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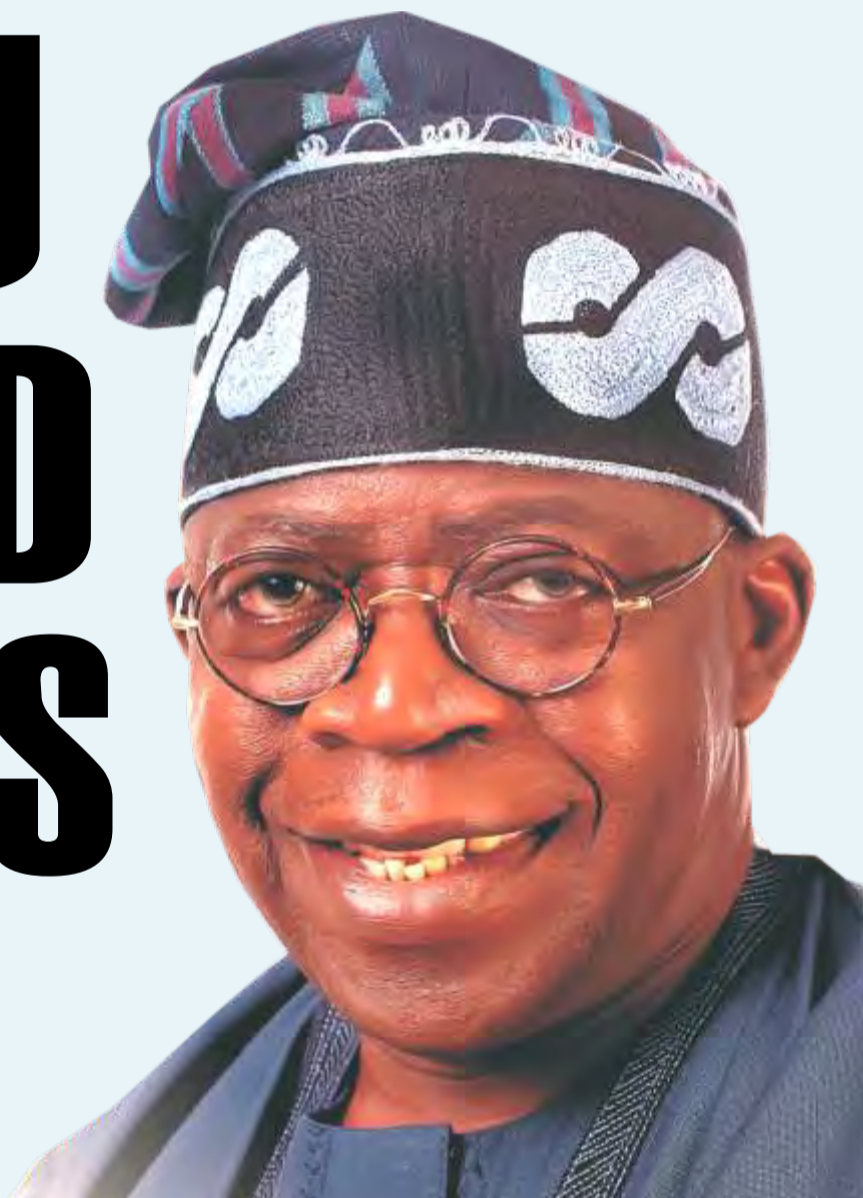
A publication of Echonews Newspapers Limited

Monday 10th April - Sunday 16th April 2023

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48 Days to inauguration: Tinubu expected home this week

There were indications that arrangements are in top gear to welcome the winner of the February 25, 2023, presidential polls, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu when he arrives in Lagos, this week.

Although the president-elect traveled to France to have some rest following the hectic electioneering of the presidential polls, sources close to him hinted that the tempo changed last week as he began to work on the shape of his team and the direction of the incoming administration.

Discussion between the president-elect and his vice president, Senator Kashim. Shettima with stakeholders across the country has commenced.

It was also reported that the president-elect is receiving daily briefs from the Transition Committee headed by the Secretary to the Federation, Mr. Mustapha Boss.

The committee has two representatives of the president-elect in the person of a former Commissioner for Finance in Lagos State, Mr. Wale Edun, and the Governor of Kebbi State, His Excellency Atiku Bagudu.

At a recent press conference, the SGF said the committee will break into three sub-groups: inauguration, transition



Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu

documents, and facilities, security, and intelligence.

Breaking down the composition of each sub-group, the SGF named 13 inauguration subcommittees to cover Media and Publicity; Church Service; Juma'at Service; Protocol and Invitations; Transport and Logistics; The Inauguration Lecture; Ceremonial Parade; Venues and Swearing in; Medical; Inauguration Dinner/Gala Night; Post Inauguration Luncheon; Accommodation and Children's Day Celebration.

While the SGF heads this sub-group, the Head of Service of the

Federation, Dr. Folasade Yemisi-Esan will head the Transition Documents group whose main task is to create a compendium of the current administration's policies, programmes, and projects of this administration in nine priority areas.

"It is also in charge of ensuring the preparation of sectoral briefs and handover notes of the current administration for the incoming administration," he said.

The National Security Adviser Major-General Babagana Monguno (rtd) is in charge of

the third group, which among other tasks, will organize necessary facilities, including furnished office and personnel for the President and Vice-President-Elect; security for the President and Vice-President Elect; covert and overt security before, during, and after the 2023 Presidential Inauguration and general surveillance of FCT.

With just 48 days to go, the groups and sub-committees have swung into action.

Most obvious is the security and facilities group that has affected the takeover of the security of the president-elect and the vice-president

elects including standard protocols that both can no longer y on the same plane.

The Directorate of State Security has also responded to alleged plans by supporters of the Labour Party candidate Peter Obi to organize nationwide protests against the inauguration warning that it would treat such actions as breaches of national security.

On its part, the Nigerian Army has reacted to the call by a few supporters of the Labour Party candidate on the armed forces to take over the government. The military

dismissed the call as unconstitutional.

Impeccable sources close to the president-elect hinted that a lot of analysis of what is to be done to tackle the economic challenges facing Nigerians in the first 100 days is ongoing as Asiwaju Tinubu is determined to hit the ground running.

"The president-elect is looking at the low-hanging fruits- quick fixes to douse tension and relieve the common people of their economic burdens- in the first 100 days. Major restructuring of the country's polity and economy are underway", said an insider.

Muhammed seeks collaboration with lawmakers-elect



Apapa Iganmu Federal, state elect representatives with LCDA chairman

The chairman of Apapa Iganmu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mrs. Funmilayo

Muhammed has requested for collaboration with the House of Representatives Member-Elect Dr.

Samuel Adedayo and his counterpart at the Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Musbau Lawal to develop the constituency. She made the request

when the two visited her to present their certificates of return. She advised that the three of them should work together and put the past behind to make Apapa Federal constituency great. She promised to work with them to take her community to enviable heights, stating that it

was important that Apapa Iganmu LCDA attain desirable goals that will better the community. While promising to support the council boss, the lawmakers-elect expressed gratitude to the constituents who supported them during the last general

elections. They specifically applauded the political leaders within the community for their immense support, courage and advice that pulled them through the contest. They reiterate their promises to take Apapa federal constituency to a greater heights in terms of development and good representation.

Apapa Iganmu Council Boss Assures More Road Rehabilitation

By Edith Igbokwe

The chairman of Apapa Iganmu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mrs. Funmilayo Muhammed has promised to ensure

that all roads in the council area are accessible. She said this as she commenced rehabilitation of Amusu Street. According to her, the council is rehabilitating the roads the ease the

movement, saying she also felt the pain residents and commuters go through while plying the bad roads. She appealed to them to exercise patience with her administration as she promised that more roads would be soon rehabilitated.

EPE NEWS

Eredo LCDA Bags Cleanest Local Government Award

By Saheed Afolabi

Eredo Local Council Development Area has bagged the first position at the Year 2023 Cleanest Local Government Award organised by the Lagos State Ministry of Environment and Water Resources. The council boss, Hon. Ismail Monsuru Akinloye, while expressing his

satisfaction with the historic award, appreciated the department of environment, led by the supervisor for environment, Mr. Johnson Hamed, and the HOD for environment, Sanitarian Modojemu Victoria, for jobs well done.

The supervisor for environment, Mr. Johnson Hamed, during the occasion

appreciated the Lagos State government for counting the LCDA worthy of the award and promised that his team and himself would put more effort towards the environmental development of the LCDA.

For the award, the council was presented with a brand new Nissan Frontier by the Lagos State Ministry of Environment and Water Resources.



(Left: Eredo LCDA boss, Hon Ismail Monsuru Akinloye collecting the award for 2023 cleanest local government)

Vice Chair, Councillors Receive Official Cars

By Saheed Afolabi



Middle: Eredo LCDA boss, Hon Ismail Monsuru Akinloye presenting one of the car keys to a councilor

The relationship between the Executive and Legislative Arms of Eredo LCDA got stronger as the council chairman, Hon. Ismail Monsuru Akinloye, presented official vehicles to the Vice Chairman and five councillors.

While presenting the vehicles, the council boss acknowledged the cordial relationship between the Executive

and the Legislative Arm. He said the welfare of the vice chairman and councillors was paramount to him and that he would continue to support them with tools that would enable them to perform effectively.

The Leader of the House, Hon. Tunde Bakare, expressed his joy and appreciation for the gesture and promised that the

honourable members would always do their best for the development of Eredo LCDA.

While the vice chairman, and the council leader received Toyota Highlanders, other councillors were presented with Toyota Camry.

They are the Deputy Leader, Hon. Odunbanjo Sulaimon; Majority Leader, Hon. Adeniyi Wasiu; Chief Whip, Hon. Emilere Isiaka; and Deputy Chief Whip, Hon. Nuremi Bakare.

Be Kind To The Orphans, Islamic Cleric Charges Muslims

By Edith Igbokwe

An Islamic scholar, Ustaz Abdul-Ganiy Waheed, has charged people especially the Muslims to be kind to orphans to matter the situation.

He said this while delivering his sermon at a Ramadan Lecture hosted by Baba Adinni-General of Ifako-Ijaiye LG and Ojokoro LCDA, Alhaji Abu Oyedeji.

The Ramadan lecture is an annual routine put together by the Muslim



Ifako-ijaiye Ramadan lecture on kindness

Community on rotational basis with notable Muslim personalities hosting it in their respective residences.

The Islamic scholar emphasised on Islamic teachings and injunctions drawn from the Qur'an and

the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) enjoining the believers on treating the orphans with

utmost care and kindness regardless of whether their parents were good or bad to them before their demise.

He stated that the way Allah (SWT) commanded Muslims to uphold the five pillars of Islam is the same way He commanded kindness to the orphans.

According to him, Kindness to orphans is another act of worship that is most loved to Allah and it guarantees Allah's favours upon His servants.

He noted that kindness gives Muslim entitlement

to Allah's forgiveness and paradise.

