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# Echoneews

## LAGOS COMMUNITIES EDITION

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Monday 10th March - Sunday 16th March 2025

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# Dons warn Lagos Schoolgirls to stop Douching

Kunle Awosiyan

**T**wo dons-Uduakpon Bassey and Ayodeji Adebayo-have warned girls in secondary schools in Lagos State to stop douching their privates.

Their call is based on the finding of their research, "Prevalence and Factors Associated With Vagina Douching Among Secondary School Girls in a Metropolitan City". The research found that 63.8 per cent of the students interviewed use some inorganic agents like alum and soap to wash their private parts.

According to the study, vaginal douching is the process of washing or cleaning the woman's private part with water and other fluid mixtures. It says that this is often performed by pushing liquid into it with the aid of the hand/finger, sponge, a tube or a douching device that may be placed right inside, half way inside or at the opening.

Commonly used agents for douching include water only, soap with water, a mixture of water and vinegar, soda (Coca-Cola or Sprite), baking soda and water, salty water, lemon and lime juice, bleach solutions, betadine, povidone iodine, alum, toothpaste, bath gel, and commercial detergents, douches, and antiseptics including body washes.

However, a senior reproductive health

expert, an Associate Professor and Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Ituku/Ozalla, Enugu State, Dr. Uche Agu described the practice as a pure misconception that has no place in medicine.

He said no amount of alum used to wash the woman's private part to tighten it will ever restore lost virginity. Alum is an inorganic chemical compound that is generally made up of water molecules, aluminium or other metals, and sulphates.

"Using alum to wash the vagina is a misconception by some women that it gives them a sense of tightness and a sense of virginity. But it is just a misconception and

deceit because it doesn't mean anything. It is very dangerous because alum can be corrosive and cause some burning and irritation of the vaginal wall. It can cause scarring and might even block or narrow the place terribly and might require some surgical interventions to open up. So, it is a very bad practice, it does not help anyone, rather it is dangerous. When you are using that substance on the vagina, by the time it erodes the walls of the vagina, causing burning, then infection can set in. That infection can spread up to the uterus and cause infertility in the future."

According to him, the infection that might arise from the



Modupe Adedeji

use of alum in washing the vagina can block the fallopian tubes and cause infertility.

The gynaecologist also warned that such a harmful

practice could lead to complications in pregnancy if the woman escapes infertility.

"If the woman eventually gets pregnant and the

vagina is narrowed, it will be difficult for a baby to pass through a narrow canal. So, if the baby eventually passes through there, it causes a lot



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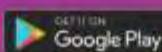
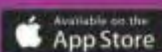
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# Dons warn Lagos Schoolgirls to stop Douching

*Continued from page 2*

of injury to that area that can result in complications like vaginal fistula. And when the baby may not be able to pass there, it leads to surgical delivery and caesarean section because that place is narrowed. That is the complication in childbearing", Dr. Agu said.

To Dr. Modupe Adedeji a Consultant Gynaecologist and Obstetrician at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja, says using alum or some other inorganic chemical to wash private parts could introduce infections to the vaginal environment and cause more serious health problems.

Adedeji advised women not to use anything that would tamper with the normal vaginal environment. "They can introduce the infection to the area thereby compounding the problem. In the end, they are left with an infection", she said.

But there are ways to tighten vagina naturally, according to Dr. Michael Coyle of the Coyle Institute, (Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery).

According to him, there are three main ways to tighten vagina without putting its health at risk. He said that not every solution works for everyone and that any woman feels like tightening her private parts should talk to doctors before trying anything.

Coyle suggested surgery, saying that

"Vaginoplasty is a type of surgery specifically designed to tighten the vagina.

To him, the surgeon takes a piece of extra skin from the back of the vagina, both inside and at the vaginal opening and stitch together the tissues under the top layer of skin. Finally, the surgeon stitches the skin shut over the deeper tissue.

He said that healing can take quite a while, "so it's important that a woman must carefully consider whether now is the right time in her life to pursue vaginoplasty.

"It's important to note that surgical vaginoplasty is only appropriate for women who do not plan to have any more children.

Coyle also recommended Pelvic Floor Exercises to tighten the vagina, saying that the pelvic floor is a group of muscles that support the uterus, bladder, and bowels. "Some research indicates that strengthening your pelvic floor could help your vagina feel tighter," he says.

