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Valentine's Day: How Mental Illness'll Deprive Many of Love

By Kunle Awosiyan

No fewer than 79 mentally unstable people in Lagos Destitute Rehabilitation Centre may be deprived of love as the world marks Valentine's Day. This is due to Lagos outdated lunacy law that had deprived them of referral to quality hospital where they can be cured and reabsorbed into the normal society.

Every February 14, the world celebrates Valentine's Day to express love with exchange of gifts and pleasantries and in a way, the Lagos State Parks and Garden Agency LASPARK has opened over 340 parks and gardens to fun seekers.

However, hundreds of residents who are mentally unstable will not be visiting the parks and gardens. They are restricted within the rehabilitation centre with lesser hope of getting well soon due to Lagos obsolete lunacy law.

According to a study, Psychiatric Morbidity among residents of this centre there is steady increase in the rate of mental illness among unemployed youths in the state.

The study by Ayodele Olurotimi Coker of the Department of Behavioural Medicine, Lagos State University College of Medicine investigated residents of a destitute rehabilitation centre for psychiatric morbidity and found

that almost half of them are battling with one mental illness or another.

" " They were interviewed one-on-one basis using the ICD-10 diagnostic criteria for presence of specific mental illness by a consultant psychiatrist," the study noted.

It states that the majority of the participants 400 (94.7%) were unemployed, single 187 (44.3%) and 353 (83.6%) lived on the streets.

Among the participants, 137 (32%) were diagnosed with schizophrenia, 89 (32.4%), mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol and multiple substance abuse, 51 (12.1%), antisocial personality disorder, 13 (7.1%) mania and (1.8%) had severe depression. The association of drug use between males and females were found to be statistically



significant ($X^2=7.874$, $DF=1$, $P=.005$).

The study showed that the residents of the investigated destitute rehabilitation centre had high prevalence of mental illness.

This is coming months after Lagos government confirmed that 79 out of 450 miscreants relocated out of the state showed signs of

insanity.

The 79 were absorbed into government facilities but finding shows that there has not been referral to special facilities where their unwellness could be taken care of.

The Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Gbenga Omotosho disclosed that the 450 miscreants were

evacuated to free Lagos of "visible security risks."

Recall that the operatives of the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) of the Lagos State Police Command arrested a man claiming to be insane in possession of 22 ATM credit cards, 2 mobile phones and power bank in Victoria Island area of Lagos.

The man, Lanrewaju

Jaiyeola, 39, was intercepted by the operatives where he was sighted in a suspicious manner carrying a backpack on Ozumba Nbadiwe Road.

Another "mad man" allegedly found in possession of arms and ammunition was arrested at Gowon Estate, Ipaja.



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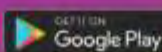
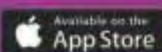
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Valentine's Day: How Mental Illness'll Deprive Many of Love

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However, the Centre For Mental Health and Initiative had called on the state to do something about the lunacy law, which it describes as one of the outdated laws the state must review.

The centre said that the government must address the pathology responsible for lunacy and not just limiting the law to the whole philosophical undertone of merely ridding society of persons considered "insane".

"It is not enough to put such persons under restrictive custody of the state without addressing the pathology responsible for his or her condition, the law must be amended to do more," the centre said.

Lunacy Ordinance was enacted in 1916 and gives medical practitioners and magistrates the power to detain people with mental illness. The law has not been amended since 1958. The Act fails to provide persons with mental disorders deliberate treatment and a possible re-integration into society.

According to the centre, a proposal was put forward by experts in mental health recommending that the act be summarily repealed, while a new Lagos Mental Health Bill should replace it.

Meanwhile the new speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Honourable Mojisola Lasbat Meranda, has said she will prioritise amendment of outdated laws in the

state.

Meranda exclusively told Echonews that her emphasis is not about sponsoring and passing new bills but to ensure that outdated laws are amended to suit the workings of a modern Lagos.

The speaker has been a vocal advocate for women's rights and youths since she was elected a lawmaker in 2015 to represent Apapa Constituency 1.

Her most prominent bill sponsored is calling for greater representation of women in politics, emphasizing equal capabilities in leadership roles.

Some of her oversight functions include initiation of water projects, equipping schools, supporting petty traders and widows, and facilitating training programmes for artisans within its constituency.

Meanwhile LASPARK has opened promos on its social media

handles for picnickers to visit the parks and gardens for Valentine fun. In one of its promos, LASPARK writes, "Planning a Valentine's Day picnic? We hope this list helps you and your loved one have the best picnic experience possible. We want to hear from you too! Are we missing something? Share your picnic essentials in the comment section below, and let's make picnic extra special this valentine!"

The LASPARK General Manager, Mrs. Adetoun Popoola said the agency is dedicated and committed to providing a beautiful, safe and healthy state through the establishment of functional parks, gardens and recreational centres.

Sprawled across Lagos, that are maintained and monitored by the state, in partnership with private sector organizations, the parks are built to



demonstrate the government's commitment to continuously enhancing the greenery of Lagos.

By building and rejuvenating green infrastructure, LASPARK is actively engaging the community to endorse a greener and healthier lifestyle by providing volunteering opportunities and learning initiatives at our parks and gardens.

"Beyond encouraging understanding, appreciation, and

protection of nature and biodiversity, we also hope to cultivate community champions that will ensure the protection of our natural environment of the future," she said.

Echonews gathered that lovers for the coming Valentine's Day will pay N1000 to access the parks. The parks are the popular Johnson Jakande Tinubu (JJT) Park at the Alausa Secretariat. In the same vicinity is the Ndubuisi Kanu Park, looking directly at the JJT Park. There

are the Gani Fawehinmi Park; Located in Ojota, Kosofe, Infinity Park Jibowu Yaba; Located in Jibowu, Yaba; Rafiu Jafojo Park: Located in Shasha, Alimosho; Ikorodu; Recreational Park: Located in Ipakodo-Ebute, Ikorodu; Dr. Oluyomi Abayomi Finnih Park; Located in Oregon, Ikeja; Peace Park: Located in Ketu, Kosofe; Encourage Park: Located in Osborne Ikoyi and Muri Okunola Park: Located in Victoria Island, Eti-Osa.



Muri Okunola Park

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50 Civil Servants With Disabilities Get LASODA Work Tools

The Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA) has presented work tools and assistive devices to about 50 civil servants with disabilities in the state. Cheques of N1,100,000:00 (One Million, One Hundred Thousand Naira) each were also handed to 11 individuals to procure prosthetics, aimed at enhancing their independence and productivity.

Speaking during the official presentation of the items, which took place at the STO Resource Centre, Ikeja, on Monday, the General Manager of LASODA, Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal, emphasised that the initiative was designed to empower, promote inclusion, and increase accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), particularly those employed by the State Government.

She noted that, in recent years, the Agency had received numerous requests from state civil servants with disabilities seeking work tools to help them perform their duties. This presentation is a step toward fulfilling that vision for PWDs in the state civil service.

In her words, "Today, we are presenting: 23 laptops, 9 laptops with speech-assisted software (Freedom Scientific Version 2024) for our visually impaired colleagues, as well as calipers and motorized



wheelchairs. We also have some representatives here on behalf of children in their facilities who will receive assistive devices and tools."

She added, "These work tools are more than just equipment; they are enablers of efficiency, confidence, and dignity. With these tools, our colleagues with disabilities will not only perform their tasks with greater ease but will also contribute meaningfully to the growth and development of Lagos State without barriers."

Mrs. Oyetunde-Lawal

further highlighted that Lagos State remains one of the largest employers of PWDs in the country. She assured that LASODA would continue to explore ways to assist PWDs within the civil service. She also urged the various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies to empower their staff with disabilities to achieve their full potential.

She concluded by affirming the state's commitment to promoting equal opportunities and advocating for a more inclusive society where no one is left

behind, regardless of their status. She encouraged the beneficiaries to use the tools responsibly, allowing them to serve as instruments of productivity, excellence, and self-reliance.

In her remarks, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Mrs. Oluwatoyin Oke-Osanyintolu, stated that the initiative aligns with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's social inclusion agenda, which ensures the welfare of individuals with special needs.

According to her, "This

administration, under the leadership of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, is working tirelessly to ensure that individuals with disabilities are supported in all aspects of life. LASODA has continued to address your needs, including the provision of work tools for your comfort. The work tools and assistive devices you're receiving today will serve as a model for future initiatives, reflecting in the improved service delivery and productivity for the people of Lagos."

She also noted that

improving access to public infrastructure for PWDs has been a key focus of the state government, beginning with civil servants. She expressed her full support for individuals and groups working to care for children with special needs in the state.

The beneficiaries expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Governor Sanwo-Olu and LASODA for the opportunity provided by the work tools, stating that the support will significantly improve their ability to contribute positively at their workplaces.