Thereafter, Sheikh Kamaldeen Adebisi, the former Chief Missioner responded to the few questions asked by the participants while the Chief Missioner, Sheikh Shuaib Muhammad Awwal Atata prayed for the host for his commitment to the religion of Islam and appreciated the lecturer and the Chief Imams for their attendance.

The President of the Muslim Community, Alhaji Abdul-Lateef Sunmonu admonished all the Muslims particularly residents of Ifako-Ijaiye to keep observing the fast with good spirit of the holy month of Ramadan.

Hamzat's Family Host Third Ramadan Lecture



Dr. Obafemi Hamzat giving his speech

The Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Kadri Hamzat, and Chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government, Prince Usman Hamzat family hosted their third Ramadan Lecture in memory of their late father, Alhaji Muftau Olatunji Hamzat who died on May 12, 2019. The President of Ifako-Ijaiye Muslim Community, Alh. Abdul-Lateef Sunmonu disclosed that the Ramadan lecture was to also appreciate Allah for the success of All

Progressives Congress (APC) in the just concluded polls.

The lecture centered on 'Child Upbringing in Islam' was delivered by the guest lecturer, Sheikh Ismail Abayawo who doubles as the Chairman, Council of Chief Imams in Ifako-Ijaiye LGA and Ojokoro LCDA.

Sheikh Abayawo demonstrated his vast knowledge on quality parenting and child upbringing as enshrined in the Qur'an and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

He harped on child upbringing as a major congruent of building a sane society.

He dwelled on the need for prospective parents to understand the religious perspectives to parenting and child upbringing as an important prerequisite to family life before bearing children.

According to him, due to poor parenting, crimes are on the increase and miscreants on rampage in the society today. He further harped on good education, refined character and sound tutelage as solutions to the

social misdemeanor rampaging the society.

In his goodwill message, the deputy governor commended the guest lecturer for the sound and insightful topic of discourse.

He applauded the leadership of Ifako-Ijaiye Muslim Community for its sincere love and prayers for the family.

He enjoined parents to top up their game and inculcate morals and discipline into their children.

He therefore dedicated the 2023 Ramadan Lecture to appreciation

for Allah's favours and benevolence.

The council chairman expressed the family's appreciation to the Muslim Community, dignitaries within and outside of the local government and the good people of Ifako-Ijaiye who honoured the family with their presence.

He prayed Allah grant everyone of them the opportunity to witness more of Ramadan in their lifetime.

Their late father, Alhaji (Oba) Muftau Olatunji Hamzat was a patriotic Nigerian, a successful Banker and a public-spirited progressive politician.

He was born in 1932 and transited to eternal life on May 12, 2019 after a profound submission to Allah and selfless service to humanity.

Oba Muftau Olatunji Hamzat was elected into the Lagos State House of Assembly in 1979 and his membership of the state Legislature was short-lived following his appointment as the Commissioner of Transportation in the same year by the then Governor of Lagos state, Alhaji Lateef Jakande.

This position he held till 1983 after the termination of the second Republic.

It was his ministry that initiated the path-breaking Lagos Metroline light rail project which had reached advanced stage of execution before the military unfortunately truncated the project after the termination of second Republic in 1983.

Oba Muftau Olatunji Hamzat was a renowned Banker, successful politician and a Monarch with high reputation.

It was after his glorious retirement in the banking industry that he ventured into politics and he made tremendous impacts and achievements in the political space before his demise.

He founded a formidable political group in Lagos; Justice Forum (JF) and was a member of the Lagos State Governor's Advisory Council (GAC) for over two decades before his death.

Until his death, Oba Muftau Olatunji Hamzat was the Olu of Afowowa Sogade in Ewekoro Local Government Area of Ogun state.

He was happily married and blessed with children.

Excitement As Beneficiaries of Late Justice Mubasheer Akanbi Abiru Scholarship Receive Cheques

By Rasaan Adebayo

Parents and guardians of outstanding students in higher institutions of learning who are indigenes and residents of Ikorodu division, that qualified for the Late Justice Mubasheer Akanbi Abiru Full Scholarship were elated last Saturday when their children received the scholarship prizes.

Each of the students received cheques of N100,000, sponsored by Senator Tokunbo Abiru in honour of his father.

The Late Justice Mubasheer Akanbi Abiru Scholarship is under the supervision of Ikorodu Oga Development Association (IKODASS).

Beneficiaries will receive the scholarship

throughout their years of study if they maintain excellence in their academics.

IKODASS Chairman, Mr. Rotimi Erogbogbo, thanked the Senator for his immense contributions towards the development of the Ikorodu Division, and his constant support for IKODASS.

He specially commended the Senator for the scholarship award he

sponsored for higher education students who are indigenes and residents of Ikorodu.

The Senator, who was represented by his Special Adviser on Constituency Matters, Dr Saheed Ibikunle, explained his passion in the area of education and Human Capital Development, especially for young people.

According to him, the only enduring legacies

that stand the test of time are quality investment in education of young people and human capital development. Dr. Ibikunle said it was high time Ikorodu took its place of pride in Education.

Iyaloja General of Ikorodu, Alhaja Faofikat Allison, also encouraged the students to face their studies and thanked

the Senator for the kind gestures. Dignitaries in attendance include: Sir Ayodele Elesho, the Agbaakin of Ikorodu Kingdom, Dr. Abiodun Fatai-Abatan, Senior lecturer at LASU, Prof Michael Adejumobi, emeritus professor of Mathematics, Alhaja Abiodun Ogunniyi, a retired Principal at Oriwu Senior Model College, Ikorodu, among other eminent personalities.



Hon Yayi making his speech

No fewer than 2,790 beneficiaries have been recently trained in various vocational skills by the lawmaker

representing Lagos West Senatorial District, Senator Solomon Olamilekan Adeola (Yayi). A batch of 480 had earlier been trained

in different areas in Information and Communication Technology. The recent training involved another set of 2,310 constituents, who were trained in different vocational skills in agribusiness and others.

The graduation ceremony held in collaboration with the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research, Benin, Edo State, took place on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at Vantage Point Event Hall, Acme Road, Agidigbi, Lagos

One of the dignitaries and a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress, APC in Lagos West, Chief Akin Fadayomi, used the occasion to praise the distinguished lawmaker for offering quality representation over the years.

He tasked the graduating participants to

maximize the opportunity provided by the empowerment drive of the

respected lawmaker to better their lives and contribute their quota to the growth of the Nigerian economy.

In his brief remarks, Senator Adeola Yayi said: "Let me state that in the remaining period of my service as the Senator representing Lagos West Senatorial District, I will continue to deliver effective representation to my constituents in all walks of life with the resources available for the largest Senatorial District in Nigeria in terms of population inclusive of similar trainings and skills acquisition.

"Today, we are empowering another set of 2,310 Constituents. They have been trained in

2,790 Constituents Get Vocational Training In ICT, Agribusiness

different vocational skills like advanced solar energy, agricultural value chain, confectionery, fish production, event planning, hair dressing and barbing. They are going to be empowered with the equipment of their various skills, transport allowance and cash grant ranging from N80,000 to N150,000. I congratulate all the beneficiaries of these programmes and urge them to diligently apply the skills learnt in the course of the training for their socioeconomic advancement in the society."

Yayi also used the opportunity to counsel parents to take good care of their children and not

allow them to be used by politicians, who lost the recently concluded elections and had been inciting people to protest against the outcome.

He assured the audience that the President-elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has the capacity to deliver the dividends of democracy and take Nigeria to enviable heights.

The beneficiaries were given different equipment to assist them set up their businesses while the lawmaker also gave out cash gift to the participants in order to transport their equipment home while charging them not to contemplate selling the items in order not to defeat the purpose of the empowerment initiative.

Wonders bitter leaf juice does to body



By Edith Igbokwe

Most people use bitter leaves strictly for cooking because they are unaware of its other fantastic health benefits. The not-so-good part is that almost all the nutrients are washed off whenever it's used for cooking. The few nutrients that managed to get through are also heated up. It will further lose nutrients, leaving just a tiny portion for human consumption. Therefore, if we want to

enjoy all the health benefits of bitter leaves, it should be taken fresh. Though the leaf is bitter, as the name implies, and most people might not be able to withstand its bitterness. It is one of the most versatile and advantageous plants in the world. It is used for medicinal and curative purposes. Some principal chemical constituents found in bitter leaf herb are a class of compounds called steroid glycosides- type

vernionioside B1 – these chemical substances possess a potent anti-parasitic, anti-tumour, and bactericidal effect. Also, have it at the back of your mind that the best medicines come with a bitter taste, and bitter leaf is among those medicines (even ranked high). From treating diabetes, diarrhoea, malaria, kidney disease, typhoid, gallstones, and tuberculosis to lowering hypertension and preventing cancer, the health benefits of the bitter leaf are endless.

Bitter leaf has been said to enhance infertility among women with difficulty conceiving. Bitter leaves help because the detoxification power of the leaf helps to stop the pollution of the antibodies that initiate tissue repair and regeneration and fight diseases.

When this is done, it significantly boosts the ovaries' fertility. It will also get rid of premature ovarian failure and ovarian cysts.

It relieves Menopause symptoms: Take some fresh Bitter Leaves to extract out the juice. Add 3 to 4 tablespoons of Honey for taste. Drink this juice every morning and night to relieve Menopause symptoms. Prostate cancer is prominent among men in their forties. One of its first symptoms is difficulty in urination or painful urination. Using bitter leaves to treat this ailment is as effective as ever. It will work by increasing the flow of urine and reducing the

pain.

To use, squeeze the fresh leaves in clean water and take a glass-full four times daily with a concomitant medical checkup. You will notice that you'll start urinating frequently. However, do not fret because the body is in cleansing mode, and that's why it is happening.

Pneumonia is a lung inflammation disease affected by viral or bacterial infection, in which the air sacs are filled with pus and may turn solid. Both lungs may be affected, which is said to be "double pneumonia" when that happens. However, if one lung is involved, "single pneumonia" occurs.

But the powerful effect of bitter leaves is sufficient to combat this condition. To tackle it, squeeze the fresh leaf and take a glass full of it three times daily. Before you take it, heat the solution slightly. Do not boil it, just warm it. Continue taking it for a month and see how fast it works.

To cure Malaria, boil some fresh Bitter leaves in 100 ml of water for 5 to 10 minutes. Strain it off. Drink this decoction daily to get rid of Malaria.

You must have heard bitter leaves solves stomach problems, this is true. To soothe your stomach ache, you should chew the tender stem of the plant (as if you're munching a chewing stick) and swallow the bitterness. The ache will subside in a few minutes.

Another option is to pound the fresh leaf in a mortar to get the juice. After that, add a pinch of salt to the undiluted juice and drink. Expect relief in no time.

Diabetes
Squeeze the fresh Bitter leaf to extract out the juice. Drink it twice a day to lower the raised blood sugar levels.

