



67-Year-Old UK-Based Nigerian Woman Granted ₦150m Bail in 13kg Cocaine Trial | 1

A Federal High Court in Lagos has granted ₦150 million bail to 67-year-old Mary Yetunde Barek, who is facing trial over the alleged trafficking of 13kg of cocaine to the United Kingdom.

Barek, a UK-based Nigerian and caregiver, was arrested by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) during the outward clearance of a Virgin Atlantic flight at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos, in June 2026.

According to the NDLEA, the cocaine was concealed in 31 wraps made to resemble plantains as part of an attempt to transport the drugs to the UK. Barek pleaded not guilty to the charges brought against her under the NDLEA Act.

The prosecution opposed her bail application, while her lawyer argued for her release, including on health grounds. In granting the bail, the court ordered Barek to provide two sureties in the sum of ₦150 million each.

The court also directed her to surrender her British passport and remain in Nigeria throughout the trial unless she obtains permission from the court to travel.

The sureties are required to reside within the court's jurisdiction and own landed property valued at not less than ₦150 million each, among other conditions.

Barek will remain on bail as the trial continues.