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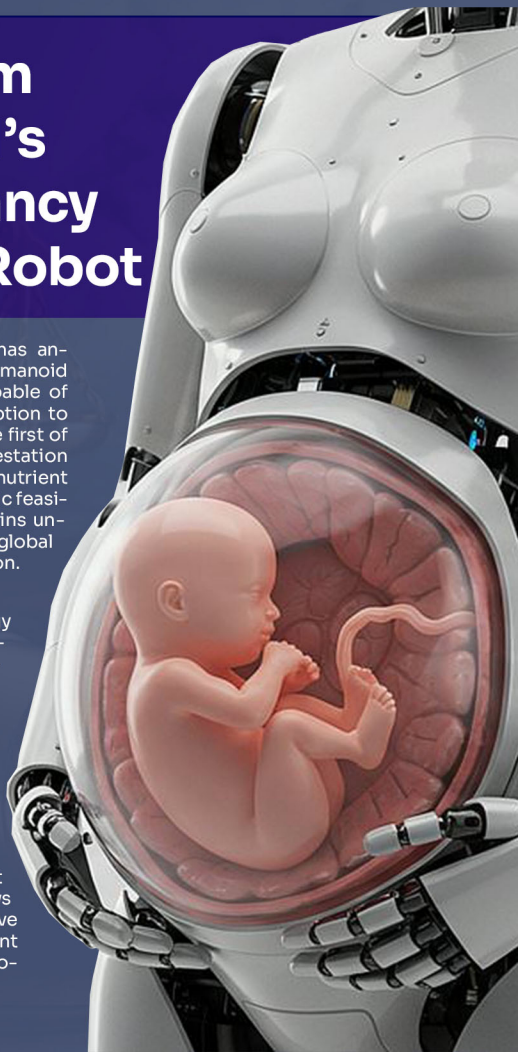
A black and white photograph of a statue of Lady Justice, blindfolded and holding a sword and scales. The statue is the central focus of the lower half of the image.

Q3 2025

Chinese Firm Plans World's First Pregnancy Humanoid Robot

A Chinese technology company has announced plans to develop a humanoid robot with an artificial womb capable of carrying a pregnancy from conception to birth. The project, described as the first of its kind, aims to replicate natural gestation using synthetic amniotic fluid and nutrient delivery systems. While the scientific feasibility of such a development remains uncertain, it has already sparked global debate on the future of reproduction.

When realised, this technology would have significant legal implications for Nigeria, where surrogacy is still largely unregulated. Questions would arise about the definition of motherhood, the allocation of parental rights, and the legal status of children born through artificial gestation. Without a clear framework, disputes over custody, inheritance, and family recognition could multiply. This highlights the urgent need for Nigeria to establish laws governing assisted reproductive technology to address both current surrogacy practices and future innovations.



Group Urges Regulation of Unhealthy Foods to Reduce Disease Burden

Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA) has called on the Nigerian government to introduce strong regulations on unhealthy foods. The group warned that high consumption of salty, sugary, and processed foods is driving non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and some cancers.

CAPPA stressed that protecting public health requires systemic changes, not just individual choices. The group recommended clear front-of-pack labelling to help consumers identify products high in salt or sugar and restrictions on marketing unhealthy foods, especially to children and other vulnerable groups.

Introducing strong regulations on unhealthy foods would align Nigeria's public health policies with global best practices and fulfil the government's duty to protect citizens' right to health. Mandating clear front-of-pack labelling and restricting the marketing of

high-salt or high-sugar products—particularly to children—would provide a legal framework to hold food companies accountable, curb deceptive advertising, and reduce the growing burden of non-communicable diseases.



Experts Call for Mandatory Maternal Death Audits and Reporting to Address Nigeria's Maternal Mortality Crisis

Health experts in Nigeria are advocating for sweeping legal and systemic reforms to curb the country's persistently high rate of maternal deaths. At a media briefing, officials from the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) called for a national maternal mortality audit underpinned by a coroner's law that would enforce mandatory autopsies for all maternal deaths. The aim is to generate accurate data on causes of death and improve prevention efforts. Currently, official statistics—largely drawn from tertiary hospitals—are misleading, as they fail to capture deaths occurring in primary or informal settings.