LASTMA Officials Rescue Accident Victims

By Saheed Afolabi

Operatives of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) on Tuesday rescued 10 severely injured accident victims at Adeniji-Adele junction inward Obalende by Third Mainland Bridge, Lagos. According to Adejunwon Olalekan, a LASTMA Officer who led the rescue operations, it was an

accident caused by a commercial bus. He said preliminary investigation revealed that the said bus lost control as a result of over-speeding and somersaulted leaving 10 passengers with severe injuries.

He explained that the rescued victims were immediately rushed to Marina General Hospital by the LASTMA personnel on duty in the axis for urgent medical treatment.

Olalekan also revealed that the Bus involved in the accident was immediately removed from the road to avoid impeding the free flow of traffic and handed over to the Policemen from Adeniji-Adele Divisional Police Headquarters for further investigations.

Meanwhile, the Special Adviser on Transportation to the Governor, Hon. Sola Giwa, has again warned motorists, particularly commercial bus drivers, to desist from over-

speeding and always ensure that their vehicles are in good condition before driving them on Lagos roads.



LASG Enforces Safety Guidelines To Chrisland Schools

By Saheed Afolabi



Mrs. Folasade Adefisayo

The Lagos State Government has placed Chrisland High School on probation for one academic session to monitor adherence to safety policies and guidelines.

The State Commissioner for Education, Mrs. Folasade Adefisayo disclosed this while giving an update on the recent meeting between the management of Chrisland Schools and government agencies under the Lagos State Joint Task Force in charge of the implementation of the child protection and safeguarding policy.

The meeting, which was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education,

Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Lagos State Safety Commission and Office of Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency and others which made up the Joint Task Force, directed Chrisland to delineate leadership functions as well as strengthen risk and safety management in all schools under its jurisdiction.

Also, the Lagos State Ministry of Education has directed the management of Chrisland Schools to urgently implement short and long-term reforms in school governance. Furthermore, the school management has been directed to recruit a certified Risk Manager to conduct and render a detailed analysis of risk management of the group

of schools and ensure all students, staff and stakeholders of the school affected by the death of the late Miss. Adeniran are given psycho-social therapy and trauma counseling.

Adefisayo said: "The stipulated conditions are outcomes of official investigations and reviews by all the agencies that form the Task Force and an example of the usual conditions precedent to reopening schools closed for any form of infraction in Lagos State."

The Managing Director of Chrisland Schools, Mrs. Ibironke Adeyemi, who led Chrisland School management to the meeting, promised that the school will fulfill all requirements as directed by the Ministry.

LASG To Conduct Test On Burnt Balogun Market Building

By Saheed Afolabi



Parts of burnt Balogun market building

The Lagos State Government, through the State Materials Testing Laboratory, has concluded plans to conduct a structural and stability test on buildings affected by the recent fire incident at Balogun Street on

Lagos Island.

A release signed by the General Manager, Lagos State Materials Testing Laboratory, Engr. Olufunsho Elulade said the officials of the Agency had visited the scene of the fire incident to take samples for testing to ascertain the structural

integrity and stability of the burnt structures.

According to him, the tests will include visual, fire ratings analysis and Non-Destructive Test (NDT), adding that on completion, the report will be made available to the appropriate authority for further action.

Bamigboye Urges Religious Leaders To Pray For Political Office Holders

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Mushin Local Government, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye has called on Muslims to use this holy month to pray for the success of political leaders in the country. Speaking at the 5th Annual Ramadan Lecture organised by the Unified Local Government Muslim Staff Association (Mushin Local Government Branch), Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye confirmed that "the success of our leaders is determined by the cooperation and support of the citizens. He tasked all those in attendance to pray for the President-elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, to succeed in his administration." The council boss confirmed that he is always delighted to attend Ramadan Lectures during the holy

month because of the lessons attached to the sermon being delivered at various lectures. He advised Muslims to emulate the fathers of Islam and follow their teachings. He told the gathering that May 29 handover date to the APC President-elect is sacrosanct as there are more to benefit under Asiwaju Bola Tinubu's administration in Nigeria. He thanked the organisers of the lecture and prayed for the grace of God to celebrate many more years of the month on earth. The guest lecturer, Sheikh Al-Mudir Sulaiman Adewuyi, who spoke on 'Challenges Facing Ideal Muslim Homes and Solutions', encouraged parents to always monitor their children and the peer groups they relate with, both in the



Islamic faithfuls listening to the Ramadan lecture held in Mushin

neighbourhood, school and religious institutions. The Lagos State University of Education lecturer also advised parents to guide their children against dysfunctional use of the social media. The council Manager, Comrade Sogo Osikoya, who commended the

council chairman, for his humanitarian spirit, told the people to always speak well of the country. He told the gathering of the great expectations in the administration of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu which will commence in May 29. The lecture was

attended by members of the management team, including the Vice Chairman, Hon. Tunbosun Aruwe, Leader of the legislative Arm, Hon. Olamide Williams, Secretary to the Local Government, Mrs. Olubunmi Gbadamosi, Councillors,

Supervisors, heads of department and members of staff. Immediately after the programme, the chairman and his entourage, joined traders at Daleko Rice market, at their 5th Ramadan Lecture put together by Ike Oluwa Central Mosque, Daleko Market. The guest lecturer, Alhaji Abubakir Issa Solaty Otte, who also admonished the guests on the topic Child Upbringing welcomed the council boss with his entire crew. Bamigboye, who attended the lecture with his team, was received by the Iyalaje of Mushin land, Chief Mrs. Ibilola Sholaja. The council chairman thanked all the market traders for their support during the 2023 general elections. He expressed the party's appreciation to the leadership of the market and the traders.

LAHA Member-Elect Kazeem Dedicates Victory To Sen. Ganiyu Solomon

By Saheed Afolabi



Senator Ganiyu Solomon receiving Mushin constituency 11 Rep elect, Hon Yinka Kazeem

The Lagos State House of Assembly Member-elect in Mushin constituency II, Hon. Yinka Kazeem has

dedicated his victory at poll to Sen. Ganiyu Olanrewaju Solomon, who is a member of Lagos APC Governor's Advisory

Council (GAC). According to Kazeem, Solomon deserves more honour for his efforts towards him success

during the last election. He made the honour to the political leader as he presented his Certificate of Return to the apex leader in

Mushin. Kazeem, who was full of smile and happiness while presenting his Certificate to his Political leader and mentor, thanked the GAC member for his mentorship and leadership qualities, unwavering support and unending contributions towards the success recorded in all the elections under his watch as the DG, Sanwo-Olu/Hamzat Campaign Council and apex leader of Mushin and Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA.

"I have anxiously waited for this day, to visit and present to you my Certificate of Return as Member Elect, Lagos State House of Assembly for Mushin

Constituency II Sir, and I'm full of joy presenting this to you today. "Being my pillar of support, leader and political mentor, it's incumbent on me to do this first, before any further step is taken. Thank you for all the years of guidance and advice you have bestowed upon me. You are the one who truly molded and prepared me with all the necessary skills and experience required to stand the test of time. It was a privilege to work under your leadership. I hope to make you proud of my future endeavours as well. I, on behalf of myself, my family and friends say a big thank to you sir," he said.



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Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu PHC Wins Neatest Award

By Rasaq Adebayo

Somolu Local Government's Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu Primary Healthcare Center has emerged the neatest PHC in Lagos State. The Hon. Abdul Hamed Salawu led administration of Somolu Local Government received resounding accolades as Lagos State Government honoured the PHC with the award.

The awards event was



Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu

organised by Dr. Tunji Bello (Commissioner) led Lagos State Ministry of Environments and Water Resources to honour local governments and Primary Healthcare Center facilities as part of the effort of Lagos State Government to ensure Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu Health and Environment are well pronounced in the T.H.E.M.E.S. project.

The award was

received by representatives of the Council Chairman, including Hon. Ayo Hector Coker (Supervisor for Agric, youth and Community Services), Dr. Abidemi Agboola (Medical Officer of Heath, Somolu LG), Owolabi 'Ajimomuya' Oseni (Chief Press Secretary to the Chairman), Mr. Olusegun Elliot (Ward Health Committee Chairman) and Mrs. Omolola Sodiq (Officer-in-Charge of the PHC) at

magnificent Adeyemi Bero Auditorium in Alausa, Ikeja.

Recall that the Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu Primary Healthcare Center was constructed and commissioned by the Hon. Abdul Hamed Salawu led administration of Somolu Local Government after the dilapidated PHC was engulfed by year long flood which was earlier tamed by Hon. Abdul Hamed Salawu's administration.

Subventions and IGR Cannot Sustain A University, Prof. Odusanya

By Rasaq Adebayo



Prof. Olumuyiwa Odusanya

The Vice Chancellor of Lagos State University of Technology (LASUSTECH), Prof. Olumuyiwa Odusanya has charged the academic staff members of the school to think out of the box to generate revenue for the school saying subvention and internally generated revenue (IGR) alone cannot sustain university.

Odusanya said this during an internal training organised by the College of Agriculture recently, charging members of the academic staff to seek grants and not depend on Government subventions and internally generated revenues (IGR) for the development of the University.

He further noted that top world leading

universities were able to meet the global standards they have attained through local and international grants.

"If we want to achieve the goal of becoming a world class university, we need to consider attracting a lot of international grants. This will speed up our growth and also give us global relevance," he added.

The VC charged all teaching staff to take up the challenge of seeking international and local grants to assist them in their research works. He also encouraged them to consider collaboration with other

staffs in other departments.

He also encouraged academic staff members to take advantage of the National Research Fund (NRF) of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).

Meanwhile, the National Universities Commission (NUC) will be visiting the University for the accreditation of three new courses which includes: B.Sc. Tourism & Hospitality Management, B.Sc. Insurance and B.Eng. Chemical Engineering.

The exercise is scheduled to hold from Tuesday, April 11 to Thursday, April 13, 2023.

Organisation Embarks On Water Sanitation Campaign

By Edith Igbokwe

An advocate of a clean and hygienic society, WaterAid Nigeria has embarked on a community-based Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Behaviour Change campaign in all the six Wards within Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA).

The campaign, according to the organisation, is targeted at the residents to easily adopt and practice hygiene behaviour as a social norm.

It added that the

initiative is also a step towards the actualisation of the Presidential Executive Order for the eradication of open defecation by the year 2025.

Going by the campaign slogan "clean family, happy family", the participants at the grassroots were encouraged to adopt hygiene behaviours that will help to eradicate many epidemics and pandemics such as cholera, Ebola and others plaguing the society.

The council chairman, Hon. David Odunmbaku, said the campaign corroborated the effort of his government on promoting clean

environment, saying the government places premium priority on increasing the health, wellbeing and standard of living in Ojodu LCDA through his HEYS (Health, Education, Youth Empowerment, Social Infrastructure) Mission.

The campaign was initiated by WaterAid Nigeria in conjunction with other stakeholders such as Ministry of Health, Ojodu LCDA, Kimberly-Clerk, and other Civil Society Organisations.

Several materials such as potties, hand fans, wristbands, customised badges, and others were distributed to participants.