UNIMEDTH Sends Delegates To Understudy LASUTH

The Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) has played host to the delegation from the University of Medical and Health Sciences Teaching Hospital (UNIMEDTH), Ondo State, which was on a knowledge acquisition visit.

The purpose of the visit, according to the team, was to gain insights into LASUTH's successful establishment and management of its various training schools, which have become models of excellence in health sector middle-level manpower development.

Welcoming the delegation, the Chief Medical Director of LASUTH, Prof. Adetokunbo O. Fabamwo, highlighted the hospital's commitment to capacity building in the healthcare sector.

He said, "At LASUTH, we recognize the critical role of specialized training in strengthening healthcare delivery. Our training schools were created to bridge identified gaps in the

health sector, ensuring that professionals receive top-notch training tailored to meet the evolving needs of the health sector."

The CMD further emphasised that the establishment of these training schools aligns with LASUTH's legal mandates, which include training, service delivery, and research as its core functions.

Also speaking further, the Director of Clinical Services and Training and Chairman Medical Advisory Committee, Prof. Adebowale Adekoya, provided an overview of LASUTH's training institutions, stressing their strategic importance.

"LASUTH has established a range of specialised training programmes designed to equip healthcare professionals with critical skills across various disciplines. We aim to develop highly competent practitioners who will contribute meaningfully to the Nigerian healthcare system", he noted

Prof. Adekoya also announced plans for upcoming training programmes, including the School of

Paramedics and the School of Nephrology Nursing, which will further expand LASUTH's contributions to specialised healthcare capacity building.

Heads of LASUTH Training School, including the School of Anaesthetic Technology, the School of Orthopaedic Cast Technology, the School of Echocardiography, Caregiver Academy, the School of Postgraduate Diploma in Hospital Administration and Management, as well as the School of Advanced Neonatal Studies, made a detailed presentation, covering their institution's vision, mission, objectives, establishment, affiliations, accreditation processes, curriculum, and achievements.

The UNIMEDTH delegation, led by the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee (CMAC) of UNIMEDTH, Prof. Ayodeji Akinbodewa engaged with key stakeholders managing LASUTH's training programmes, gaining valuable insights into curriculum

development, accreditation processes, admission requirements, and operational frameworks. The team was also given a guided tour of LASUTH's facilities to observe first-hand the hospital's infrastructure supporting the training programmes.

Expressing appreciation, Prof. Ayodeji Akinbodewa lauded LASUTH for its achievements and openness in knowledge sharing. He affirmed that the insights gained would be instrumental in shaping UNIMEDTH's approach to establishing and managing its training schools.

Other members of the delegation included the Deputy Chairman Medical Advisory Committee (Clinical Governance), Dr. Felix Kumolalo; the Chairman of the Business Committee, Dr. Joshua Falade; the Director of Nursing Services, Mrs. Feyintola Ajetumobi and the Deputy Director of Administration, Mr. Lawrence Sabejeje, among others.

LASTMA Inducts Surveyor-General As Special Traffic Mayor



The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) has inducted and decorated the Permanent Secretary/Surveyor-General, Office of the State Surveyor-General (OSSG), Surv. Ayokunnu Adesina, as a Special Traffic Mayor.

The ceremony was conducted by Mr. Awoyemi Jimmy, the Director of Traffic Advocacy and Special Traffic Mayor Department, alongside his team at the Permanent Secretary's office in Alausa, Ikeja.

The initiative aims to enhance traffic advocacy efforts by securing the support and cooperation of distinguished civil servants in Lagos State. The engagement of top civil servants by LASTMA is an initiative that seeks to strengthen public participation in traffic management, promote safety awareness, and facilitate emergency response mechanisms across Lagos.

Expressing his gratitude, Surv. Ayokunnu Adesina

commended LASTMA for the laudable idea and reaffirmed his commitment to supporting the Agency's mission of ensuring efficient traffic flow and congestion control in the State.

"The role of LASTMA in managing Lagos traffic is commendable, and I am honoured to contribute to their efforts as a Special Traffic Mayor. I look forward to collaborating with the Agency to improve traffic conditions and safety for all road users," he stated.

The Special Traffic Mayor initiative is a strategic move by LASTMA to foster partnerships between government officials, private stakeholders, and the public in addressing Lagos' traffic challenges. The programme also encourages responsible road usage and enhances communication channels for real-time traffic feedback.

This development underscores the Lagos State Government's unwavering commitment to efficient traffic



Oba Oniru Lauds LJLA, Champions Community Engagement

To deepen leadership capacity and inspire the next generation of changemakers, the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy (LJLA) recently hosted His Royal Majesty, Oba Abdulwasii Omogbolahan Lawal CON (Abisogun II), The Oniru of Iruland, for a thought-provoking Fireside Chat with its Fellows.

Oba Oniru, whose distinguished career spans law enforcement, public administration, and traditional leadership,

commended the Lagos State Government for the establishment of the Academy, lauding its vision to groom young leaders dedicated to service and transformation. He emphasised the critical role of youth engagement in governance, stating that the future of Nigeria hinges on the ability of young leaders to take ownership of societal progress.

“LJLA is a testament to the power of investing in young minds. It is through institutions like this that we can create a generation of

visionary leaders who are not just reactive but proactive in shaping the future”, Oba Oniru remarked.

He further highlighted the importance of grassroots and community engagement, urging the Fellows to remain deeply rooted in the realities of the people they aspire to serve. He underscored that meaningful leadership is built on understanding the needs of the communities and designing policies that resonate with the everyday experiences of

citizens.

“You are the game-changers, the ones who will correct societal ills through innovative and strategic approaches. But to lead effectively, you must stay grounded, continuously learn, and maximize every opportunity that comes your way”, he added.

The Executive Secretary of LJLA, Mrs. Ayisat Agbaje-Okunade, expressed profound appreciation to Oba Oniru for his inspiring insights, reinforcing the Academy's commitment to

preparing leaders who embody integrity, service, and excellence.

“At LJLA, we believe in leadership that is not only visionary but also practical and people-centred. Oba Oniru's journey exemplifies the essence of lifelong learning, resilience, and adaptability, values that our Fellows must embrace as they chart their leadership paths”, she stated.

Agbaje-Okunade further urged the Fellows to stay focused, committed, and proactive in leveraging the

Academy's resources, reminding them that leadership is a continuous journey of growth and service.

The LJLA Fireside Chat series serves as a bridge between emerging leaders and established changemakers, fostering a culture of collaboration, critical thinking, and continuous learning. By connecting the past, present, and future of leadership, the Academy ensures that its Fellows are equipped to drive transformative change across various sectors.



Sanwo-Olu Advocates Inclusive Local Governance

... As LGSC Holds Summit To Strengthen Grassroots Governance, Sustainable Development

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to strengthening grassroots governance and enhancing service delivery across Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) in the state.

Speaking at the 2025 Local Government Summit organised by the Lagos State Local Government Service Commission (LGSC), with the theme "Strengthening Grassroots Governance and Service Delivery in Local Government and Local Council Development Areas," Governor Sanwo-Olu commended the Commission for the summit, emphasising its role in deepening discussions on local governance.

The Governor, represented by Secretary to the State Government, Barr. Abimbola Salu-Hundeyin, described Local Governments and LCDAs as the "bedrock of governance and development," underscoring their critical function in bridging the gap between government and the people.

He stated that grassroots governance must be people-centred, inclusive, and focused on delivering essential services efficiently. "As the closest tier of government to the people, Local Governments have a unique responsibility to lead in fostering inclusive development, promoting community participation, and delivering critical services effectively,"

Sanwo-Olu said. Mr. Governor highlighted his administration's efforts through the THEMES Plus Agenda, which prioritises infrastructure development, policy reforms, and capacity building to strengthen local governance. He cited the ongoing project commissioning across various LGAs and LCDAs as proof of the State's commitment to making life more meaningful for residents.

In his words, "This summit provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on challenges, share best practices, and collectively chart a way forward. I urge all participants to focus on actionable outcomes that will strengthen grassroots governance and instil public confidence in our Local Governments".

Looking ahead to the upcoming local government elections, Sanwo-Olu emphasised

the importance of free, fair, and credible polls, urging all political actors to uphold democratic values. "Our goal is Lagos where every citizen, regardless of their background, has access to quality services and opportunities. We envision a Lagos where grassroots governance is synonymous with transparency, accountability, and inclusivity," he added.

Also speaking at the Summit, held recently in the Lekki area of the State, Hon. Kamal Bayewu stressed the pivotal role of local councils as the foundation of socio-economic development in Lagos State. He described the summit as a significant platform for dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of innovative ideas aimed at repositioning grassroots governance as the cornerstone of sustainable development.

