces have cracked down on protesters, prosecuting 1135 protesters, who were demonstrating against hunger and rising inflation in Africa's most populous nation.

About 63 percent of persons living within Nigeria (133 million people) are multidimensionally poor, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The National MPI is 0.257, indicating that poor people in Nigeria experience just over one-quarter of all possible deprivations, NBS said.

"Over half of the population of Nigeria are multidimensionally poor and cook with dung, wood or charcoal, rather than cleaner energy. High deprivations are also apparent nationally in sanitation, time to healthcare, food insecurity, and housing," the NBS said in its 2022 report.