Ojodu PHCs To Get More Workers, Equipment From State Govt

By Edith Igbokwe

Lagos State House of Assembly Health Committee has promised the state government's intervention to increase the manpower and equipment in each of the six primary healthcare centers in Ojodu LCDA.

The committee gave the hint during its visit to the council area, stating that it would facilitate the needed materials

both human and equipment.

The visit was part of its oversight function to all the primary healthcare centers across the state.

The committee members praised the local council authority for putting up quality edifice and facilities in its six primary healthcare centres across council area.

They advised the health personnel to intensify their community advocacy and engagement.

The committee reiterated



PHC tour in Ojodu LCDA

its promise to call for more manpower, equipment supplies from the state government.

The council chairman, Hon. David Odunmbaku



said he has prioritised healthcare as a cardinal policy of his government. "It's our policy to have a functional primary health centre in all six wards of Ojodu LCDA to

provide and enhance quality healthcare for our people in line with our H.E.Y.S Agenda while collaborating with Lagos State Government and development partners."

Kendoo Assures Conducive Praying Centre In Secretariat

By Edith Igbokwe

The chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Otunba Kehinde Oloyede (Kendoo) has promised to rehabilitate the mosque in the secretariat to make it more conducive for prayer. He made the promise during a Ramadan

Lecture organised by the Unified Local Government Muslim Staff Association, Oshodi-Isolo LG branch. The chairman, who was represented by the Secretary to the Local Government (SLG), Hon. Smart Akinleye, reinstated his commitment to the welfare of the general members of staff of the

Local Government. "We will not relent in our support for the mosque and Muslims in general." A Professor in Insurance and Actuarial Science Department of the University of Lagos, Prof. Tajudeen Yusuf who spoke on the topic "Fear of Allah", urged all Muslims to abide by the limits set by Allah. He charged them to be

cautious of Allah in whatever they do, saying only the fear of Allah can bring everlasting succor to mankind. He stated that leaders and followers must rule and follow in accordance to the dictates of Allah. Hence, he charged leaders to have piety as a prerequisite for leadership.



Oshodi-isolo Ramadan lecture

LAHA 2023: I'm ready to work - Ajomale

By Rasaan Adebayo

The newly elected Lagos House of Assembly Member for Oshodi-Isolo constituency II, Hon. Oladipupo Ajomale, has expressed readiness to work and represent his people well. He said this when he paid a courtesy and appreciation visit to the chairman of Isolo LCDA, Otunba Olasoju Adebayo.



Olasoju and Ajomale in photograph

Ajomale won the March 18 House Of Assembly election by polling 19,581 votes to defeat the candidate of the Labour Party who scored 17,644 votes. He was consequently declared winner and return elected by the Returning Officer, Dr. Falobi Oluwole Victor. Ajomale, a one-time local government service commissioner and son of a former chairman, APC Lagos

state chapter, Chief Henry Oladele Ajomale impressed it on his host that the visit has become imperative to express his deep appreciation to the council boss for his quota of electioneering efforts on the way to his electoral triumph. His words: "I have not only come to show this Certificate of Return to you but appreciate you for your quota of efforts towards my victory at the polls." In response, Olasoju seized the medium to

once again congratulate him for his deserved victory at the poll noting that his emergence was the will of the people as sanctioned by God. He made it known that he has no iota of doubt in the LAHA Member-elect's capability to deliver on his campaign promises that border around qualitative representative and effective legislation. The highlight of the visit was the posing for photographs by the duo as Ajomale flaunted his Certificate of Return to the delight of all present.

KOSOFE NEWS

Kosofe APC confirms LGA party chairman's competence

By Edith Igbokwe

All progressives Congress (APC) members in Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have commended the party chairman, Alhaji Olatunbo Ali for the successful management of the party affairs within the short period of assuming office as they confirmed his ability to direct the party. Party members noted that Ali's ward F was among the three out of 10 wards that delivered for APC during the last presidential elections in Kosofe. Their testimony

further revealed that he delivered other wards under his jurisdiction during the governorship and House of Assembly elections to APC candidates. According to them, he demonstrated high level of competency during the 2023 general elections that earned him party's trust and prospective contestants from his led executives. They stated that his next critical assignment will be the coming chairmanship and councillorship elections as some APC members have commenced subtle publicity and awareness campaign



APC LGA party chairman in kosofe, Alhaji Olatunbo Ali

activities. APC members and prospective contestants expect Ali's administration to relocate the temporary LGA party Secretariat from the council premises to a neutral place for general meetings to avoid executive interference.

Residents of Agboyi-kute appreciate Balogun over food relief

By Edith Igbokwe

Beneficiaries of food relief package from Special Adviser to Agboyi-kute Local Council Development Area (LCDA) on Community Affairs, Hon. Kazeem Balogun have urged politicians to emulate Balogun's kind gesture. Hundreds of residents from the local council area got food items such as rice, yam, garri and others. On behalf of the beneficiaries, Mrs. Adeshola Olarenwaju appreciated Balogun's charity,

saying the provision will go a long way in families at this critical situation of the country. Responding, Balogun stated that providing for people is what he loves doing. He noted that he embarked on the selfless service to humanity due to the situation of the country and the need for welfare in the community. He recalled that he had provided for the people while he was Ketu Youth chairman, then as street palliative. He assured that the exercise would be a continuous programme, promising that another phase would soon follow.

The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, has approved the appointment of three new Permanent Secretaries in the Lagos State Public Service.

The appointees are: Olushekun Bibilomo Olayide – Director, Establishments, Office of Establishments & Training; Obadina Akinbode – Director, Admin. & Human Resource/ Principal Private Secretary to the HOS; and Akanbi Adenike Ganiat – Director, Finance & Accounts, Office of the Chief of Staff.

A statement signed by the Lagos State Head of Service, Mr. Hakeem Muri-Okunola, stated that the appointees

Sanwo-Olu Appoints New Permanent Secretaries

By Kunle Awosiyan

were drawn mainly from the pool of qualified candidates who had previously been interviewed by Mr. Governor and distinguished themselves exceptionally in the discharge of their duties.

Muri-Okunola, therefore, expressed confidence that the new appointees possessed the experience, competence and qualities required to serve in the esteemed and revered rank of

Permanent Secretary in the Lagos State Public Service.

The Head of Service averred that the appointments are with immediate effect, while the deployment posts of the newly appointed Permanent Secretaries will be announced in due course.

While wishing the three new appointees a most rewarding and impactful tenure in Office, Muri-Okunola noted that their swearing-in would be announced in due course.



Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu

CRIME

Suspected gunmen abduct 3 students in Ikeja

By Rasak Adebayo

Two secondary school students and their little sister in the primary section were reportedly abducted by hoodlums suspected to be gunmen in Lagos last week.

The students of yet to be mentioned school located in Ikeja area of Lagos State were said to have been abducted while returning from the school after closing on Thursday, April 6, 2023.

The students all females, are said to belong to the same parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otulana.

The eldest, Otulana Oluwatomisin Victoria, is a 15 years old SS2 student born on October 18, 2008, her two other younger sisters are Otulana Oluwadarasimi Esther, who was born on May 18, 2011, and an eight



The Secondary Schools Students

years old Otulana Modesire Annabelle, who was born on August 19, 2015.

The reason for the

abduction of students of the same parents was yet to be ascertained at the time of filing this report

yesterday, as the mother told our correspondent the abductors have note demanded for anything

yet.

She said she was just called by the abductors to inform her that her children have been abducted.

She said the family has been in grief since last last especially at the abductors are yet to make any demand to release the children.

"I was expecting my daughters after the closing hours on Thursday expecting that there would be holiday on Friday and Monday. I was curious when I didn't see my daughters as at when they were supposed to be home only to receive a call from unknown person telling me that my daughters have been abducted.

"I was trying to make further enquiry about their whereabouts and the reason for abducting them but the person who was talking to me just cut the call and has not called back

since Thursday last week. I could not call back because they hid the number to call me. He let me hear the voice of my children to be ascertained that they were in their captivity.

"The whole family has been in great fear and panic since last week especially when we are yet to hear from the abductors. We don't hear the voice of our children since last week, we don't know where they are, we don't know what they eat, we don't know what they are doing for or with them.

"I don't know why my children, three children at a time, this is so terrible. We are appealing to anyone with useful information about the whereabouts of the children to please contact the nearest police station or law enforcement officers."



EASTER GREETINGS

May this Easter shower HOPE,
PEACE, LOVE & GOOD TIDINGS
on you and your entire family.
Wishing you all a Happy Easter.

MR. HAKEEM
MURI-OKUNOLA
Head of Service, Lagos State



Stories By Kunle Awosiyun

The General Manager of the Lagos State Agricultural Lands Holdings Authority (ALHA), Mr. Oladapo Muhammed Are has been honoured with the Nelson Mandela Leadership Award of Excellence and Integrity by the Youth Assembly of Nigeria (YAN).

Receiving the Award recently at the Conference Room of ALHA in Agege, Lagos, Mr. Oladapo-Are said that the recognition is affirmative of his committed efforts towards the statutory responsibilities of the agency and it has made him realise that there is a reward in every effort. He said since his appointment as the General Manager of ALHA, the agency has witnessed an unprecedented transformation that has upgraded it to a critical organisation that supports the drive of the state government toward sufficiency in food production.

“As a result of the laudable repositioning of the agency by the management team, ALHA has witnessed considerable and commendable improvement in revenue generation and staff welfare”, he added.

Also speaking at the event, the Director of Agric-Technical Services, ALHA, Mr. Hakeem Anjolaiya, remarked that Mr. Oladapo Are has been a blessing to the Agency since his appointment.

He said his broad knowledge and vast experience as an economist have contributed positively to the growth of food supply through Agricultural Land in Lagos State.

ALHA GM, Bags Nelson Mandela Leadership Award

Earlier, the President of the Youth Assembly of Nigeria (YAN), Olakunle Olajide said the association deemed it fit to bestow the award on Mr. Oladapo Are because of his laudable achievements since his appointment as the Head of the Agency. Olajide described the General Manager of ALHA as a beacon of hope to the Nigerian youth and was considered for the highest award of the organisation on account of his sterling performance in the public sector.