"With the theme 'Strengthening Grassroots Governance and Service Delivery in Local Government and Local Council Development Areas', this summit is not just an event; it is a platform for reflection, dialogue, and actionable strategies to improve service delivery and enhance the overall quality of life for Lagos residents", the Chairman stated.

Commending the visionary leadership of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, he acknowledged the administration's unwavering dedication to grassroots development through capacity building, infrastructure projects, and innovative policies that empower local councils.

He also noted the importance of inclusive governance models that ensure no citizen is left behind. "Our goal is to create a Lagos where every resident, regardless of

location or status, has access to quality services, equitable development, and a voice in governance," he said. The Chairman urged participants at the Summit to engage actively in discussions, as the ideas generated at the forum would serve as a roadmap for the future of grassroots governance in Lagos State. Also, the Permanent Secretary of the Lagos State Local Government Service Commission (LGSC), Mrs. Abosede George, provided a comprehensive recap of the last summit, highlighting key resolutions and progress made in strengthening grassroots governance.

She noted that previous deliberations had led to significant policy adjustments and strategic interventions aimed at improving service delivery at the local government level. According to her, one of the major outcomes was

the adoption of capacity-building programmes for council officials, which have enhanced their efficiency in addressing the needs of the people.

Mrs. George emphasised the importance of periodic engagements such as the Local Government Summit, stating that these gatherings serve as a critical platform for evaluating policies, sharing best practices, and addressing emerging challenges in local administration. The summit is expected to produce actionable strategies that will further enhance governance and service delivery across Lagos State.

One of the facilitators at the event and former Chairman of the LGSC, Alhaji Babatunde Rotinwa outlined a comprehensive approach to improving governance and service delivery at the grassroots level in his presentation, emphasising the need for accountability, innovation, and citizen engagement.



The Lagos State Lands Bureau officials have engaged residents of Ojota on how to regularise their land documents and titles. Under the supervision of Permanent Secretary Lands Bureau, Mr. Kamar Olowoshago, the team led by Esv. Olayinka Wasiu, Director of Land Regularization, Esv. Kayode Bombata and Esv. Hakeem Bakare, recently held an informative session with residents of Ogudu Orioke in Ojota to educate and enlighten them on the importance of land regularisation. The Permanent Secretary of Lands Bureau, Mr. Kamar Olowoshago said the event held recently at Ojota is aimed at

Land Regularization; Lagos Engages Residents of Ojota

enlightening the community on the benefits of formalising their land ownership and the ease of these acquiring titles. He said, "Our officials will provide valuable insights into the land regularization process, focusing on the efforts made by the state government to digitize and archive land records. The initiative is designed to enhance the transparency, accessibility, and efficiency of the land regularization process, making it easier for

residents to obtain their land titles". Esv. Bombata and Esv. Bakare reassured residents that the digitization of land records is a key step in simplifying the process, providing a more seamless and transparent experience for all applicants. The team encouraged the community to take advantage of the opportunity to regularize their land ownership and contribute to the continued development of the state.



Lagos To Empower More Youths - Sanwo-Olu's Aide

The administration of Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu is committed to empowering more youths in Lagos State to reduce unemployment and criminality, foster rapid and sustainable socio-economic development, boost food production, enhance food security, and make life better for the teeming population of Lagos State in line with the THEMES Plus Agenda. Speaking at a fish training and empowerment programme organised by the Centre for Rural Development (CERUD), held in Igbodu Epe recently, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Rural Development, Dr. Nurudeen Yekinni Lanre-Agbaje charged the participants to take advantage of the various developmental programmes of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to develop their skills, improve their business turnover and contribute to the socio-economic transformation of the

state. He stated further that Mr. Governor is willing to go the extra mile to ensure the youths are properly positioned to face the current socioeconomic challenges, assuring the participants that more training and empowerment in diverse skills are in the pipeline for them if they translate the opportunities they have received to concrete achievements. The Permanent Secretary,

Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development, Mrs. Kikelomo Bolarinwa expressed the determination of the government to deepen the human capacity building by expanding the programme to the various rural communities in Lagos State to stem rural-urban drift, create employment and increase food production in the state.

Similarly, the Director of CERUD, Mr. Musibau Muyiwa Balogun, admonished the participants not to view the training as another routine; but as an opportunity to learn new ways of doing things differently for a better outcome, promising that the Centre, with the approval of Mr Governor, will come up with several other programmes which will change the narratives of the socioeconomic life

of the youths in Lagos State. While thanking the Governor for his regular support for farmers in the state, the Chairman of All Farmers Association of Nigeria, Lagos Chapter, Dr. Femi Oke, expressed the desire of the association to collaborate more with the government to ensure increased food production for the benefits of Lagos residents. He also requested for the extension of government's

assistance to other sectors such as crop production. Responding, some of the beneficiaries expressed their determination to make good use of the training and empowerment materials, thanking the state government for the magnanimous gesture. A total of 100 participants were supplied with fish tanks, fish feeds and smoking kilns after the training exercise.



Lagos Speaker Hosts Female Lawyers

By Felix Kuyinu

The Speaker at the Lagos Assembly, Mojisola Meranda, has called for coalition between the legislative arm and female lawyers in the state.

During an interactive session with the group, Female Lawyers in Politics, Meranda hammered on the need to support the female gender into politics for more developments in the state.

The House leader also enjoined the group to continue mentoring women interested in public service. She described the visit as a reassuring moment for women taking leadership roles. Meranda also stressed on her commitment to justifying

the trust reposed on her, also ensuring that her tenure will make a lasting impact.

"I am overwhelmed by this visit," stated the Speaker. "Seeing strong, intelligent, and beautiful women standing by me gives me immense pleasure. I assure you that as you have believed in me, I will not disappoint my gender and Lagos State in general."

"This Assembly is your home, and I welcome your ideas, suggestions, and even constructive criticism because growth thrives on feedback."

"This is to encourage women to actively engage in governance because the House is open to private bills that contribute to the betterment of Lagos

State.

"Whenever we can partner for the betterment of the state, don't hesitate to reach out. Your suggestions are welcome, and private bills that enhance Lagos State's progress will always be considered."

President of the legal group, Abimbola Badia, described Meranda's emergence as the leader of the House is a historic milestone, and added: "We are here to felicitate with Madam Speaker."

"It is a thing of joy and a major achievement to have the first female Speaker in our time, and we are glad to witness it."

"We feel so proud that we couldn't hide our excitement. We had to come forward to express our joy and pledge our unwavering support."



Hon. Mojisola Meranda



Lagos Court Transfers \$222,000 Crypto Fraud Assets To FG

By Felix Kuyinu

A ruling at the Lagos has seized at \$222,729.86 and Federal High Court in Ikoyi, wallet assets valued transferred it to the

Federal operation involving Government of foreign countries. Nigeria. The EFCC's legal counsel, Zeenat Atiku, The Economic Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, mentioned that over 792 crypto currency investment and romance scam perpetrators were nabbed following a large scale fraud

Owoeye directed the anti-graft Commission to publish the forfeiture order in a national newspaper to allow any interested parties appear before the court within 14 days to contest the decision. The case was adjourned till March 7, 2025.



Tik-Toker Jailed For Impersonating American Citizen

By Felix Kuyinu

A trial at the Federal High Court in Lagos has seen a transgressor, Olamide Bello, sentenced to prison over impersonation. At the proceeding, Bello, who pleaded guilty to the offences, was said to have impersonated an American citizen on TikTok. He was sentenced to three years in prison. The court judge, Justice Alexander Owoeye, after

finding him guilty, gave the offender an option of fine in the sum of N600,000 in lieu. Additionally, the court ruled on the forfeiture of the convict's iPhones 14 pro Max and a GLK 2013 model, to the Federal Government of Nigeria. His sentence will read back from December 6, 2024, when he was arrested, as ruled by the judge. Bello, who was

apprehended by the Economic Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, paraded himself on the social media as Keanu Reeves, an American citizen in guise of defrauding unsuspecting victims. According EFCC counsel, Chineye Okeze, the offence committed contravened Sections 22 (2), (b), of the Cybercrimes Prohibition Prevention Act 2015.

Police Inspector Sentenced To Death

By Felix Kuyinu



A police Inspector in Lagos, Paul Joseph, has been sentenced to death by hanging over a murder incident in Lagos. Joseph was on trial at the Lagos High Court in Tafawa Balewa before Justice Sherifat Sonaïke for murder of the victim identified as Moshood Ismail. At the proceedings, the offender was said

to have shot the deceased during a patrol in Aguda area of the state on March 28, 2019, thus, violating the provisions of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. Justice Sonaïke said: "The defendant admitted to patrolling the area on the day of the incident and acknowledged that

someone had died from a gunshot. "His behaviour, along with other evidence, confirmed his guilt. The manner in which the fatal shot was fired indicated a clear intent to kill or cause grievous harm. "The use of a live weapon and the fatal wound inflicted leave no doubt that the defendant caused the death.