The pelvic floor muscles, according to him can weaken with the trauma of childbirth. "By exercising these muscles, you can start to rehabilitate them and regain some of the functions you may have lost during delivery," he said.

He recommended "Laser Treatments", which to him is the most effective non-invasive treatment for vaginal laxity, especially for women who want to have more children in the future.

"One example of a laser treatment for

vaginal laxity would be IntimaLase, which has proven very effective. Approximately 95% of women reported more sensation during sex after their IntimaLase treatments and 57% reported better orgasms.

Laser treatments like Intimalase are performed by inserting a laser speculum into the vaginal canal. The laser is then inserted through the speculum where it emits heat energy, penetrating the outer layer of vaginal tissue into the deeper layers. The heat energy stimulates a healing response, causing this vaginal tissue to produce more



collagen. The new collagen tightens the skin and increases

your vagina's natural ability to lubricate. However, most girls

believe the cost of the safer options may be out of reach.



Alum

# LASODA Calls For More Inclusion In Public Service Training Programme

The General Manager of the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA), Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal has urged the Public Service Staff Development Centre (PSSDC) to incorporate inclusion and diversity into their training curriculum to ensure that discussions around disabilities become a top priority in all aspects of society. Speaking during a courtesy visit to the Centre in Magodo on Monday, Mrs. Oyetunde-Lawal emphasised the importance of educating all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) on the significance of inclusion. She further stated that the topic of inclusion must start with government offices and gradually spread across Lagos State and beyond. "It is not news that the Lagos State Government is committed to ensuring that Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) are fully integrated into society, where everyone is prioritized, and no one is left behind. Lagos has the

highest number of people with disabilities in the state civil service, and we are focused on making room for more PWDs who are qualified, educated, and certified for the job while enhancing their contributions to the development of the State. "Recently, the Agency provided some civil servants with disabilities work tools, including laptops with speech-assisted software (Freedom Scientific Version 2024) for visually impaired persons, callipers, and motorized wheelchairs, to enhance their productivity while sending a message that PWDs can effectively contribute to the organisation when empowered", she added. The General Manager also commended the Public Service Staff Development Centre for installing ramps to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities. She noted that the initiative demonstrates the Centre's commitment to addressing the needs of the disability community. "I am impressed that every building has ramps to help

persons with disabilities access the facilities with ease. This is highly commendable and shows that the Agency welcomes all participants, regardless of disability," she noted. Welcoming the LASODA team to the Centre, the Director-General of PSSDC, Mr. Adekunmilola Adio-Moses, revealed that a new department had been established to promote inclusion. The department will be responsible for ensuring that diversity and inclusion are integrated into the Centre's training programmes. He promised to partner with the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA) by assigning the Department Head and another Director work closely with the LASODA team to develop a comprehensive and effective curriculum on disability concerns. The Director of Learning and Development at the Centre, Mr. Femi Solaja, also assured the team that inclusion is promoted at all levels. He explained that the Centre ensures every participant's needs

are met by providing sign language instructors when necessary to accommodate the hearing-impaired and relocating training sessions to ground-floor facilities where appropriate to support individuals with mobility challenges. Both agencies pledged to work closely together to promote inclusion and diversity across public service training programmes, fostering an environment where everyone, regardless of disability, can fully participate and contribute effectively while also ensuring that all individuals are educated on disability rights and concerns. Present at the meeting were some of the Centre's management staff, including Director of Management Consultancy Service, Mrs. Rita Shittabey; Deputy Director of Planning and Research, Mrs. Avran Olalere; Deputy Director of Public Affairs, Mr. Shina Nathaniel; Chief Procurement Officer, Mrs. Shakirat Olawoyin and the team of LASODA.

## Sewage Management: Lagos Wastewater Tests Oke-Afa Treatment Plant



In its continuous efforts to address sewage management challenges in Lagos State, the Lagos State Wastewater Management Office (LSWMO) recently carried out an on-site assessment of the Oke-Afa Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Wastewater Treatment Plant is one of the publicly owned infrastructures of the Lagos State Government for collecting and treating sewage and wastewater in the Oke-Afa Low-Cost Housing Estate and environment. The team, led by its General Manager, Engr. Adefemi Afolabi was received by the President of the Oke-Afa Residents' Association, Engr. Fatai Oloko and other key members of the association. In his remarks, Engr. Afolabi stated that the purpose of the visit was twofold: to evaluate the current condition of the Wastewater facility and engage directly with the estate executives on probable solutions. The General Manager highlighted the importance of sustainable government investments, stating that without a structured payment mechanism, rehabilitation efforts would be unsustainable in the long run. According to him, "It is imperative that residents contribute to the ongoing maintenance and operations through a structured service fee payment system." He further emphasised that cost recovery is