Mr. Oladapo Muhammed receiving his award

Lagos Consumer Protection Agency Steps up Enforcement Activities ... Seals Two More Supermarkets For Sales of Expired Products

In a bid to rid the state of expired, unwholesome and substandard products, Lagos State Consumer Protection Agency (LASCOPA) has stepped up its enforcement activities with the sealing of two supermarkets, Green Basket and TobyEd, located at 35 and 40, Fola Agoro Street in Shomolu Area, Lagos for contravening consumer rights law. Speaking on the exercise, the General Manager of LASCOPA, Afolabi Solebo Esq. said the two supermarkets were sealed for selling expired products such as Tomi Apple Drinks, Nutriben Cereals, SMA Gold and Quick

Oats amongst others. He explained that the Monitoring and Enforcement team of the Agency, in the course of its inspection of the supermarkets, discovered that some of the products had expired since January 2023, yet were being still displayed for sale to unsuspecting consumers in violation of the Consumers' Rights Protection Law of the Lagos State. Solebo, therefore, urged members of the public to contact LASCOPA about any Supermarket found selling expired or hazardous products to unsuspecting members of the public across the

State by visiting the Agency's Head office located at 2b, Soji Adepegba Close, Off Allen Avenue, Ikeja, or any of its Annex offices at Badagry Local Government Secretariat, Bariga LCDA Secretariat, Ikoyi-Obalende LCDA Secretariat and Ikorodu Local Government Secretariat. He also implored concerned members of the public to call 08092509777, 08124993895, 09064323154 or send Emails to lascopa@lagosstate.gov.ng or lascopa@gmail.com to report any individual or company that infringes on their rights.



One of the sealed supermarkets

Stories By Kunle Awosiyun

Building Control Agency Removes Illegal Structure Under Power lines

The Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA) has removed an illegal structure built under a Power line adjacent Hamed Adebawale Street, Aguda area of the State.

According to the General Manager of LASBCA, Arc. Gbolahan Owodunni Oki, the building under the power line is a disaster waiting to happen because of the electromagnetic waves from it which may cause a fire outbreak hence the need for its removal.

Oki stated that the State Urban and Regional Planning and Development Law does not permit owners/developers to construct buildings under high-power electricity cables and it also specifies the distance that should be observed between a property and a public utility such as the PHCN Power lines.

He reiterated the State Government's commitment to safeguarding the lives and properties of Lagosians through thorough identification of illegal and non-conforming structures in the State, especially structures built under high-tension wire. "The safety and protection of lives and properties of the citizenry are paramount to the State Government.

Owners/developers must ensure that their buildings are not built under powerlines or high tension wires as

such illegality will not be condoned by the present administration", he stated. The General Manager also revealed that the agency would intensify its effort to rid the State of illegality in the built environment by ensuring that the State Building Codes are strictly complied with.

Oki further enjoined the public to desist from erecting structures such as shops, offices, and residential houses amongst others under

high-tension cables because of the immediate danger such an act poses.

He advised owners/developers to always abide by the building rules by fencing their structures and keeping all building materials within their space and not on the roads.

He also called on Lagosians to report any building irregularity noticed in their localities to the Agency for prompt and necessary action.



The demolished structure

Lagos Govt Set To Adopt Parking Technology System

In a bid to facilitate a seamless parking experience across the metropolis, the Lagos State Government has partnered with ARCA Payment Ltd. to develop a parking payment application that will enhance coordinated parking operations between the Authority and the public.

Revealing this development at a meeting held between the Lagos State Parking Authority and ARCA Payment Ltd., the General Manager of LASPA, Mrs. Adebisi Adelabu stated that the partnership is to improve the overall parking system by ensuring a seamless transaction process for permits, registration and enquiry amongst others.

According to her, "This is a commitment towards integrating technological solutions into the Authority's parking management system, which will provide a user-friendly system whilst building an accurate database to manage parking proceedings for the State".

She noted that the Authority



Mrs. Adebisi Adelabu with LASPA officials

has adopted innovative ways of providing lasting solutions to parking challenges for a safe and secure environment, adding that the ultimate aim is to give Lagosians the best and most suitable parking experience.

Mrs. Adelabu explained further that the initiative guarantees a stress-free process for end users of the Authority's services, emphasising its effect on reconciliation and revenue assurance for the government.

The General Manager noted that the Authority has been committed to supporting

various organisations and business entities to identify and proffer long-term solutions to their parking challenges as it has observed that most organisations operating in the State lack adequate parking space, which contributes to indiscriminate parking.

While describing the various interventions introduced to reduce indiscriminate parking across the State, she averred that the government has commenced the installation of signages and lane markings in phases across the State to guide motorists

and pedestrians on available parking lots.

Mrs. Adelabu urged the public to support the Authority's efforts towards improving the parking system of the State, noting that enforcement of parking regulations has significantly reduced road mishaps and traffic congestion across the metropolis.

Earlier in his remarks, the MD/CEO ARCA Payment Ltd, Mr. Oluwadare Owolabi appreciated the government's role in regulating parking across the State in line with the smart city drive, adding that the integration of the

application solution to manage parking proceedings will further promote effective customer service, accountability and transparency for all organisations and business entities.

Mr. Owolabi also unveiled plans to commence intensive training for staff of the Authority on how to navigate through the application software, opining that all efforts are geared towards providing a smooth, quick and result-oriented process for the public to access parking services.

Stories By Kunle Awosiyan

Lagos Office of Civic Engagement Set To Launch Citizens' Gate 2.0 Platform

The Lagos State Office of Civic Engagement is set to launch its upgraded Citizens' Gate 2.0 Platform, the Special Adviser on Civic Engagement, Princess Aderemi Adebowale has said. She said this during the Enlightenment Campaign to the 73 Resolvers drawn from 25 MDAs across the Public Service at the Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium, Alausa, Secretariat, Ikeja. According to her, the Enlightenment Campaign is meant to test run the upgraded Citizens Gate 2.0 Platform while creating awareness within the Alausa Secretariat axis, for a week starting from the 4th of April to the 10th of April, 2023.

The Special Adviser said that the upgraded platform was developed to bridge the communication gap between the citizens and the Lagos State Government and also to ensure that all the yearnings of Lagosians are being heard and met. She added that the platform has been specifically enhanced with a feedback mechanism, and real-time interface of complaints, enquires, suggestions and commendations from citizens, and prompt responses to address and resolve the issues most transparently.

Giving an overview of the platform, Aderemi said, "It is pertinent to hold this pilot phase to validate the knowledge of the 73 Resolvers selected from different Ministries, Department and Agencies that will be working at the backend of the platform". The Resolvers, she averred, are expected to work within their designated MDAs and familiarise themselves with the user interface of the

application to effectively navigate bugs and bottlenecks that may arise.

"This pilot phase is to test you based on the knowledge you have gathered during your training. We want to be sure that you are up to the task that we are handing over to you. Once you get the tools you will be working with, get on board the platform to attend to inquiries, complaints, or suggestions by civil servants. You are required to issue them a ticket and resolve their complaints", she said.

Adebowale also urged all Civil Servants to embrace the platform by login on www.citizensgate.lagosstat.e.gov.ng and the dedicated toll-free non-emergency call line 767 as well as Short Message Service (SMS) and WhatsApp through 09090001101.

The Director-General, Office of Innovation, Creativity and Transformation, Mr. Toba Otusanya said before the launching of the Citizens' Gate 2.0 Platform, it is important to conduct a final test-run within the Alausa Secretariat environment, particularly on the roles of the resolvers which is key to the success of the project.

While appreciating the Lagos State Government for the laudable project, the Consultant and CEO of Instant Projects Company, Mr. Idowu Thompson, said the success of the Citizens' Gate Platform, depends on three major components; the citizens that are ready and eager to talk to the government, the platform that affords them the opportunity and 100% commitment from the Resolvers.

The major highlight of the programme was the distribution of the tablets to the Resolvers for prompt response to Lagosians.



The Lagos State Government has placed Chrisland High School, Ikeja, on probation for one academic session to monitor adherence to safety policies and guidelines.

The State Commissioner for Education Mrs. Folasade Adefisayo disclosed this while giving an update on the recent meeting between the management of Chrisland Schools and government agencies under the Lagos State Joint Task Force in charge of the implementation of the child protection and safeguarding policy.

The meeting, which was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Lagos State Safety Commission and Office of Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency and others which made up the Joint Task Force, directed Chrisland to delineate leadership functions as well as strengthen risk and safety management in all schools under its jurisdiction.

Whitney Adeniran: LASG Places Chrisland School On Probation

Also, the Lagos State Ministry of Education has directed the management of Chrisland Schools to urgently implement short and long-term reforms in school governance, Furthermore, the school management has been directed to recruit a certified Risk Manager to conduct and render a detailed analysis of risk management of the group

of schools and ensure all students, staff and stakeholders of the school affected by the death of the late Miss. Adeniran are given psycho-social therapy and trauma counseling.

Adefisayo said, "The stipulated conditions are outcomes of official investigations and reviews by all the agencies that form the Task Force and an

example of the usual conditions precedent to reopening schools closed for any form of infraction in Lagos State".

The Managing Director of Chrisland Schools, Mrs. Ibronke Adeyemi, who led Chrisland School management to the meeting, promised that the school will fulfill all requirements as directed by the Ministry.



Stories By Kunle Awosiyun

Lagos State Government has called on parents, teachers and caregivers from Education District V to ensure they keep a safe watch over their children to ensure the incidence of child abuse in the State is reduced to its barest minimum. Speaking at a one-day interactive conference on Safeguarding and Child Protection, the Executive Secretary, Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence

Lagos Govt Engages Parents on Rape of Minors

Agency, Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi, said the rise in cases of domestic and sexual violence was the reason behind the sensitisation programme. Vivour-Adeniyi, who was represented by the Head Clinical Psychology department, Olive

Oluwagbemileke, said the growing trend of rape culture in primary and secondary schools in the State resulted in the need for the agency to engage the parents with the relevant skill-set and information to boost their parenting skills and thus prevent Sexual and Domestic Violence cases proactively.

She reiterated the State Government's unwavering resolve to rid the State of the menace and ensure perpetrators are made to face the full wrath of the Law.

The Executive

Secretary said the Agency has left no stone unturned and had taken its sensitisation drive to Communities, Schools, Religious Leaders and Traditional Rulers, and also trained law enforcement agents and other relevant stakeholders.

She said the Agency had also made headway by collaborating with the Office of Education Quality Assurance and the Ministry of Youth and Social Development, urging parents, caregivers, teachers and school owners to key into

government policies and programmes in providing a better society for their wards.

Also speaking at the Conference, the Director, Monitoring and Investigation, Office of Education Quality Assurance, Akodu Kamardeen said the programme came at the right time to sensitise parents on the need to protect their children from abusers and shared instances of intervention in the course of duty, just as he called for more parental care and awareness on the part of parents.

One of the facilitators and State Coordinator, Child Protection Network, Ronke Oyelakin, said the conference was designed to equip parents to safeguard their children and address the grappling issues of violence that children are faced with.

Oyelakin further stressed that all stakeholders have collective roles and responsibility to instil good values in children towards a great future to promote a wholesome society devoid of all forms of abuse.

Lagos Warns Military, Police, Other Security Agencies Against Contravening Traffic Rules

The Lagos State Government has warned the Military, the Police and all other security agencies in the State against flouting Traffic Rules and Regulations on the roads and highways, adding that, henceforth, it will report erring officer found contravening any traffic law to the right formation.

A release signed by the Commissioner for Transportation, Dr. Frederic Oladeinde, denounced the rate at which Military Personnel, Police Officers and other uniform men contravene the State Traffic Laws with impunity, noting that the law is no respecter

of anybody and must be obeyed at all times.