Lagos To Prioritise Wetland Conservation With New Policy

The Lagos State Government on Sunday said the State is currently developing an Environmental Policy on Wetlands and Biodiversity to balance development with nature conservation.

The Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab, stated this in a release issued as part of the year 2025 World Wetland Day celebration. He stated that the State Government remains committed to protecting Wetlands and their Biodiversity, stressing that the policy will ensure that all future projects in or around wetlands undergo a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment, in line with International best practices.

In his words, "Wetlands are nature's endowment to man due to the many benefits it provides, especially for sustenance. We must understand that we do not exclusively own the right to wetlands as our children and their children deserve the right to these same resources". Speaking on the 2025 theme: "Protecting Westlands For Our Common Future", he emphasised the need for sustainability concerning wetland usage and exploitation. Lagos State Government joins the rest of the world to commemorate the 2025 edition of World Wetlands Day to spread the message through different multimedia platforms by creating public enlightenment to address the increasing degradation, clearing and reclamation of Wetlands and their Biodiversity". The Commissioner explained that it is

unfortunate that with human activities and migration into Lagos, wetlands have come under increased threats with a loss of over 100km² between 2014 and 2022 owing to urban settlement.

He added that the government understands the need for development but strongly emphasised the need for Sustainable Development where wetlands are not just overexploited and encroached upon by the strength of one's purchasing power.

Wahab said to conserve some of the pristine wetlands, the Government had

preserved the Wetlands in Orugbo-Iddo, Epe and Iyafin, Badagry, with plans to develop these wetlands for tourism purposes.

He stressed that the government had also scaled up monitoring of wetlands by putting measures in place to ensure that violators of wetlands are severely punished and would no longer allow people to encroach upon wetlands without requisite approvals.

He said the government understands the place of partnership with sister MDAs, NGOs, Traditional Institutions and International

Organizations in safeguarding wetlands. He added that continued collaboration with willing stakeholders in the environmental sector and beyond will always be prioritised to ensure sustainability because it requires all hands to be on deck to avert the total loss of wetlands across the state.

The Commissioner also charged residents in the communities around wetlands to desist from indiscriminately dumping waste in wetland areas and ensure that the construction of buildings is not blocking the runoff of water along all drainage channels.



Tokunbo Wahab

Lagos Reaffirms Commitment To Human Capital Development

Lagos State Government has reiterated its firm commitment to investing in human capital development to enhance governance and service delivery.

The Honourable Commissioner for Establishments and Training, Mr. Afolabi Ayantayo, made this assertion today at a training programme with the theme: "Leading in a Digital Age," organised by the Ministry of Establishments and Training for middle-level officers. The event was held at the Public Service Staff Development Centre (PSSDC), Magodo, Lagos.

Speaking at the training, Ayantayo, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mrs. Olubusola Abidakun, emphasised that the programme reflects the



State Government's commitment to continuous capacity development and workforce enhancement. He noted that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration recognises the importance of a digitally competent workforce in achieving a smarter and more efficient government.

While asserting that the

programme was timely and strategic, he highlighted the significant strides made by the Lagos State Government in digital transformation, including the automation of government processes and deployment of smart solutions across various sectors.

"Citizens' expectations have changed as they demand efficiency. This is

because we live in a time where technology is reshaping every aspect of our personal and professional lives. The digital revolution has changed the way we work and deliver services. This training is designed to expose participants to digital transformation tools and innovative approaches to service delivery", Ayantayo said. He stressed the need for

participants and civil servants to integrate digital knowledge into their daily responsibilities to ensure that the training programmes have a meaningful impact.

While declaring the training programme open, the Commissioner expressed confidence that the training would enhance efficiency, boost productivity, and empower officers to contribute meaningfully to the growth and development of Lagos State.

The training programme, which had 100 participants who are above grade Level 13 cutting across different cadres in attendance, is part of Governor Sanwo-Olu's broader agenda to modernise the public service, drive digital innovation and build a workforce that is future-ready.

Show Empathy at Work, Ogunyemi Urges Health Workers

The Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Health, Dr. (Mrs.) Kemi Ogunyemi has charged all health workers, healthcare providers and medical practitioners to display a high level of empathy, kindness and respect in the discharge of their duties.

Ogunyemi gave the advice at a two-day retreat organised by the Lagos State Health District IV for its Management Staff with the theme: "Fostering Collaboration for Effective Primary Healthcare Delivery" held recently at the



Orchids Hotel, Lekki. In his welcome address, the Permanent Secretary of Health District IV, Dr.

Abimbola Bolawale advised everyone to adopt a positive mindset, which can turn difficulty into

opportunities and challenges into success stories. On a similar note, the Permanent Secretary of

the Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM), Princess Oyekan-Ismaila, went through the Ethics and Ethos of Lagos State Public Service, stressing the need for participants to adopt good etiquette and manners as they relate to patients and provide support and care.

Furthermore, Dr. Eniola Erinosh, a retired Director of Medical Services and Disease Control, spoke on the retreat theme, stressing the need for collaboration and cooperation among staff and the need to work together in unity as a team for efficiency

and productivity.

Also speaking at the event, Mr. Samuel Okedara, Director Reforms, OTCI, gave an overview of the SPADEV Appraisal system for a better understanding of how to fill the SPADEV for easy upgrading and appraisal for members of staff.

The participants expressed their appreciation to the P.S, Dr. Abimbola Bowale for his selfless leadership, and for fostering a conducive work environment, where everyone feels valued, inspired and encouraged to do their best.

Sanwo-olu Lauds Launch of Heliconia Park ... Describes It As Milestone In Lagos' Hospitality Growth

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has commended the launch of Heliconia Park - Luxury Apartments and Suites - as a significant boost to the state's thriving hospitality sector. The high-end establishment, located in the prestigious Eko Atlantic City, Victoria Island, was officially inaugurated on Sunday.

Representing the Governor at the event, the Honourable Commissioner for Tourism, Arts, and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, described the apartment as a

welcome investment that reinforces Lagos' status as a premier destination for business and leisure. In his remarks, Governor Sanwo-Olu underscored the rising demand for luxury accommodation in Lagos, particularly during peak tourism periods like Detty December, when the hospitality industry operates at full capacity.

He noted that Heliconia Park is a timely and strategic addition to the sector, aligning with the state's broader vision of transforming Lagos into a world-class tourism and hospitality hub. The Governor commended the

visionaries behind the project, acknowledging the investors and management team for their confidence in Lagos as a prime location for high-value developments. Also speaking at the ceremony, Mr.

Pasquale Fiore, Managing Director of Heliconia Park, applauded the Governor Sanwo-Olu administration's investment in infrastructure and proactive policies that continue to attract global

investors. He noted that these efforts served as a key motivation for establishing Heliconia Park, which aims to set new standards in hospitality and redefine luxury experiences in

Nigeria.

The grand unveiling event attracted top dignitaries and key stakeholders in the hospitality sector, including the Special Adviser on Tourism, Arts, and Culture, Mr. Idris Aregbe.



Fidelity Bank To Launch Innovative SME Hub

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)



Fidelity Bank, a leading financial institution, has announced the imminent launch of its dedicated physical facility for Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (SME) and entrepreneurs in the creative sector. Known as the Fidelity SME Hub, the multipurpose facility features training halls, meeting rooms, networking spaces, podcast rooms as well as music, photography and content production studios.

“For nearly four decades, Fidelity Bank has been at the forefront of supporting small businesses in achieving their potential and driving the nation's economy. During this time, we have recognized that SMEs require more than just financial assistance. This

realization has led to the implementation of various non-financial initiatives tailored to support this sector.

“The Fidelity SME Hub is our latest non-financial solution for SME growth. The facility is designed to foster innovation, collaboration, and capacity-building - vital elements necessary for strengthening Nigeria's SME ecosystem and driving economic growth”, commented Dr Nneka Onyeali-Ikpe, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Fidelity Bank Plc in a chat with journalists recently.

Located at the heart of Lagos, the Fidelity SME Hub will provide entrepreneurs with networking and stakeholder engagement initiatives as well as

access to industry experts and mentors for hands-on guidance and business advice. A key feature of the facility is the Creativerse, a well-equipped space for entrepreneurs in the creative industry.