crucial to ensuring the plant remains functional, allowing the State Government's investment to continue delivering value over time. To formalize this collaboration, Engr. Afolabi announced plans to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the estate executives. The MoU, according to him, will outline responsibilities for the proposed rehabilitation, sustainability measures, and the implementation of the monthly payment model by residents. Additionally, he revealed plans by the Agency to set up a dedicated sewage management committee comprising both the estate representatives and LSWMO officials. "This committee will oversee the effective management and financial upkeep of the wastewater treatment plant, ensuring long-term functionality and efficiency", he said. Earlier while receiving the LSWMO's team on behalf of the residents, the President of the Oke-Afa Residents' Association, Engr. Fatai Oloko expressed deep concern over the treatment plant's deteriorating condition, emphasising the long-standing wastewater and sewage management challenges faced by the estate due to the facility's moribund state. The President stressed the urgent need to restore the plant to full operational capacity, which, if not done, has serious health implications.



# Lagos State Office For Disability Marks World Wheelchair Day

The Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA) commemorated World Wheelchair Day by donating manual wheelchairs to persons with physical disabilities, providing essential mobility aids that enhance their independence. This initiative underscores the Lagos State Government's commitment to promoting inclusivity and improving the quality of life for individuals living with disabilities.

The General Manager of LASODA, Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal, expressed her gratitude to the Lagos State Ministry of Health for its vital support in making the event possible. She emphasised the importance of collaboration between Agencies in improving accessibility for persons with disabilities.

"In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, we have received these wheelchairs and will

distribute them to beneficiaries in celebration of World Wheelchair Day," Mrs. Oyetunde-Lawal said.

She also highlighted the theme for this year, which emphasised the positive impact that wheelchairs have on the lives of users, promoting their independence and integration into society.

"We see you, we acknowledge you, and we are here to support you. We hope that future partnerships will continue to enhance accessibility, particularly regarding wheelchairs, in the years ahead," she added.

The presentation event also highlighted the need for continued advocacy for accessible infrastructure. Mrs. Oyetunde-Lawal urged institutions and property owners to ensure their buildings are wheelchair-friendly, emphasising that accessibility is a fundamental right for individuals with

disabilities.

"Every institution and property owner must remember that wheelchair users exist. If you build structures that are not accessible, you limit the independence of these individuals. It is essential that schools, religious institutions, cinemas, and

all buildings are designed with accessibility in mind so that wheelchair users can live as independently as possible," she stressed. Beneficiaries, including homes catering to children with disabilities and individuals with disabilities, expressed their gratitude to the Lagos

State Office for Disability Affairs and the Lagos State Government for their continuous support. They acknowledged the significance of the gesture in improving their mobility and overall well-being. The event serves as an important reminder of the progress made in ensuring

that persons with disabilities have access to mobility aids and the necessary resources to live more independent lives. It also highlights the ongoing efforts of the Lagos State Government to create a more inclusive society for all.

World Wheelchair Day, celebrated globally on the 1st of March, serves as a reminder of the importance of mobility aids in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities and promoting their inclusion in society



## LAGESC Apprehends Six For Selling Sexual Stimulants

In consolidation of measures to ensure that Lagosians in transit and motorists alike enjoy safer driving and commuting across the State, the Lagos Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC) popularly known as KAI, has apprehended six suspected vendors for engaging in the illegal sales of sachet alcohol and aphrodisiacs in traffic around the Iyana-Isolo-Ilasamaja axis of the State on Monday.

The Corps Marshal of the Agency, Major Olaniyi Olatunbosun Cole (rtd), who disclosed this today at the Command

Headquarters, Bolade-Oshodi, said, "We received complaints from motorists about how vendors engaged in the illegal sales of sachet alcohol, liquor and aphrodisiacs among others in traffic which can contribute to the high rate of accidents via drunk driving and passenger-induced chaos".