Oladeinde added that the State Government wondered why uniform men who should be custodians of all Traffic Laws, work against it, stating that the government has resolved not to allow this menace to continue unchecked.

While urging all Security Agencies to show exemplary conduct by leading the way in obeying the traffic laws of the State, the Commissioner added that any form of physical assault of the State Traffic Law Enforcement Officers by the erring security personnel would also not be tolerated.

Lagos Govt To Construct Structural Stability Test On Burnt Building at Balogun Street



The Burnt Balogun Building

The Lagos State Government, through the State Materials Testing Laboratory, has concluded plans to conduct a structural and stability test on buildings affected by

the recent fire incident at Balogun Street on Lagos Island.

A release signed by the General Manager, Lagos State Materials Testing Laboratory, Engr. Olufunsho Elulade said the

officials of the Agency had visited the scene of the fire incident to take samples for testing to ascertain the structural integrity and stability of the burnt structures. According to him, the tests will include

visual, fire ratings analysis and Non-Destructive Test (NDT), adding that on completion, the report will be made available to the appropriate authority for further action.



Gov Babajide Sanwo-Olu

Stories By Kunle Awosiyani

Lagos House of Assembly Summons Commissioner For Allegedly Disregarding Due Process

The Lagos State House of Assembly has summoned the Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Mr. Omotayo Bamgbose Martins for allegedly disobeying due process. The lawmakers also summoned the Special Adviser on Public Private Partnership, Mr. Ope George and ENL NOVAL,

the benefiting contract firm, over what the legislators complained as award of contract between the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development and the office of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) without recourse to law. The lawmakers further directed that all such agreements and contracts by the Ministry of Physical

Planning and Urban Development without regards to the law be put on hold.

Raising the issue under 'Matters of Urgent Public Importance', the Chairman of the Committee on Physical Planning and Urban Development, Hon. Nureni Akinsanya, cited Section 26 of the PPP Law, which he said was not followed.

"The trend of not passing through the House in PPP agreements needs to be stopped and discouraged and the law of this State, as passed by the Lagos State House of Assembly, must be duly complied with and enforced," he said at a sitting presided by Deputy Speaker Wasiu Eshilokun-Sanni, who stood in for Speaker Mudashiru Obasa. In his contribution, Hon.

Sa'ad Olumoh who chairs the committee on Public Private Partnership at the House, noted that the committee on PPP was created by the Speaker Obasa to look into all the private partnership agreements entered into in the State.

"I observed in the course of our meetings with the Special Adviser in charge of PPP that a lot of MDAs have not met up with the due process as it involves PPP agreement.

"Section 8, 9 and 10 are very clear and the House of Assembly is not a rubber stamp. Due process must be followed and agreements should be ratified by the House of Assembly. We need to protect the interest of the State Government as well as that of private investors."

Speaking on the issue, Hon. Rotimi Olowo said there was need to determine the financial implications of such

contract.

Hon. Temitope Adewale, Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, noted that ratification of such agreements by the House is in the interest of people and the State because of "unforeseen circumstances that could lead to litigation. "PPP is a brilliant idea; laws made to direct the process need to be followed.

"Contracts been signed and not brought before the house for ratification is a flagrant disregard for the rule of law," he said.

Chairman, House Committee on Works, Hon. Abiodun Tobun, noted that the House of Assembly enacted laws to guide procedures and the laws were assented to by the Governor.

"It is wrong for government to enter into partnership with private organisations without recourse to the legislative House. It is an aberration," he said.



Lagos First Lady Hands Over Sick Bay To Dolphin Junior High School ... Reiterates Commitment to Welfare, Well-Being of Students

Lagos State First Lady, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu on Monday handed over a modern sick bay to Dolphin Junior High School in the Simpson area of Lagos Island, saying the facility represents the commitment of the state government to the welfare and well-being of students in the state.

The First Lady, it would be recalled, had on December 6, 2021, visited the school in furtherance of the global 16 days of advocacy against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) to sensitise the students on the menace of sexual abuse and harassment

within the academic environment.

The advocacy visit also afforded the First Lady the opportunity of donating some educational equipment including laptops, industrial cooking gas, and materials on SGBV to the school.

As part of the activities, the school leadership had urged the First Lady to help in facilitating a sick bay to take care of the health of students within the academic environment, especially to administer basic life support treatment in the event of injuries and other urgent medical needs.

Speaking at the handing over, the First Lady said

she was excited that the sick bay was now a reality and that medical personnel attached to the facility would be able to swiftly move to save lives in the event of medical emergencies.

"I am excited that we have delivered this project through a partnership between the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and other stakeholders. The welfare and well-being of our students are paramount to the administration of Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu and no stone will be left untouched to ensure that we replicate the modern sick bay in all our public schools", the



Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu cutting the tape

First Lady said. In his remarks, the Principal of the School, Mr. Taiwo Akinlabi expressed profound appreciation to the First

Lady, saying the facility will be properly utilised for the intended purpose.

He said the students were indeed

appreciative of the kind gesture of the First Lady, noting the sick bay would go a long way in helping to safeguard the health of students.

By Kunle Awosiyen

LAWMA Commences Placement of Abatement Notices on Houses Without Waste Bins

The Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) has commenced the placement of abatement notices on homes without waste bins across the state, in a move aimed at ensuring proper waste management and environmental hygiene in Lagos State. Commenting on the development, Managing Director/CEO of LAWMA, Ibrahim Odumboni, noted the importance of waste bins in homes for promoting a clean and healthy environment, adding that bins provided a designated space for domestic waste disposal, helping to prevent littering and indiscriminate dumping of refuse on streets. He said, "Proper waste management is a key component of maintaining a clean and healthy environment. Waste bins provide a designated location for waste disposal, and this helps to prevent the spread of

diseases and maintain a hygienic environment". He also warned that the enforcement of the use of waste bins by tenements across the state would begin on 1st June, 2023, stressing that the agency has set up a task force responsible for ensuring compliance in all homes. "We have set up a task force that will be responsible for enforcing the use of waste bins across the state. The task force will be working closely with community leaders, stakeholders and other relevant agencies to ensure compliance with the policy", he emphasised. Odumboni urged residents to embrace the use of waste bins and make it a habit to dispose of their waste in a responsible manner, calling on landlords and property owners to provide waste bins for their properties and ensure they are regularly emptied and maintained.

In a related development, LAWMA has organised an orientation programme for its enforcement and abatement notice teams, on standard rules and proper conduct while engaging tenements on the issue of procurement of smart waste bins, for their homes. The Executive Director of Finance, Kunle Adebisi, who represented the MD/CEO of LAWMA, at the event, emphasised the importance of the authority's Adopt-a-Bin project, meant to curb waste migration, indiscriminate dumping, and to enhance waste recycling while helping to reduce the amount of waste going to landfills. On his own part, LAWMA's Chief Technical Officer, Dr. Olorunwa Tijani, who spoke on the topic, "Bin Placement and Evacuation", advised tenements to place their waste bins at strategic places to make them accessible for seamless evacuation by assigned

PSP operators. Dr. Essien Nsuabia, Assistant General Manager, Sustainability and Partnership, who moderated the training, spoke on "Overview and Policies on Adopt-a-Bin", emphasised that the initiative was aimed at ensuring effective waste containerisation in homes, offices and other facilities. Akin Alabi of WasteCare Solutions, explained that the smart bins could be purchased online through the website: www.buylawmabin.com, adding that deliveries would take three working days, once the payment was confirmed. Other facilitators at the orientation programme included the Head of Legal Services, Uthman Rilwan; the Head of LAWMA Academy, Elizabeth Ademola; the Head of Recycling, Jirinsola Okunbanjo and the Head of Corporate Affairs, Olaniyan Aramide while Senior LAWMA officials were in attendance.

Physical Planning Permit Authority Arrests Three Persons For Breaking Govt Seal



Sealed company in Ajao Estate

Three persons have been arrested at 5, Eromosele Street, Parkview Estate, Ikoyi by the Enforcement Team of Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Authority (LASPPPA) and members of Lagos State Task Force for violating the State's Physical Planning Permit Law. According to the General Manager of LASPPPA, Tpl. Kehinde Osinaike, the three violators, namely Samuel Adeleke (31), Oyewole Israel (21) and one Alhaji Morufu Alade (53), will be prosecuted for breaking government seals unlawfully and by-passing the restriction placed on the property by the Authority to continue construction works without authorisation. Osinaike recalled that the property was served notices and sealed by LASPPPA officials after which the owner of the said property went on to by-pass the seal and instructed his workers to go back to the site without due recourse to the District Office of LASPPPA at Ikoyi to start the process of obtaining a permit before continuing construction. He said the arrest will serve as a deterrent to others who are in the habit of violating Physical Planning Permit Laws of Lagos State by removing seals without authorisation. While urging those in the act of removing seals unlawfully to desist from such, the General Manager said "The State Government will no longer condone any disregard to Town Planning Laws as this usually results in losses in the long run". In a related development, LASPPPA has re-sealed an illegal Petrol Filling Station at 1, Robinson Gbagi Street, Ajao Estate during a joint enforcement exercise with officials of the Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA). It was discovered that the owner of the Filling Station continued construction despite the stop-work order and sealing of the site on March 18, 2022, due to non-conformity with Physical Planning Regulations. The Filling Station which has now reached the completion level has been partially tokened and re-sealed by the State Government and will remain sealed until the owner meets all necessary provisions of the law.



Lagos Recycling bins

By Kunle Awosiyan

Industrial Court Orders Lapo Microfinance To Pay Sacked Staff

A Lagos division of the National Industrial Court of Nigeria (NICN) has declared the termination of appointment of one Mr. Aruna Collins Ekpen by Lapo Microfinance Bank Limited as illegal, unconstitutional, wrongful, null and void. The presiding judge, Justice Mauren Nkechinyereugo Esowe says that the action of Lapo amounts to breach of international best practices on labour law. She said, "It is hereby declared that the restriction placed on the claimant's salaries for three consecutive months by the defendant is unlawful, unjustified and done with utmost bad faith. "The defendant is ordered to pay the claimant the sum of N139, 163. 88, as damages representing what the claimant is entitled to as payment in lieu of notice. The defendant is ordered to

pay the Claimant the sum of N250, 000. 00, as cost of action as assessed by the Court. Judgment is accordingly entered."

The claimant, Aruna Collins Ekpen, had approached the court in a suit marked NICN/LA/145/2021, after he accused Lapo Microfinance Bank Limited of sacking unjustly and unconstitutional. The action he claimed was in breach of international best practices on labour law.

The claimant, through his lawyer, Sylvester Ijie, had asked the court for the following: "a declaration that the purported dismissal of the employment of the Claimant is unfair, unlawful and in breach of the principles of fair hearing and international best practices on labour law.

"A declaration that the withholding of his salaries for three



LAPO Microfinanace

consecutive months is unlawful, unjustified and done with utmost bad faith.