The bank has also announced the launch of dedicated courses to be hosted at the SME Hub in areas such as Financial Management & Investment Readiness, Digital Transformation & Technology Adoption, Marketing, Branding, and Business Growth Strategies. Furthermore, a fully-fledged creative academy will be established to cover courses on Music Production, the Business of Music, Website Design & Development, Mobile Videography, Disc Jockey and Photography. To see a comprehensive list of available courses or to apply, please visit [k.ng/smehub/. Explaining further, Onyeali-Ikpe said, “Beyond empowering small businesses, the Fidelity SME Hub will also serve to bolster our non-oil exports drive as we empower SMEs to increase their contribution to Nigeria's non-oil GDP thus](https://www.fidelityban</p>
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supporting government's economic diversification drive. Through our investment in Creativerse in particular, we anticipate that content creators will unlock new revenue streams in entertainment, digital media, and arts, an industry already contributing

2.3% to GDP.” Ranked among the best banks in Nigeria, Fidelity Bank is a full-fledged customer commercial bank serving over 8.5 million customers through its 255 business offices in Nigeria and the United Kingdom, as well as through digital banking channels.

OSHODI

Prioritise Your Study, Oloyede Urges UTME Students

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

In a bid to ensure that students perform exceptionally well in their 2025 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME), the Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, also known as Kendoo, has urged students to prioritize their studies and remain committed to academic excellence.

Speaking at a mock examination organized for the Kendoo Free Coaching Class for JAMB students, Otunba Oloyede emphasized the importance of dedication and hard work in achieving

success in the upcoming UTME exams.

The free tutorial classes, which began in November last year and will continue until after the UTME, aim to support students in their preparation for the critical examination.

The mock test served as a prerequisite for the distribution of free JAMB forms to deserving students participating in the coaching classes.

As part of his administration's dedication to the academic success of local students, Oloyede plans to provide free JAMB forms to eligible candidates, demonstrating his commitment to promoting educational advancement within

the community.

While monitoring the well-organized exercise, the Special Adviser to the Council Chairman on Education, Hon. Gideon Balogun, explained that the mock test would help assess students' readiness for the UTME examination.

He also highlighted Otunba Oloyede's dedication to providing all necessary support for students to excel in their academic pursuits.

He emphasized that every student who meets the pass mark, regardless of their number, will be awarded a free form.

He encouraged the students to put in their best efforts and excel in both the mock test and their final examinations.



Meranda's Leadership is Victory For Women-Ogungbe-Yussuf

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairmanship aspirant for Badagry West LCDA, Princess Sesi Ogungbe-Yussuf has praised the newly elected Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mojisola Meranda, as a champion for women in politics. Ogungbe-Yussuf commended Meranda's effective leadership and dedication to women's empowerment, describing her as a very humble,

focused, and innovative politician who knows her onion.

"Meranda has proven her worth since her election," Ogungbe-Yussuf stated. "In the midst of challenges, she stood her ground and scaled through the storm."

Highlighting the importance of female leadership, Ogungbe-Yussuf asserted, "Women are better suited for positions of authority. We are the mothers and managers, and we

understand how best to treat people better."

She congratulated Meranda on her victory, calling it "a victory for women everywhere."

As Supervisor for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA) in Badagry-West, Ogungbe-Yussuf has facilitated training and empowerment programs for youths and women. "I believe in the power of education and economic empowerment to transform lives and communities," she emphasized.



Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly (LAHA), RT Hon Mojisola Meranda

Badagry APC Urges Members To Register For PVC

By Saheed Afolabi

The All Progressives Congress (APC) Chairman of Badagry Local Government Area, Mr. Gafar Meyon, has called on party members to register for their Permanent Voter's Cards (PVCs) and National Identification Numbers (NINs) ahead of the local government elections. Meyon stressed the importance of having these documents, along with membership cards, for party revalidation. At the first LGA

meeting of the year, Meyon urged members to take the registration opportunity seriously, as it is crucial for the party's progress and their participation in party activities.

Pst. Cornelius Ojelabi, APC State Chairman of Lagos State, represented by Alh. Sharafadeen Olabrahim, commended the leaders' commitment and reiterated the party's dedication to free and fair primary elections. Ojelabi emphasized that purchasing party forms does not guarantee political



Cross section of Badagry APC party members

appointments and that refunds will not be issued for purchased forms.

The APC State Chairman also announced that continuous party registration for members will commence soon,

although guidelines for the party elections have not yet been issued. He stressed the importance of PVC registration, stating that no member will be recognized without a PVC card. Additionally, Ojelabi encouraged

leadership unity, expecting each LGA to set up a reconciliation committee to ensure smooth relationships between party leaders and members.

The Apex Women Leader of Badagry Federation, Alh. Kikelomo Ladipo, urged unity and

synergy among members to elect the right candidates for the upcoming local government elections. She also advocated for the governorship position in the Badagry Federation, emphasizing the importance of voting wisely.

Epe Councillors Emphasise Strong Relationships With Executives

By Mohammed Adekola

Epe Division Councillors Forum has emphasized the need for stronger collaboration between the Executive and Legislative arms to accelerate development across Local Governments (LGs) and Local

Council Development Areas (LCDAs) in the division.

The call was made during the forum's maiden annual get-together, at the Legislative Building of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government under the leadership of Hon. Hassan Mustapha Owolabi.

The event brought together all 31 councillors across Epe Division, along with top dignitaries, including Otunba-Akogun Wale Raji Anomo, Chairman of Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA, Engr. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa, Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki LG, and Hon. Remilekun Alogba, Vice Chairman of Lekki LCDA.

Akogun Wale Raji Anomo commends the councillors for their unity and dedication, acknowledging their role in driving grassroots development. He highlights the critical role played by their spouses, recognizing their contributions to the success of their legislative responsibilities.

“The progress of any LG or LCDA depends on the synergy between its executive and legislative arms. We remain committed to

ensure impactful governance that unlocks the full potential of Epe Division,” Anomo said.

The host Chairman Engr. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa, echoed this sentiment, stressing that collaborative governance is the foundation of sustainable development. He pointed to numerous ongoing projects in Ibeju-Lekki as proof that executive-legislative cooperation yields tangible results. Hon. Gbenga Balogun, urged councillors to maintain professionalism, avoid

distractions, and seek continuous learning to enhance their effectiveness. They underscored that quality legislation and constructive engagement with the executive remain crucial in delivering the dividends of democracy.

The gathering strengthened inter-council relationships and reinforced the shared commitment of Epe, Ibeju-Lekki, Ikosi-Ejinrin, Lekki, and Eredo LGs/LCDAs to fostering good governance and accelerated development in Epe Division.



Lagos state Governor, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, has reiterated his commitment to youth empowerment as a strategy to combat unemployment, reduce crime, and drive socio-economic development in line with the THEMES Plus Agenda. Fish farming Empowerment programme organized by the Centre for Rural Development (CERUD) in Igbodu, Epe, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Rural Development, Dr. Nurudeen Yekinni Lanre-Agbaje, encouraged participants to take advantage of the state's various developmental initiatives.

LASG Empowers Epe Youth On Fish Farming

By Mohammed Adekola

Dr. Agbaje highlights the importance of skill acquisition in securing economic independence, stressing that the state government remains dedicated to equipping young people with profitable skills.

“Governor Sanwo-Olu understands that empowering young people is key to building a stronger economy.

This training is part of our broader efforts to provide viable employment opportunities and promote agribusiness,” he

said.

He assured the participants that the government would continue to introduce more training programs to uplift youths and create sustainable businesses.

Mrs. Kikelomo Bolarinwa, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs, and Rural Development, reaffirmed the state government's commitment to expanding capacity-building programs, particularly in rural communities.



“With more of these initiatives, we will not only reduce rural-urban migration but also create local job opportunities and strengthen food production in Lagos State,” she said.

Mr. Musibau Muyiwa Balogun, Director of CERUD, described the training as a game-changer for young entrepreneurs.

“Fish farming is a lucrative business when done properly. This training provides

the knowledge and tools needed to succeed. With Governor Sanwo-Olu's approval, CERUD will introduce additional programs to further improve the socio-economic conditions of young people in Lagos.

Chairman of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Lagos Chapter, Dr. Femi Oke, commends the state government for its continuous support of farmers.

He urged the government to extend similar interventions to crop production and other agricultural sectors.

“While fish farming is a vital aspect of agriculture, we also need more support in crop production to enhance food security in Lagos State.

Member of the House of Representatives representing Epe Federal Constituency 1 and Chairman of House Committee on Livestock Development, Hon.

Wale Raji will host the commissioning and handing-over ceremonies of newly constructed classroom blocks in Ilara Kingdom and Igbooye.

The event will mark a significant step towards improving the growing number of education infrastructure he has facilitated in his constituency.