The Corps Marshal revealed the names of the six suspected illegal drink hawkers as, Kemi Akeju, F, 36; Bola Oladimeji, F, 49; Monsurat Bakare, F, 40; Tosin Olayiwola, F, 38; Lateefat Bakare, F, 45 and Stella Joseph, F, 41,

adding that they have since been charged to court on appropriate charges to face prosecution.

Cole decried the alarming scourge of drunk driving among Lagos drivers which has been researched as a leading and contributory factor to the spate of motor accidents within and outside the State. He commended the arrest of these defaulters, warning that the trend of hawking alcohol in traffic must be discouraged as the Agency will exhaust all lawful options to bring perpetrators to book.

The Corps Marshal also sounded a note of

warning to street traders, hawkers, and building contractors in the habit of stacking sand on the road, just

as he cautioned public and private buildings to have a valid waste collection contract and patronise

approved PSP operators in the State to promote a cleaner and habitable metropolis.



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# Ramadan Lecture: Hamzat Enjoins Parents To Teach Their Children Essence of Humanity

Lagos State Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat has admonished parents to guide their children on the right path to foster a deeper understanding of humanity and its values.

Dr. Hamzat gave the admonishment on Sunday at the Annual Ramadan Lecture of the Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria, Lagos State Council, themed: "Understanding the Inner Dimensions of Islamic Brotherhood" held at Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos Island. He noted that science and technology are advancing rapidly, and if the right values are not instilled in them, they may lose the essence of humanity which is compassion, love, unity, and peace.

According to him, "The challenges in Nigeria are youthful exuberance and money ritual, among other vices. With science and technology, the question is how do we protect children, particularly Muslims, from the negative impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI)? It is in our hands as parents to train our children because science and technology may take the essence of humanity away from them."

Speaking further, the Deputy Governor emphasised the vital role parents play in the lives of their children, urging them to be actively involved in nurturing and guiding them, regardless of their busy schedules. He



stressed that parental guidance is crucial and essential for children's development, as it is very significant in shaping their young minds.

While commending the organisation for being around for the past 100 years, Hamzat appreciated every member of the association for sustaining the objectives of the founding fathers. "The people that started this were not necessarily rich but they just wanted education for the Muslim children and it's been sustained. So we must appreciate every member of Ansar Ud-Deen for sustaining it and pray that they continue to do it and the same goes for all the associations".

In his goodwill message, Former Minister of Works and Housing, Mr. Babatubde Raji Fashola (SAN), encouraged Nigerians to remain patient and calm, trusting that the government's efforts will lead to a brighter future for the nation. Fashola's words, "I believe that our country will be great if we can be patient and calm, joy will come. Let us be patient. Let us live in harmony and we will all enjoy the greatness of our country, Nigeria."

Earlier in his Lecture, titled: "Understanding the Inner Dimension of Islam Brotherhood", the National Missioner, Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria and Overseas, Sheikh Abdur'Rahman

Olanrewaju Ahmad stressed the importance of brotherhood in Islam, noting that Islam teaches Muslims to be compassionate and to demonstrate love, kindness, and mercy towards one another, regardless of their religion or background.

Sheikh Ahmad noted that Allah teaches Muslims to love and live in peace with each other, stressing that "We need to live in peace with ourselves. Allah teaches us to be compassionate, merciful, and caring to the people around us. There will not be a religion when our relationship with Allah is perfect and our relationship with our brother in Islam or otherwise is hostile or toxic."

He charged them to emulate the good deeds of other religious bodies, who give priority to the welfare and well-being of their members, stressing that Islam is not the property of any race but is a compassionate religion of love.

In his welcome address, the Chairman, Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria, Lagos State Council, Alhaji Abdul Rahman Salaudeen urged the Muslim faithful to take advantage of the month of physical and spiritual cleansing of Muslims to observe all that Allah enjoins them to do and do away with.

He added that they should be their brothers' keepers in the face of the

economic situation that currently pervades the country. "Extend the hand of succour and assistance to the needy, the poor, and the less privileged around you to ease their affairs. May Almighty Allah accept all our good deeds as an act of Ibadah," the Chairman said.

Alhaji Salaudeen stated that the Ansar-Ud-Deen Society remains committed to making non-Muslims see the beauty of Islam, noting that the society has revitalised high values that Islam teaches and they have always embarked on a lot of life-changing programmes and activities that make Muslims and even non-Muslims see Islam as a religion of peace, love, and unity.