"An order of the Court directing the Lapo Microfinance Bank to pay him the total sum of N278,327.73, being the unpaid salaries for three months at N92,775.90

per month owed him.

"Interest on the sum of N278, 327. 73, at the rate of 21 percent on the principal sum till judgment is delivered and interest at the rate of 10 percent, on the judgment sum from the day of judgment of this Honourable Court till the

judgment sum is fully liquidated.

"General damages in the sum of N1 million, for unfair dismissal, unlawful and unjustified termination of contract, financial hardship and socio-economic discomfort suffered by him because of the Lapo

Microfinance Bank Limited's refusal to release his arrears of salary for 3 months despite repeated demands. And the Cost of this action as assessed by the Court."

During the trial, the claimant told the court that he was employed by the defendant on December 2, 2013, while his employment was confirmed on October 21, 2015 vide a letter of confirmation dated the same day.

He told the court that In the course of his employment with the defendant, he worked in various capacity, and was placed on a monthly salary of N92, 775. 90. And that when he was transferred to one of the defendant's branch office at Obalende Nigeria from its Opebi branch.

He told the court that he was not paid relocation allowance, due to the distance from his place of residence to the Defendant's Forsyth branch, and that he had challenges with keeping up with his daily resumption time. The situation which made the defendant placed restrictions on his salary account while he was disengaged on December 09, 2020.

However, Lapo Microfinance Bank Limited in its defence to the suit filed by its lawyer, Teena Wills-Obong, urged the court to dismiss the claimant's suit with substantial cost.

Upon deciding the issues raised by parties in favour of the claimant, Justice Esowe ordered the defendant to pay the Claimant the sum of N250, 000. 00, as cost of action as assessed by the Court.

Ramadan: Diaspora APC Group Launches Food Bank For Lagos Residents

A support group within the United States Chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Tinubu-Shettima Independent Campaign Diaspora Initiative, Texas (TSICDIT) has launched a food bank for Lagos residents in commemoration of the ongoing Ramadan. The coordinator of the group, Akinkunmi Lukman Tinubu said the food bank was launched as a measure to share love and reach out to the people which is in line with the essence of Ramadan. According to Tinubu, in a statement, "Through fasting, Muslims

experience hunger and thirst and sympathize with those in the world who have little to eat and drink every day. Ramadan teaches us to be charitable.

"Ramadan lays emphasis on renewing our faith in God and placing a high premium on human life, love for our country, love for our neighbour, and sharing. It teaches us to reach out to the less privileged in society and do everything to make them comfortable.

"This is why as a group, we have decided to launch the Food Bank in furtherance of our firm trust that the incoming administration of the



Diaspora APC group

President-Elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and the Vice President-Elect, Senator Kashim Shettima will work from day one on

May 29, 2023, for the progress of our dear country.

"We also know that the Lagos State Governor, Mr

Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, and all elected public officers of APC are ready to continue to do more for the people," Tinubu said.

Buy A Bank? Yes, You Can!

Kehinde Bamigbetan

Professionals at the top of their organisations jetting out of Nigeria for greener pastures need to do themselves a favour before getting on that flight: read Aigboje Imoukhuede's account of the making of the Access Bank we know today.

Like them, he rose through the ranks, paying his dues at Continental Merchant Bank, Prime Merchant Bank, and finally Guaranty Trust Bank.

Unlike them, he made use of his visionary instincts fed by market intelligence and with Herbert Wigwe as a partner raised N800 million to buy a bank that was making its way to a public offer.

Unbelievable for two 36-year-old gentlemen each with about 12 years of experience? Read *Standing on the Tarmac*, the title of this rivetting, personal testimony, straight, as they say, from the horse's mouth.

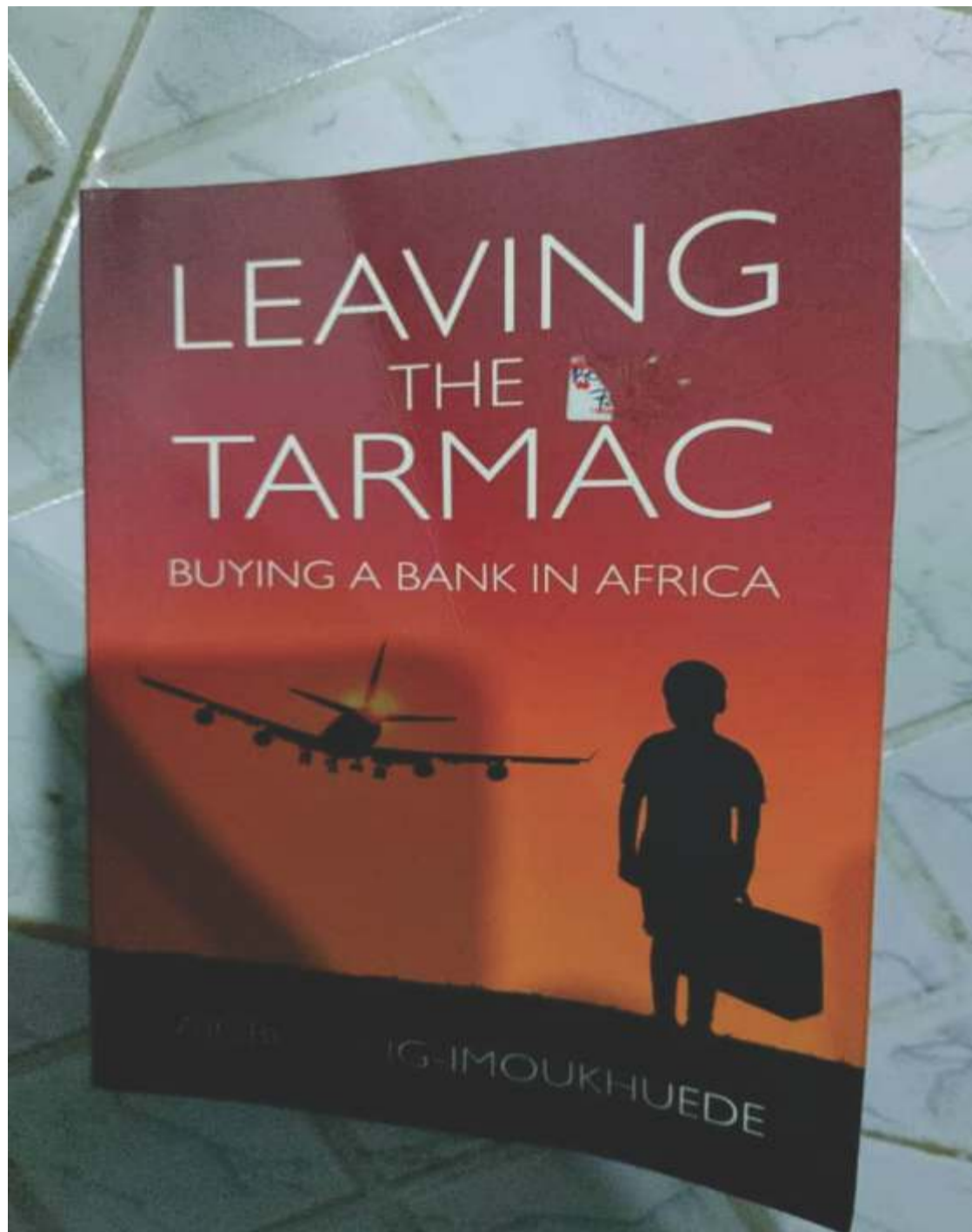
This account shows that there will always be excuses to toe the line of resistance for men and women of lesser grit and that it takes courage, vision, and the nose for opportunities to excel in any environment.

It is a compulsory read for start-ups and young Nigerians who may be discouraged by the country's depressing economic indicators. It will enable them to seek the diamonds in the rubles.

Aigboje emphasises the contrast between where both came from and where they were headed. Their parents were senior civil servants devoted to the standard routine of working for the government for 35 years until retirement and then relying on pension till old age.

Accustomed to this stability, his mum's concern was natural. She wondered why her son, the youngest of the management at GTB could no longer queue to get to the top but wanted to take on the herculean challenge of owning a bank. "where will you get the money? She asked.

This filial pressure from the maternal instinct to protect her



The Book

child from risk is often the point of reversal for many ambitious men.

But this was a different son who had done his homework and was just waiting for the right time to strike.

It is said that opportunity only comes to those who are prepared. As Agboje and Herbert were looking for a bank to buy, Access Bank chose to go on a public offer to raise more funds. The figure was N800 million. Both had N200 million. Yet before the deadline, they were able to meet the target. Where there is a will, there is a way.

Perhaps, for the first time, this book reveals the proposition that became the game changer: the value chain theory. As a

strategy for competitive advantage, it tracks the process through which value is generated in the production, distribution, exchange, and consumption of a product or service making it possible to identify gaps in value losses. The new management led by Agboje offered two critical values: revenue gain and reduction of losses. This was more than banking. It was a holistic surgery that took the internal processes of potential clients through intensive X-rays revealing the challenges and offering new expertise.

To establish this new niche, the management set up the in-house training school where recruits to the executive cadre - all with second class upper minimum-spent four months

internalizing the logic and application of the idea.

On graduation from the Access Bank School of Banking Excellence, they were deployed to the sectors the management believed had the highest return on efforts - cement, beverages, telecommunications, oil, and gas. Among their key skills was how to use relationship marketing to maximize the industrial networks of producers, suppliers, distributors, and regulators and convert them to customers.

Executing these operations by leading from the front, Agboje and his team inspired the Access Bank's team to brave the odds with zero tolerance for rejections. The methods worked. In the first year, the revived bank made a profit of a

billion naira.

Running with this winning formula became the stimulus for more success despite the rapid changes in the regulatory policies of the Central Bank of Nigeria, the apex bank, and its successive czars.

Thanks to his vision and enterprise, Agboje, like a footballer who converts a throw to a goal, was able to turn the Settlement policy of the apex bank to advantage by duplicating the relationship and devising a means to help other banks process at a profit. The strategic engagement that enabled the bank to raise N25 billion to meet the apex bank minimum capital base under Professor Soludo is another miracle.

The purchase of Intercontinental Bank to boost the retail business and its integration despite sabotage caused by the perception among staff that it was a hostile take-over were milestones that manifested the doggedness of these professionals.

A word for parents: do we really know what is going on in the mind of our kids? The author took this title from an experience he had as a young student who was elbowed out by adults while trying to board a plane on the tarmac. He resolved never to be left on the tarmac again.

In the course of this account, he reminds himself of this vow each time he saw an opportunity and made sure he got on the plane.

In common parlance, he had a lifelong ambition never to be left on a tarmac.

When I bought this book at Terra Kulture, Tiameyi Savage Street on Victoria Island about 1 pm on Thursday, I imagined that it would take me the Easter holiday to read. However, as I turned the last page at 11 pm the same day, I wondered what happened and longed for more. That demonstrates how the beautiful prose and the newsy account enthralled me. Sincerely, this is unputdownable!