The commissioning ceremonies will take place on Friday, February 7, 2025, beginning at Adeshowan Secondary School, Ilara Kingdom, Eredo LCDA, at 10:00 AM, where two fully

Raji To Inaugurate Two Classrooms In Epe

By Mohammed Adekola

furnished blocks of three classrooms will be unveiled by HRM Alayeluwa Oba Dr. Olukayode Olufolarin Ogunsanwo, Telade IV, Alara of Ilara Kingdom, and Chief S.O. Bakare, Baba Alaje of Ijebu Land and Chairman of Oluwalogbon Group of Companies.

At noon, the focus will shift to Igbooye Community Secondary School, Igbooye, where a newly constructed block of six fully furnished classrooms will be commissioned by Lady Doja Otedola, Former First Lady of Lagos State and Yeye



Oba of Igbooye.

Speaking on the upcoming event in a statement, Kaka Babatunde, Senior Legislative Aide to Rep. Wale Raji on Media and Youth Affairs, emphasized

the significance of the projects. "Rep. Wale Raji remains dedicated to enhancing access to quality education for students in Epe. These new

classroom blocks are part of his broader vision to provide a conducive learning environment for our young minds," he stated.

He added that, Wale

Raji, known for his commitment to grassroots development, has consistently prioritized education in his constituency. The new classroom blocks aim to provide a more conducive learning environment for students, reinforcing his vision of quality education as a tool for community development.

The event is expected to attract a broad spectrum of political, traditional, and community leaders, highlighting the collective efforts to enhance educational infrastructure in Epe Federal Constituency.

Prolonged Power Crisis Turns Epe To MOPO

Battery Users

By Mohammed Adekola

Ongoing blackout in Epe have disrupted businesses and daily activities and left many wondering if electricity supply will ever returned, as the Community turned to MOPO Battery users as an alternative to electricity and expensive fuel-powered generators.

Community members are beginning to suspect a deliberate ploy to keep MOPO in business at their expense.

MOPO batteries, introduced by MOPO Company, operate on a pay-per-use model, allowing users to rent portable batteries to charge their phones and small devices without relying on the national grid.

The company had only one office in Epe, but with the growing demand, they have now set up agents almost everywhere, making access easier than ever.

Mr Tunde, a resident of Ayetoro said the way MOPO is expanding in Epe, it's like they don't even want the light to come back, before, we had to go to their office to get a battery, but now, their agents are in almost every street, making huge profits from our suffering."

Speaking with a representative of MOPO, he confirmed the company's rapid growth, stating that their service has become a necessity due to the prolonged power crisis.

"MOPO has been a

game-changer for Epe residents. With just a one-time registration fee of 500 and proper identification (BVN, NIN, and house address), users get a wristband tracker that allows them to rent batteries for only 600 per day.

We provide a reliable power source at a time when the community needs it most," he explained that MOPO battery comes with strict security features, including a built-in 500-lumen light and a tracking system that ensures it can only be charged within the MOPO ecosystem, also records transaction details and usage patterns via the MOPO Charge Unit or MOPO App.

Many residents appreciate the convenience, others are growing uncomfortable with the increasing reliance on MOPO,



fearing that the widespread adoption of the batteries might delay efforts to restore stable electricity.

Mrs. Folake, a trader in Ita-Opo said, MOPO was a lifesaver, but now it seems like we are being forced to depend on it permanently, nobody is talking about bringing back electricity. Every day, people are renting MOPO batteries, and they are making millions. Is this the

new normal life for us?" Bashir Sanni, laments and expressed frustration over the lack of updates on power restoration.

"We are spending over 600 daily on MOPO batteries, which is about 18,000 per month, more than what we used to pay for NEPA bills, nobody is holding the power authorities accountable. Instead, MOPO keeps growing. Fashol, a Local electrician said, we want our light back. If

power is restored, many of us won't need MOPO anymore, as long as the blackout continues, MOPO keeps making money. It's a win for them, but a loss for us."

The good residents of Epe and axis are calling on the relevant authorities to provide a clear update on the power restoration efforts, fearing that the longer the blackout lasts, the more dependent Epe will become on MOPO's pay-per-use system.

LASUSTECH Don Advocates Partnership Between Varsities and Industries

By Nurudeen Adebayo



The Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH) has organized a two-day workshop training aimed at enhancing engineering education and fostering industrial development in Nigeria and Sub-

Saharan Africa. The workshop, held at LASUSTECH's Ikorodu Campus in Lagos, was themed "Enhancing Engineering Education Through Research Methods and Design Thinking for Industrial Development." It was sponsored by the

Royal Academy of Engineering, United Kingdom, as part of efforts to strengthen engineering research and innovation in Africa. Speaking at the event, the Dean, College of Engineering and Technology, Engr. Dr. Yakub Bankole, emphasized the need to

bridge the gap between university education and real-world industrial challenges.

"The Royal Academy of Engineering has been investing in grants to develop engineering research for industrial growth in Africa.

This workshop is aimed at preparing young engineers to become solution providers for industrial challenges," he said.

He highlighted that in developed countries, many university engineering departments collaborate with industries, which sponsor research and provide state-of-the-art equipment for student training.

The LASUSTECH

workshop, he added, is a step toward replicating such synergy in Nigeria.

Dr. Bankole further disclosed that the training would be followed by a hackathon, where students from three Nigerian universities—LASUSTECH, University of Calabar (UNICAL), and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU)—would participate in advanced training, with some selected for global training opportunities.

Challenges in Engineering Education In her keynote address, the Vice President of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Engr. Dr. Felicia Agubata, urged students to maximize their time in school by gaining practical industrial experience. She expressed

concerns over outdated engineering curricula, which she said contributed to a disconnect between university education and industry practices.

"Many students see real industrial machines for the first time during their IT (Industrial Training). This is a major issue because the curriculum does not expose them to real-world applications early enough," she stated.

Agubata called on universities and the government to fund and support research projects, ensuring that research outcomes are commercialized and utilized in Nigerian industries.

She also urged industries to partner with universities in research and development.

Industry Support for Student Innovations

Other speakers at the workshop included Prof.

D. S. Ogunniyi, Engr. Dr. Adekunle Yekinni, Engr. Oluwaswgun Akadiri, Dr. Abolaji Olusola, and Engr. Dr. Lukman Animashaun—all of LASUSTECH—as well as Engr. Bashiru Muhammad, who pledged industry support for students' innovative projects.

Muhammad assured that his company would fund promising engineering projects developed by LASUSTECH students to encourage practical innovation and entrepreneurship in the field.

Kosofe LG Builds Ultra-Modern Gatehouse and Perimeter Fence

Kehinde Adeleye

In a significant stride towards enhancing infrastructural development, the Kosofe Local Government has successfully commissioned an ultra-modern gatehouse consisting of six standard offices for various security agencies. This project also includes a robust perimeter fence, marking an impressive milestone

in public service delivery under the visionary leadership of Barr. Moyosore Adedoyin Ogunlewe, the Chairman of Kosofe Local Government. The new security installation, widely recognized as one of the most architecturally remarkable structures among Local Governments and LCDAs in Lagos State, sets a new benchmark for infrastructural

development within the region.

This achievement not only contributes to the aesthetic appeal of the council secretariat but also bolsters security measures for staff and visitors alike.

The commissioning ceremony was well-attended by distinguished figures such as Hon. Kehinde Bello, APC Kosofe LGA Chairman; ward councillors; Mrs. Mosunmola Otaiku-Okoka, Council Manager; and other key stakeholders.



Road Construction: Mushin Residents Laud Bamigboye

By Saheed Afolabi

Residents of Lawanson community in Mushin Local Government have expressed commendation to the council chairman, Mr Emmanuel Bamigboye for the completion of a new road on Akinyemi Thompson Street. The project is another significant infrastructure development under Bamigboye who have attracted celebration from the community members. The newly constructed road provides a vital link between Itire/Lawson road and several other key areas.

It serves as an alternative route connecting Asoluka Street through Babalola to Omobola and Mushin Road, effectively bypassing the Pako junction and easing traffic flow towards Babalola/Idi Araba/Ilasa and Mushin/Isolo roads. Akinyemi Thompson Street also offers an alternative route from Oseni Street back to the Lawanson bus stop via Itire Road. The road boasts interlocking paving stones, solar-powered streetlights, and concrete-covered drainage on both sides. Walkways have also



The newly constructed Akinyemi Thompson Street

been incorporated to ensure smooth pedestrian and vehicular movement. The project includes an intersection with the newly constructed

Okeolu Street, which further connects the area to Lawanson and Pako/Mushin roads. Community

members are already experiencing the positive impact of the new road and have praised Chairman Bamigboye's dedication to Mushin's

infrastructural development. Children in the area have also expressed their appreciation for the chairman's efforts to improve their quality of life. This project is one of several road constructions currently underway in Mushin, including work on Adefimihan, Yusuf, and Market Streets. Chairman Bamigboye plans to approve additional projects to maximize the positive impact of his administration before his term ends later this year. He has pledged to continue working diligently until his last day in office and has assured a smooth, debt-free handover to his successor.