# Lagos Hosts Regional Stakeholders Forum on SDGs

The Lagos State Government, through the Office of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), hosted a high-level Regional Stakeholders Consultation on Nigeria's 2025 Voluntary National Review (VNR) on Sustainable Development to evaluate progress, address implementation challenges, and enhance multi-stakeholders collaboration towards advancing SDG attainment at both national and subnational levels.

The crucial engagement, convened under the auspices of the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs), brought together key stakeholders from across the South-West geopolitical zone, including government officials, development partners, civil society organizations, and academia.

In her keynote address, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs, Princess Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, highlighted the importance of the VNR process as a mechanism for measuring national and subnational progress, identifying gaps, and enhancing accountability in SDGs implementation. According to her, Nigeria's 2025 VNR is not just an exercise in reporting but an opportunity to assess our collective efforts, refine strategies, and accelerate action towards achieving the global agenda.

Orelope, who was represented by her Technical Assistant, Dr. Bala Yinusa, reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to the 2030 Agenda,



emphasising the need for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to accelerate sustainable development efforts across the country. "The Voluntary National Review is an opportunity for us to critically reflect on our obligations, assess challenges, and refine strategies to ensure that no one is left behind. Through broad-based consultations like this, we strengthen policy coherence, encourage multi-stakeholder participation, and reinforce our commitment to the global SDGs agenda," she stated.

Orelope noted that the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, which serves as the global review platform for the SDGs, will convene in July 2025, where Nigeria will present its third VNR report alongside 38 other

countries.

Welcoming delegates to the forum, the Special Adviser to the Governor on SDGs, Dr. Oreoluwa Finnih, commended OSSAP-SDGs for convening the dialogue, stressing the pivotal role of subnational governments in translating the SDGs into practical, local implementation.

She stressed that as Nigeria moves closer to the 2030 deadline, the 2025 VNR consultation provides an excellent platform to re-evaluate progress, identify bottlenecks, and co-create scalable solutions for accelerating SDG implementation at both national and subnational levels.

While noting that Lagos State has remained a frontrunner in data-driven governance and policy innovation, the Special Adviser revealed that the

present administration in the state has institutionalized mechanisms to ensure that development policies and interventions are data-driven, evidence-based, and impactful.

"Lagos State's 2023 Voluntary Local Review (VLR) has significantly influenced policy formulation, resource allocation, and inter-agency collaboration. It has provided a framework for tracking our SDG progress and strengthening participatory governance, aligning our state policies with global development targets," Dr. Finnih remarked.

She further reiterated the transformational role of periodic assessments, such as the VNR and VLR, in advancing sustainable development, stating that they enable governments to adopt responsive, transparent, and inclusive

strategies to meet their SDG commitments effectively.

Dr. Finnih encouraged government institutions, private sector leaders, development partners, and civil society actors to contribute their insights and expertise to shape a more inclusive and results-driven VNR, noting that the national review is not just a formality, but a true reflection of the progress, challenges, and solutions needed to fast-track the SDGs.

She appreciated the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs for its leadership and commitment to fostering a national dialogue and driving initiatives that aligned with the aspirations of the SDGs.

During the consultation, participants reviewed Nigeria's 2024 SDG Progress Report, analyzed

institutional frameworks, and discussed challenges and key recommendations to enhance implementation at all levels.

The discussions also focused on leveraging public-private partnerships, innovative financing, and digital technology to fast-track progress in critical areas such as poverty reduction, quality education, gender equality, and climate action.

The regional consultation in Lagos marks the beginning of a nationwide engagement series, with subsequent discussions scheduled to take place in Uyo (South-South), Enugu (South-East), Gombe (North-East), Kaduna (North-West), and Abuja (North-Central), culminating in a National Validation Summit in the Federal Capital Territory.

# Lagos Unveils Digital Malaria Eradication Programme

- Disease has robbed Lagos of productivity, resources — Sanwo-Olu
- State remains lowest burdened in malaria epidemic

Lagos State has transitioned to the most important stage in its rollback strategy against malaria — a killer disease that records 200,000 fatalities annually in Nigeria.

The State became the first sub-national in the country to launch the Pathway to Malaria Pre-Elimination and Digitisation Programme — an initiative aimed at reducing the malaria burden through digital innovation and strengthened public-private sector collaboration.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu launched the tech-driven health initiative being supported by the World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), Maisha Meds and other multilateral partners.