Tony Elumelu @60: Celebrating Africa's Icon of Entrepreneurship

On the eve of Tony O. Elumelu's birthday—22nd March, 1963, not even Suzanne Elumelu; his mother, knew she was about to give birth to a child of destiny that would later become iconic persona in the world of business, investment and philanthropy.

This precious baby—an angel on assignment, was named Onyemaechi, which translates to "who knows tomorrow".

Tomorrow is pregnant they say but we can shape tomorrow from today if we determine to do so. John. F. Kennedy, former U. S. president, opined that we can carve our tomorrow today if we don't look only to the past or present.

Onyemaechi was like a rhetorical question the bearer of the name chose to answer later in the sojourn of life. Then young Tony Elumelu set out not only to discover tomorrow but to design it, which exemplifies Abraham Lincoln's postulation that the best way to predict the future is to create it. He did not wait for life to happen to him—he happened to life!

Six decades on the voyage, riding tides in turbulent ocean of life, like great Michelangelo, Tony Elumelu has not only carved and painted his "tomorrow" but has also become a paragon of success story for young entrepreneurs to copy. His impact in modelling young entrepreneurs has reverberated across Africa via Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF).

He is a private sector leader cum shrewd investor with investments in key sectors of the African economy through Heirs Holdings, Transcorp Group, UBA Group, etcetera.

Hundreds of thousands of jobs have been created by this entrepreneurial maven. At an early stage, with an eagle-eyed focus, he was poised to achieve greatness in life. He could not allow any perceived disadvantage to weaken his resolve to rise from nadir of obscurity to Olympian cliff of fame.

Like Arthur C. Clarke said: "The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible".

Tony Elumelu, as a pacesetter, believes that impossible is just a



Tony Elumelu

word. At 34, he was already chief executive officer of defunct Standard Trust Bank and one of the youngest bank CEOs in Nigeria.

Stories of reforms and revolution of African banking industry cannot be complete without outlining his sterling efforts towards positioning African banking industry to compete with the rest of the world. His indelible footprints of success as chief executive of United Bank of Africa (UBA), will remain a revered point of reference for ages to come.

Tony Elumelu's ten-year visionary leadership at UBA positioned the Bank as leading 21st century mega bank in the continent, with over 20 million active customers, 30,000 employees, and 1,000 branches across 20 countries of Africa. When Americans brag with behemoths like JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America and Europeans pride in leviathans like Barclays,

Deutsche Bank AG, Africans glow in the UBA Group—all thanks to Tony O. Elumelu, CFR. The man who created his "tomorrow".

In 2010, he retired as chief executive officer of the UBA Group and founded Heirs Holdings and The Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF). Beyond banking industry, Tony Elumelu has straddled the divide of hospitality industry.

His spirit of excellence can be seen in Transcorp Hillton, Abuja, a five-star hotel located at the heart of the Nigeria's capital, where he has controlling interest. Transcorp Hillton remains one of the top most exquisite hotels in Africa. When a man has aura of excellence, like Midas touch, it reflects in all his businesses. He has replicated the same standard of excellence in power sector, oil and gas industries, etcetera.

As billionaire entrepreneur is revelling in the euphoria of his 60th birthday, the life of Tony O.

Elumelu has become another proof that repeated excellence heralds greatness. It exudes a purpose driven life anchored on eternal philosophy that life is not an accident, which implies that for anyone to be great you have to set out for it with laser-focused vision. Tony O. Elumelu is the father of Africapitalism—an economic philosophy hedged on optimizing power of capitalism via entrepreneurship to liberate Africa from the shackles and hackles of multidimensional poverty and crass underdevelopment.

Being one of the Forbes' recognized richest people in Africa, In 2020, he was honoured amongst Times Magazine's 100 most influential people in the world. Despite achieving giant strides and reaching lofty milestones in life, the Delta-born business guru has never downplayed the place of grace in his meteoric rise to stardom.



Tony Elumelu

On several platforms, with sense of humility and humour, he has narrated how luck—or what can be called favour, mixed with dint of hard work, contributed immensely to his projectile growth from being just a corp member at Union Bank, to emerging as one of the youngest CEOs of commercial banks, to chairing one of the largest banking conglomerates in Africa.

He has asked this philosophical but rhetorical question in one of his public outings: "Am I blessed or am I lucky?". I will try to answer it. Tony O. Elumelu is both blessed and lucky. Everything about him bespeak blessings. His body language acknowledges biblical expository that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong but to him God shows mercy.

The experience of Peter as a fisherman expounds it: "Master, we have toiled all day but caught no fish", Jesus commanded Peter to lower the net into the sea: low and behold! the same Peter that could not catch any fish caught so much fish at one stance to the extent that he had to call for reinforcement to assist him in pulling the huge chunk of fish out of the river.

Peter was hard-working. He was skilled in fishing. He was at the right place at the time. He had instruments of fishing—net, boat, etc., yet "luck" was not there until Jesus arrived and brought "luck".

It takes unparalleled humility and a deep understanding of the role of the supernatural in the affairs of men, for a billionaire who has attained height of success to openly acknowledge the place of luck in his success story. This is one of the great attributes that stands out Tony O. Elumelu. Despite his hard work and sacrifices to get to his enviable status today, he has always acknowledged that he is a blessed and lucky person.

His philanthropic strides and gestures are driven by this belief that he is just a custodian of wealth meant to better humanity. A school of thought says: "what we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains, and is immortal". This is the ideology that gave birth to Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF), and transformed Onyemaechi—the founder, from being just a human to a humanitarian.

Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF), in the last decade has done marvellously well to empower over 16,000 young entrepreneurs across 54 countries in Africa, through training, mentoring and funding them with start-up capital of \$5,000 each.

In 2015, the Foundation launched an "Entrepreneurship Programme", a \$100 million intervention to empower 10,000 African entrepreneurs over the next ten years. Elumelu's passion for young entrepreneurs is not only unequalled but contagious. Global bodies like UNDP, UNCDF, AfDB, Red Cross, etcetera, have all identified with the Foundation via partnership.

He was quoted as saying: "Beyond business success, always look for ways not only to give back, but to empower generations coming behind us, so that they can go even further that we have. It can be big or small, as simple as giving advice, becoming a mentor, broadcasting your success. Youths in Africa are determined, energetic, hungry to succeed and make a difference, and are extremely intelligent, but the environment makes it difficult for

them to succeed."

Africa has been described in some quarters as 'killer' of dreams because of difficult operating environments for startups. But Elumelu believes that with right mentorship, a lot of ambitious young entrepreneurs will defy the odds, stem the tide and become trailblazers in the world of business and investing.

Tony O. Elumelu, CFR, as an advocate of Africapitalism, and who is fondly called the King of soft life, admonishes that next frontier of Africa's wealth will be in entrepreneurial quest of her youths. We cannot keep watching African youths risk and waste their lives trying to cross Sahara desert and Mediterranean sea to search for greener pasture in the developed world. As he marked his 60th anniversary, I chose to celebrate his impactful journey so far.

There is a school of thought that encourages us to celebrate lives of those who have become exemplary in order to get our youths to emulate such virtues.

This article was originally published on vanguardngr.com
Written by Chidiebere Nwobodo.

Stories by Afolabi Saheed

Chelsea legend, John Mikel Obi reveals that the big players took the glory at the club despite the fact that it was a team effort.

Before joining The Blues, Mikel was caught up in the web of a transfer saga with Manchester United before making the move to the Stamford Bridge.

Ex Nigeria international, Mikel said he doesn't know why he's always underrated at Chelsea but it has never got the better of him.

The retired football star stated that it was a different ball game at the National team level as he was looked unto as a leader.

"I don't know, I think, I think for mostly for the Chelsea fans, I

Mikel Obi: Big players took the glory at Chelsea

think," he said. "Yeah, they probably think I was, you know, I'm a bit underrated. But it's not something that really got to me.

"I mean, I was just, they're doing my work, you know, enjoying playing football and, you know, enjoying being at the club.

"But when it comes down to the national team, I was always someone who is more, you can look at me as someone who was underrated.

Well, obviously at Chelsea, you know, like the big names,

John Terry, the Lampard, the Drogba, all these guys obviously were always taking the glory every weekend.

"So for us, some of the players, it was a bit of, we were there doing our bit to help the club win. We worked as a team. not everybody was getting the credits that they deserve."

Mikel scored one goal in 249 appearances for Chelsea

He was part of the Nigeria side that won the silver medal at the FIFA U20 world cup in 2005 after losing the final to Argentina.



John Obi Mikel

Extra Quality Ramadan Cup Gets Kickoff Date

The third edition of the Extra Quality Ramadan Cup has been scheduled to kickoff on the 10th of April, 2023 at Eko Boys High School, Mushin.

The tournament tagged 'Bringing out Sport In The Holy Month of Ramadan' will see clubs squaring up against each other to determine the eventual champions of the championship.

The teams that will be on parade at the tournament are defending champions Jumez International, MS Success, Eko boys All Star, Saturday All Star, Ciroma FC, Original FC, Sangalo FC and FC Robo Warriors.

Speaking at the draws of the tournament, the organizer, Musbau Oseni said the purpose of the

tournament is to give back to the community through the sponsor, Alhaji Yusuf Ayinla and no fee was charged from the participating teams because it's a free tournament.

Oseni added that the participating clubs should also be at the match venue at least one hour before kickoff as indiscipline from any team will not be condoned.

"This tournament is a free one because the sponsor of the tournament, Alhaji Yusuf Ayinla (Anobi Mushin) is using it to give back to the community through sport, so we will not be charging any fee for the tournament.

"All teams are urged to be at the match venue at least one hour before



Musbau Oseni

kickoff as indiscipline from any team will not be condoned in the tournament.

"Light refreshments will be given to the teams immediately after their matches to use in breaking their fast as we want the tournament to be a memorable one to celebrate the month of Ramadan."

NWFL Premiership: Robo Queens Got It Right Against Ibom Angels - Osahon

Robo Queens head coach, Emmanuel Osahon has said the club were able to get it right against Ibom Angels despite conceding an early goal in the encounter.

The Lagos Landladies crushed Ibom Angels 7-1 to send the club to the second tier of the NWFL after just one season at the Premiership.

Speaking, Osahon said the Robo Queens performance was encouraging because the players did their part well. The Robo Queens tactician added that conceding first actually propelled the players to make an impact in the game as they played to instructions.

"It has been encouraging at least, for today they were able to somethings well and they were able to do somethings well and they were able to get it

right.

"At least the first goal scored by the away team propelled them to come out and play.

"We just need to win, there's no two ways about it. All we are looking for is to win and by the grace of God we will win.

"All the players played well, everyone is good, they played to instruction."

With the large margin win

against Ibom Angels, Robo Queens are second on the NWFL Premiership group B with 19 points from 11 matches as they trail league leaders Confluence Queens by a point.

A win for the Lagos Landladies against Confluence Queens in their last game of the regular season will guarantee a super six playoff spot.



Emmanuel Osahon