Bamigboye Awarded For Community Development

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Emmanuel Bamigboye has been awarded by the Progressive Youth Ambassadors (PYA) for his focus in community development. The award organizers recognizes his exceptional contributions to the development of the Mushin since attaining office eight years ago.

Bamigboye expressed appreciation to the PYA for recognizing his achievements in office which includes delivering quality services to the residents. Comrade Austin Simeone, who led the PYA team, praised Chairman Bamigboye as an exemplary leader who has significantly advanced Mushin through his grassroots development

initiatives. Simeone emphasized the chairman's compassion and outstanding achievements in fostering progress within the community. The PYA also commended him for delivering high-quality services to the residents of Mushin. Bamigboye expressed his gratitude to the PYA for recognizing his efforts to develop Mushin. He pledged to continue serving the community until the end of his term.



Chairman of Mushin LG, Emmanuel Bamigboye with the organizers of the PYA awards



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Ojodu LCDA Chairman Inspects Upgraded Facilities at Ogba PHC

Kehinde Adeleye

Hon. Segun Odunmbaku, Chairman of Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), recently visited the Ogba Primary Health Centre (PHC) to assess the newly upgraded facilities implemented by WaterAid Nigeria in partnership with Ojodu LCDA. The project aimed to enhance hygiene and healthcare service delivery by installing new water tanks, improving roofing and

tiling, and providing other essential infrastructure. This initiative aligns with the council's commitment to delivering quality healthcare services to residents by ensuring that PHCs are well-equipped with proper Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities. WaterAid has been a long-standing development partner of Ojodu LCDA, having previously implemented WASH projects in schools and primary healthcare centres



across the council area. Ojodu LCDA plans to complement WaterAid's efforts, offices, refit aluminum doors and windows, administrative and carry out other extensive rehabilitation works at Ogba PHC.

Odunmbanku Visits Road Reconstruction Site

Hon. Segun Odunmbaku, Chairman of Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), recently conducted an inspection of the ongoing reconstruction of Adesina-Adeniyi Oke Road, a key project under the 114-road initiative in collaboration with the Lagos State Government. The 1,392-meter-long road connects Okeira Ward C and Akiode Ward E, and aims to improve mobility, ease traffic congestion, and bolster local

Kehinde Adeleye infrastructure. During his visit, Odunmbaku reaffirmed his administration's dedication to aligning the H.E.Y.S Development Agenda with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's T.H.E.M.E.S Plus agenda. He also expressed gratitude to the Lagos State Government for its support, highlighting the road's potential economic and social benefits for the community.



Residents have voiced optimism about the project's impact on accessibility and commuting in the area. Odunmbaku further assured them that the reconstruction would be completed on schedule and built to last, reflecting his commitment to grassroots development within Ojodu LCDA.

ATA-EI Announces Commencement of Free UTME Registration for 1,750

The Adewale Temitope Adedeji Educational Initiative (ATA-EI) has recently announced that registration for the 1,750 free Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) forms, generously sponsored by Hon. Adewale Temitope Adedeji, Majority Leader of the Lagos State House of Assembly, will begin shortly.

In a statement released on Wednesday, the ATA-EI Coordinator, Azeez



Kehinde Adeleye

Arisekola (Ababio), emphasized that all necessary arrangements were being finalized to ensure a smooth and efficient registration process for beneficiaries.

Hon. Adewale Temitope, representing Ifako-ljaiye Constituency 1 in the Lagos State House of Assembly, established ATA-EI as a means of providing educational support to financially challenged students within his

constituency.

According to the coordinator, the 1,750 free JAMB forms have been distributed equitably to deserving students throughout the constituency.

Prospective beneficiaries are encouraged to stay informed and prepare the necessary documentation ahead of the registration period to make the most of this opportunity

Lagos Cleric Urges Catholics to be Beacons of Hope

Kehinde Adeleye

As the World Day of Consecrated Life is celebrated globally by the Catholic Church, Archbishop Alfred Adewale Martins of the Archdiocese of Lagos has urged consecrated men and women to be beacons of hope in a world filled with uncertainty and despair.

In a message to consecrated persons working in his Archdiocese, the prelate, within the context of the Jubilee year of Hope declared by the Holy Father, emphasised the importance of hope in their lives and apostolates. "Hope is the anchor of the soul," he said,

quoting St. Teresa of Calcutta.

Highlighting the importance of consecrated persons in the life of the Church, Archbishop Martins exhorted, "You are the present and the future. You are the present currently taking part in the lives of your various congregations. You are the future of your congregation as you would take on the mantle of leadership and formation of those coming after you."

The Archbishop acknowledged the numerous challenges faced by consecrated persons, including spiritual struggles, physical exhaustion, and criticism from the world. However,

he encouraged them to hold onto hope, trusting in God's promises and presence in their lives.

To underscore the critical role that consecrated persons play in bringing hope and light to a world in need, the Archbishop added, "A whole world awaits you – men and women who have lost all hope in life, broken homes that are lacking in love, families in difficulty, hungry and abandoned children, young people without a future, the elderly, sick and abandoned ... your witnessing can bring hope to these and help them journey to Christ."

The Prelate also emphasised the importance of consecrated life as a gift to the Church,



reminding all consecrated persons that their witness to the Gospel values of poverty, chastity, and obedience is a powerful reminder to the world of the importance of living a life of service and dedication to God.

The Metropolitan of the See of Lagos concluded his message by thanking

consecrated persons working in his Archdiocese for their tireless work and contribution to the growth and development of the Archdiocese, and commended them to the maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The World Day of Consecrated Life is celebrated annually on February 2, the Feast of the

Presentation of the Lord. There are 247 priests who are members of male religious congregations and 326 female religious from 27 congregations contributing immensely to the spiritual, pastoral and social fabric of the Archdiocese of Lagos. Lagos Archdiocese currently has 229 parishes spread across 20 Deaneries.

Columbus Irosanga: The Curtain Falls on a Nollywood Icon

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Nigerian entertainment industry has been thrown into mourning following the passing of veteran Nollywood actor, Dr. Columbus Irosanga. The celebrated actor and academic breathed his last in the early hours of Thursday, February 6, 2025, after a brief illness. His death was confirmed by actress Hilda Dokubo, who took to Instagram to express her grief, describing his departure as a heavy loss to the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, and Nollywood. "There can't be a shortage of Angels in heaven that the few here are called home

like this na! This one is heavy on Uniport, Rivers State, Nollywood," Dokubo wrote. As the industry mourns, it is worth reflecting on the life and legacy of this remarkable thespian who left an indelible mark on Nollywood and academia alike. A Life Rooted in Culture and Theatre Born and raised in Okrika, Rivers State, Columbus Irosanga was deeply connected to his roots. His early exposure to indigenous storytelling, folklore, and traditional rituals would later shape his career as one of Nollywood's most revered actors. He had a commanding

presence on screen, often playing the role of chief priests, village elders, and spiritual figures with a level of authenticity that resonated deeply with audiences. His breakout role came in the 2001 blockbuster *Isakaba*, where he portrayed the unforgettable character "Igbudu." His performance in the film, which centered around a vigilante group fighting against crime and corruption, cemented his status as a Nollywood great. Beyond the Screen: A Passion for Teaching While many knew him for his commanding performances, Irosanga was equally passionate about academia. He served as a senior lecturer in the Department of Theatre

Arts at the University of Port Harcourt, where he mentored numerous aspiring actors. His influence extended beyond the screen, as he shaped the careers of many who went on to become notable figures in the Nigerian film industry. For Irosanga, acting was more than just entertainment—it was an art form, a tool for storytelling, and a medium for preserving culture. Through his teachings, he instilled this philosophy in his students, many of whom have gone on to make their mark in Nollywood

and beyond. A Decorated Career Over the years, Columbus Irosanga received numerous accolades in recognition of his talent and contribution to the film industry. His awards included: Best Actor in a Supporting Role at the Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAA) Best Actor in a Drama at the City People Entertainment Awards Most Promising Actor in Nigeria at the Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards (AMVCA) Best Actor in a Leading Role at the Best of Nollywood Awards These honors are a testament to his versatility, dedication, and impact in Nollywood.

A Final Bow Beyond the glitz and glamour, Irosanga was a family man. He was married and is survived by his children, who now carry on his legacy. His passing leaves a void in the Nigerian film industry and academia, but his influence will continue to be felt through the many lives he touched. As Nollywood bids farewell to one of its finest, his iconic roles, teachings, and contributions to the arts will remain etched in history. Columbus Irosanga may have taken his final bow, but his legacy will continue to inspire generations to come. The curtain falls, but the legend lives on.