The project would move Lagos towards malaria pre-elimination by enhancing diagnostic accuracy, improving case management and linking patients to social health insurance schemes.

Lagos became the first state to transition to the digitised system of malaria prevention, as the World Bank-funded Immunization Plus and Malaria Progress by Accelerating Coverage and Transforming Services (IMPACT) draws to an end by December 2025.

Nigeria is said to have the highest malaria burden in the world, accounting for 27 per cent of the global cases and 200,000 deaths annually, with most of the fatalities reported among children. Lagos remains the lowest

malaria burden, despite its population. The State currently has 2.6 per cent burden, falling within the low transmission bracket among the 28 sub-nationals where the IMPACT project is being undertaken.

In spite of this progress, Lagos still records 900,000 cases annually, needing more strategic response from the State to sustain its rollback.

Sanwo-Olu, while unveiling the programme, described malaria as a “socio-economic burden” that drained families’ household income, while robbing communities of productivity.

For the State, the Governor said the programme represented hope rooted in innovation, collaboration and determination, stressing that the success of the project would help Lagos reclaim billions lost annually to the disease.

He said: “For many households with modest incomes in Lagos, malaria treatment can consume up to three per cent of monthly earnings. This financial strain often forces families to make heartbreaking choices between healthcare and other basic needs like food or education. The economic impact extends beyond households, with businesses suffering absenteeism, schools recording lower attendance and our healthcare system bearing the weight of preventable cases.

“Malaria is more than a disease; it is a socio-economic burden that



has held back individuals, families, and communities for far too long. It robs us of our productivity and drains household incomes. Today, we are changing this narrative by leveraging digital tools that will ensure that malaria cases are tracked in real time. This programme represents hope rooted in innovation, collaboration and determination. The eradication of malaria is not just a health goal; it is an economic imperative.”

Sanwo-Olu said the benefits of eradicating malaria in the State would go beyond health success, noting that a malaria-free Lagos would not only raise productivity and enhance quality of life, it would also bring about better education outcomes.

The Governor said the objectives were ambitious but achievable. The efforts,

he said, required government agencies, healthcare providers, community leaders, development partners, and residents to work together. He said tracking must be done on monthly basis to ensure consistent monitoring of the progress

“This vision is ambitious but achievable. It requires all stakeholders to work together with unwavering resolve. Success will not come overnight, but with sustained effort and collective action, we will prevail. This effort reaffirms our commitment to safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of every Lagosian,” Sanwo-Olu said.

Minister of State for Health, Dr. Isiak Salako, observed that Lagos had the most comprehensive implementation strategy to roll back malaria, noting that the State had shown the tendency to

achieve total elimination. He said the Federal Government had supported efforts by sub-nationals, taking steps to reverse the trend of malaria epidemic.

He assured that the change made by the United States government in funding global health care would not adversely impact the progress recorded by Nigeria to rid the country of malaria.

Lagos Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, said Lagos, over the last 15 years, had been winning the war against malaria due to improved diagnosis, immunisation and effective treatments.

“Due to intense programmatic work, malaria prevalence in Lagos has declined from 15 per cent in 2010 to 10 per cent in 2015 and now 2.6 per cent in 2025. These efforts have made Lagos fall into the low transmission

category.

“Despite this, malaria remains a major public health issue in Lagos with around 900,000 cases recorded per annum. Over 50 per cent of outpatient visits in public health facilities are due to febrile illnesses presumed to be malaria.”

Stressing on the strategy being implemented by the State Government to drive malaria pre-elimination, Prof. Abayomi said with a strong political will and innovative infrastructural transformation, Lagos would push forward its responses against malaria elimination.

He added that Lagos would have a unique opportunity to achieve its malaria prevention objectives with human resource strategy, digital interventions, health financing through insurance and steadfast partners in donor and private sector space.

# CNG Conversion: Lagos Trains Officers of Vehicle Inspection/Safety Commission

Following the Federal government's directive on the need to move away from PMS to CNG, the Lagos State Government, through the Safety Commission, has organised a three-day training for Vehicle Inspection/Safety Commission Officers.

Speaking at the opening of the training programme held recently at Dover Hotel, Aromire, Ikeja, Director-General, Lagos Safety Commission, Mr. Lanre Mojola, stated that the adoption of CNG as an alternative fuel is not just an energy solution, but a declaration of the present administration's resolve to embrace cleaner, safer and more affordable energy systems that prioritize the well-being of its citizens and the preservation of the environment.