Similarly, gynaecologists have urged both federal and state governments to establish an enforceable national maternal death review and reporting system. They argue that mandatory reporting—and treating each death as a trigger for systemic investigation—will enhance accountability and curb negligence. Experts also highlighted the urgent need to



eliminate financial barriers to maternal healthcare and ensure emergency care infrastructure is accessible everywhere.

Mandatory maternal death audits, autopsies, and reporting would create a clear legal framework for accountability in Nigeria's health sector. Such laws would define hospitals' obligations to investigate and disclose every maternal death, improve data for policymaking, deter negligence by healthcare providers, and strengthen the protection of women's right to life—while adopting a no-blame approach that encourages learning and systemic improvement rather than punitive action.

Sanwo-Olu Calls on State Legislatures to Enact Laws for Sustained HIV Support

At the closing ceremony of the 7th National Council on AIDS in Lagos, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu urged Nigeria's State Houses of Assembly to prioritise the passage and enforcement of protective laws that ensure continued funding, end stigma, and expand inclusive service delivery for people living with HIV.

He emphasised that Nigeria must move from dependence on donor aid toward self-sustaining, coordinated, and strategic national HIV response systems.

In highlighting Lagos State's own reforms—like the Anti-Stigma Law, the integration of HIV services into general healthcare, and the establishment of an HIV Trust Fund—he aimed to showcase practical frameworks that other states could replicate.

Legalising mechanisms that mandate sustained HIV financing, enforce anti-discrimination, and support inclusive care would embed accountability into

Nigeria's healthcare system. Such legislation would shift HIV response from fragmented projects to structured, equitable, long-term interventions—laying a stronger legal foundation for public health resilience and rights protection.





U.S. Senate Protects PEPFAR Funding Amid Foreign Aid Cuts

The United States Senate has voted to keep funding for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), removing a proposed \$400 million cut from a larger spending reduction plan. The original \$9 billion rescission package, backed by President Donald Trump and House Republicans, aimed to slash foreign aid and public broadcasting budgets.

Senators from both parties agreed that PEPFAR has been critical in saving millions of lives and controlling HIV/AIDS worldwide, especially in Africa.

By safeguarding this funding, lawmakers signalled their commitment to global health programs even while making other budget reductions.

For countries like Nigeria, which benefit from PEPFAR support, the decision provides stability for HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs. It also underscores how legislative action in donor countries can directly impact public health outcomes abroad, highlighting the need for ongoing advocacy and legal frameworks that ensure long-term and self-sustaining health funding.

Public Hearing on National Agency for Malaria Eradication Bill Highlights Legal Considerations



At a National Assembly public hearing, stakeholders presented mixed opinions on the bill to create the National Agency for Malaria Eradication (NAME). The proposal, which has passed its second reading, seeks to centralise malaria control under a single, autonomous agency. Critics, including officials from the Ministry of Justice, NAFDAC, and the Malaria Technical Working Group, warned it could duplicate existing functions and conflict with ongoing public service reforms recommended in the Orosanye Report.

Supporters, such as the Environmental Health Officers Association (FCT) and Dr. Chioma Amajoh, argued that a dedicated agency would shift Nigeria's strategy from treatment to prevention and enable a more coordinated national response. The Senate Health Committee Chair, Senator Ipalibo Banigo, assured that all feedback will be carefully considered as the Bill advances.

The outcome of this hearing bears directly on how malaria eradication will be institutionalised in Nigerian law. If enacted, the Bill would formalise accountability, streamline policy leadership, and potentially strengthen health outcomes. Conversely, it also raises critical concerns about duplication of functions, bureaucratic complexity, and alignment with broader reform efforts, making thorough legal analysis essential as the Bill proceeds at the National Assembly.

Lagos to Enforce Mandatory Health Insurance from 2026

Lagos State will begin enforcing mandatory health insurance for all residents in early 2026. This follows an Executive Order signed by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu in 2024 to move the state closer to Universal Health Coverage. The Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) announced that over 865 accredited providers—including hospitals, dental and eye clinics, pharmacies, and diagnostic centres—are already onboard to deliver services under the scheme. LASHMA has also taken over claims vetting and service authorisation to improve oversight, and introduced a biometric system, in partnership with LASRRA, to verify enrollees and prevent fraud.

The enforcement of mandatory health insurance in Lagos aligns with the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) Act 2022, supporting its objective of achieving Universal Health Coverage across Nigeria.