Sanwo-olu Congratulates TEMS For Winning Grammy

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has congratulated Nigerian singer, songwriter and record producer, Temilade Openiyi, popularly known as Tems, for winning the 67th Grammy Award for Best African Music Performance. The Governor said the award is a prestigious recognition that highlights Tems' exceptional talent and contribution to the music industry not only in Nigeria and the African continent

but also on the global stage. Governor Sanwo-Olu, in a statement issued on Monday by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Mr. Gboyega Akosile, said the 29-year-old Tems has achieved a milestone with the international recognition at the 67th Grammy Award. It would be recalled that Openiyi won the Best African Music Performance Award during the Grammy Award held at the

Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, United States, on Sunday. She emerged victorious in a fierce competition, defeating strong contenders with her love song "Love Me Jeje." Governor Sanwo-Olu said the award received by Tems is an affirmation of Lagos as truly the home of entertainment, creativity, tourism, culture and arts. He said: "Temilade Openiyi once again has proved to the world that she is a creative of an uncommon talent. We thank her for bringing



the Best African Performance Grammy Music back to Nigeria. As a

Lagosian, we are excited with her success. "Tems winning the 67th Grammy Award for Best African Music Performance is a confirmation that our dear Lagos State remains the hub of entertainment, creativity and tourism in the West African sub-region. "On behalf of my family, the government, and the people of Lagos State, I congratulate Tems for achieving this great feat, and I urge her not to rest on her oars as the future remains a lot brighter than it is today."

Chef T Recounts Traumatic Robbery Incident

By Nurudeen Adebayo



Popular Nigerian chef and food blogger, Tolani Osikoya, widely known as Chef T or Diaryofakitchenlover, has opened up about a harrowing robbery experience that has haunted her for over two decades.

In an emotional Instagram post on Wednesday, Chef T recounted how her family was attacked by armed robbers in 2003. She revealed that she and her siblings were working on a mathematics assignment with their

father when about nine armed robbers stormed their home, demanding money. When they realized they would not get any cash, the robbers resorted to violence, brutally beating her father. The attackers then turned to her mother,

ordering her to hand over her jewelry. In a desperate attempt to seek help, Chef T's father jumped through a window, almost breaking his back in the process. Despite his efforts,

the robbers struck her mother on the head with a cutlass before fleeing. She described the incident as deeply traumatizing but expressed gratitude that her family survived. "The year was 2003. These are our heroes. Dad jumped to distract them and save us, knowing they were not going to shoot. Mum locked the door in a pool of her own blood. Grateful that we are complete today. This traumatizing experience has never left me," she wrote. Sharing beautiful pictures of her family, the renowned food content creator praised her parents for their

bravery, calling them the heroes of her and her siblings' lives. She also expressed hope that sharing the story would help her heal from the lingering trauma. Chef T is a certified chef from the Italian Chef Academy and has built a strong reputation in the culinary world. Known for her affordable recipes, kitchen tips, and food photography, she has taught over 500 students both online and offline. She has also partnered with over 100 brands and was recently recognized as one of the top 50 most impactful women in Africa.

From Obscurity to Stardom: The Accidental Celebrities of Nigeria

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In the age of social media, fame is no longer reserved for movie stars, musicians, or politicians.

With just the right moment captured online, an ordinary person can become a national sensation overnight.

In Nigeria, several individuals have unexpectedly risen to stardom through viral moments that changed their lives forever.

From a bread seller turned model to a charismatic water vendor and a devoted wife, these accidental celebrities are proof of the unpredictable power of the internet. Olajumoke Orisaguna: The Bread Seller Who Became a Model

One of the most remarkable stories of unexpected fame in Nigeria is that of Olajumoke Orisaguna, a humble bread seller whose life changed in an instant. In 2016, while going about her usual routine hawking bread on the streets of Lagos, she unknowingly walked into a photoshoot by celebrity photographer TY Bello.

The striking image, which featured her in the background of a shoot with British-Nigerian rapper Tinie Tempah, quickly went



viral.

Her stunning presence in the picture captivated social media users, and within days, she was transformed into a model.

Following her unexpected breakthrough, Olajumoke secured modeling contracts, endorsement deals, and major media interviews both locally and internationally.

Her story became a powerful reminder of how social media can elevate an unknown person into the limelight, rewriting their life's trajectory in an instant.

Dr. H2O: The Hawker with a Unique Pitch
Another unlikely celebrity is Wisdom Alfred, a bottled water vendor who turned his job into an art form.

In August 2023,

Alfred, popularly known as Dr. H2O, gained national attention for his humorous and exaggerated sales pitch at a motor park. As he hawked Aquafina water, he entertained passersby with his dramatic vocabulary and claims that his product could strengthen the body and improve spinal cord function.

His energetic style caught the attention of Gistree, which published his story on August 25. Within 24 hours, multiple media platforms had picked up the story, turning him into a viral sensation.

Shortly after, he was invited to the headquarters of Aquafina, where he secured a business deal that led to the establishment of a fully furnished outlet for selling Aquafina products and related goods.

Today, Dr. H2O's name

is widely recognized, and his signature sales approach has made him a beloved figure in Nigeria's social media space.

Mummy Zee: The Devoted Wife Who Touched the Internet's Heart
In January 2024, a Nigerian woman named Deborah Olaki, known as Mummy Zee, captured the hearts of social media users with a simple but profound act of dedication to her marriage.

She went viral after sharing a tweet about waking up at 4:50 AM to prepare lunch for her husband. Her decision was sparked by the realization that a female colleague at his workplace had

shared a meal with him. The tweet resonated with many, sparking conversations about love, marriage, and devotion.

A social media influencer known as Wizard amplified the post, urging Twitter (now X) users to support her. The response was overwhelming—within 24 hours, Mummy Zee received millions of naira in donations, along with a car, mobile phones, household appliances, a wardrobe, a generator, and numerous other gifts.

Her story became a symbol of how social media can turn an ordinary person into a cultural icon overnight, simply by striking the right chord with the public.

The Power of Social Media: More

Accidental Celebrities

These three stories are just a few examples of how the internet can unexpectedly change lives. From a viral meat pie seller to other everyday individuals whose stories have captured widespread attention, social media continues to be a powerful tool for elevating ordinary people into extraordinary heights.

In a digital world where one moment can redefine a person's destiny, the stories of Olajumoke, Dr. H2O, and Mummy Zee serve as reminders that fame can come from the most unexpected places—and sometimes, all it takes is a single viral moment to change everything.

Omonlei Expresses Confidence In Lagos Hosting Maiden Boxing Championship

Omonlei Yakubu, the CEO of Yucateco Boxing Promotions, expressed his pride and excitement about bringing such a prestigious event to Nigeria.

The maiden edition of the WBC amateur boxing tournament in Africa is set to take place in Lagos.

Lagos is preparing to host a memorable event in African boxing as the inaugural Yucateco World Boxing Council (WBC) amateur boxing championship will be held at the Molade Okoya Thomas Indoor Sports Hall, Teslim Balogun Stadium in

By Saheed Afolabi

February.

The championship, organized by Yucateco Boxing Promotions in partnership with Africa's premier boxing organization, will feature top amateur boxers from eight nations: Kenya, Uganda, Togo, Senegal, Ghana, Mali, Cameroon, and Nigeria.

Imadu shared his joy at the opportunity to showcase the tournament in his home country.

"I am happy my promotion has finally made this happen;



bringing the first ever WBC amateur tournament to Africa is not child's play,

and I am most importantly very happy that this will

be happening in my beloved country, Nigeria. We are bringing

the world to Lagos, and this truly delights me."

Athletes engaging in a para table tennis event in Lagos 2025 DunsinSports Para Table Tennis To Promote Diversity

By Saheed Afolabi

DunsinSports is pleased to announce the DunsinSports Para Table Tennis Tournament, scheduled for July 2025 in Lagos.

This notable event will be the largest para table tennis competition in the country, while reinforcing DunsinSports' dedication to promoting inclusivity and diversity in sports.

The tournament will feature 32 top-tier para-athletes—16 men and 16 women—competing in a knockout format,

culminating in the crowning of the top three players in both categories.

This event aims to showcase the talent of para-athletes and raise awareness of the importance of accessible and adaptive sports for all.

DunsinSports advocates for well-meaning individuals, corporate organizations, and stakeholders to partner with them in advancing the cause of sports inclusivity.

They believe support rendered will go a long way in providing necessary resources, enhancing visibility, and fostering an enabling



Athletes engaging in a para table tennis event in Lag... Read more

environment for para-athletes to thrive. DunsinSports is an

organization dedicated to promoting the

development of PWDs in sports, ensuring that everyone, regardless of

ability, has access to the transformative power of sports.



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