Federal Government of Nigeria Unveils Roadmap to Standardise Traditional Medicine

At the 2025 African Traditional Medicine Day event in Abuja, the Federal Government introduced two key documents—the Strategic Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Traditional Medicine Policy and the Code of Ethics and Practice for Traditional Medicine Practitioners—to guide the regulation and integration of traditional medicine into the national health system.

The Ministry of Health also established a dedicated Department of Traditional, Complementary, and Alternative Medicine (TCAM), and has plans to revive the Federal College of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (FEDCAM) to train practitioners, develop the Nigerian Herbal Pharmacopoeia, and require all states and the Federal Capital Territory to create TCAM departments or boards. The roadmap promotes evidence-based practice, ethical standards, and partnerships with international organisations to strengthen Nigeria's phytomedicine industry and healthcare access.



Standardising traditional medicine under clear policies and a code of ethics provides a legal framework for regulating practitioners and products. It also aligns with Nigeria's broader health laws, reducing malpractice risks and creating enforceable standards that protect patients while supporting the growth of an accountable traditional medicine sector.

Nigeria to Strengthen Laws on Public Health Data Governance

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), working with Resolve to Save Lives, recently hosted a four-day workshop to review and improve the country's legal and regulatory approach to public health data governance. The meeting brought together experts from the health, legal, technology, and data protection sectors to examine how Nigeria manages and shares health data, especially during disease outbreaks.

Discussions focused on closing gaps in existing laws, making data sharing faster and more coordinated between federal and state authorities, and ensuring patient privacy is protected. Strengthening these legal frameworks is expected to improve epidemic preparedness, support secure information exchange, and build greater accountability within Nigeria's health system.

Clearer and stronger data governance laws will give public health agencies the authority and guidance they need to share

information responsibly while protecting individual rights. This will help Nigeria respond more effectively to health emergencies and align with global standards for health data management.



Reps Endorse Bill to Create National Hospital for Women in Imo

The House of Representatives has advanced a Bill seeking to establish a National Hospital for Women in Ideato, Imo State. The Bill aims to set up a specialised tertiary facility dedicated to women's reproductive and maternal health, with particular emphasis on preventing and managing obstetric fistula—a condition that continues to affect many women, especially in rural communities.

The envisioned hospital would provide treatment, preventive services, run public awareness campaigns, offer rehabilitation for affected patients, and serve as a centre for medical research and professional training. Lawmakers believe the initiative could enhance Nigeria's maternal healthcare capacity and potentially boost medical tourism.

Once enacted, the Bill would give legal backing to a specialised national institution focused on women's health. It would strengthen Nigeria's healthcare framework for reproductive rights, ensure statutory accountability for maternal care, and support policy-driven improvements in women's healthcare delivery.



NHIA Penalises Healthcare Facilities and HMOs for Service Lapses

In its 2024 Complaints Report, the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) revealed that it sanctioned 49 healthcare facilities and 47 Health Maintenance Organisations (HMOs) for failing to uphold service standards under Nigeria's health insurance schemes. The action followed a total of 3,507 complaints, 84% of which were resolved through investigation and enforcement measures.

Primary violations by healthcare facilities included failing to supply

essential medicines, refusing care to insured patients, demanding payments for services covered under the scheme, and withholding necessary payment documentation. HMOs were flagged for delays or outright refusal to issue referral authorisations, late reimbursements of agreed bills, and a failure to monitor service quality in partner facilities.

Sanctions ranged from formal warning notices—84 issued to facilities and 35 to HMOs—to refunds, with facilities reimbursing ₦4,375,500 to 54 patients, and HMOs repaying ₦748,200 to 15 enrolees.



Additionally, four facilities were suspended, six were delisted, and HMOs were instructed to implement corrective actions.

NHIA's Director-General, Dr. Kelechi Ohiri, emphasised that this proactive enforcement is vital to rebuilding patient trust and aligning service delivery with the authority's mission to drive Universal Health Coverage.

The NHIA's disciplinary action underscores the operational strength of the NHIA Act 2022, which mandates transparent grievance resolution mechanisms within health insurance frameworks. It reinforces legal accountability among providers and intermediaries and signals that regulatory enforcement will play a central role in Nigeria's pursuit of accessible, quality healthcare.