According to him, the training would involve both practical and technical sessions, adding "This is a follow-up to the state's adoption of CNG buses and E-bike into its transportation system which is in tandem with the Presidential Initiative on energy transition to cleaner and alternative fuel and at such, it is the function of the Commission to train officials that will oversee these



vehicles on the road, to ensure safety of lives and public well-being".

In his opening remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations, Mr. Sesan Ogundeko, maintained that for any issue that has to

do with transportation to be successful, safety is key and should not be compromised, hence, the reason why he is very much satisfied with the training being organized by the Commission.

He added that aside from the advantages inherent in the

conversion of vehicles to CNG-powered vehicles which will lower the cost of transportation, it will also reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality. Ogundeko, however, advised on the need for the availability of more compressed gas stations and

further ensured that the CNG is safe, effective, efficient, and convenient and should be implemented in Lagos as a whole. In their remarks, Mr. Akin-George Fashola, Chief State Vehicle Inspection Officer and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral

Resources, Engr. (Mrs) Abiola Koseegbe, both represented by Mr. Gbenga Vaughan and Engr. Aileru Tajudeen, respectively, said the present administration in the state is committed to supporting the laudable initiative.

They noted that adequate enforcement and regulations must, however, be adhered to for a safer environment, affirming their Agency's commitment to enhancing CNG quality.

The duo also stressed the need for ongoing stakeholder and technical staff training on CNG safety and usage with various vehicles while commending Lagos State's leadership on the initiative.

In her submission, the Presidential CNG Initiative Expansion Coordinator, South West I, Mrs. Ogonna Onyemelukwe, maintained that the Nigerian Government has been promoting the use of CNG as part of its efforts to reduce dependence on expensive petroleum products and harness the country's vast natural gas reserves.

She disclosed that the CNG Conversion is cheaper, fosters job creation, enhances economic growth, and energy security, a hallmark of a cleaner, healthier and safer environment devoid of air pollution.

# Education District II Honours Outstanding Staff

The Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary of Education District II, Mrs. Anike Adekanye, has reaffirmed the District's commitment to excellence in education at the 19th Annual Merit Award Ceremony, held at Oriwu Model College, Ikorodu, to recognize and celebrate the dedication, resilience, and outstanding contributions of educators and administrative staff within the district.

In her keynote address, Mrs. Adekanye applauded the awardees for their tireless efforts in shaping the future of students and raising academic standards across the district. She emphasised that their commitment to service has not only enhanced student performance but also contributed to the overall development of Lagos State's education sector. "Education is the foundation of any thriving society, and today, we celebrate individuals who have gone above and beyond in their duties. Your dedication to



excellence inspires not just your students but also your colleagues and the broader community," she stated. The TG/PS highlighted the Lagos State Government's continuous investment in education, including

the provision of digital learning tools, professional development programmes, and infrastructure upgrades, expressing gratitude to Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, his Deputy, Dr Kadiri

Obafemi Hazmat and the Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Hon. Jamiu Tolani Ali-Balogun, for their unwavering support in driving educational

reforms.

"The recent introduction of digital teaching tools, professional development initiatives, and infrastructural improvements across our district has positioned us to

compete on both national and global stages", she affirmed.

Adekanye applauded the Chairman of the Lagos State Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM), Mrs. Victoria Mopelola Peregrino, and the Board members for their due diligence in recruiting qualified teachers and training and retraining them for optimal service delivery.

Some of the awards presented were for the Best Principal (Senior Category), Mrs. Akinwunmi Olukemi, Ajegunle Senior High School, Ketu; Best Principal (Junior Category), Mrs. Babalola Theresa, Igbobi Junior High School, Somolu; while the best teachers in both Senior and Junior Categories were presented to Mr. Lawal Peter and Mrs. Ademosu Kehinde respectively, amongst other Awardees.

Special Recognition and Awards were also presented to retired Districts' Tutor-General/Permanent Secretaries, the NUT Lagos State Chapter, the Zonal NUT, and the ANCOPPS Chairmen of the three zones in the District.

# Why I resigned as Speaker of Lagos Assembly – Meranda



I resigned as Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, because of the need to preserve the integrity of the legislature and prevent further crisis within the House.

This was the statement of Hon. Mojisola Meranda as she stepped down from being the speaker of the state house of assembly. She said, "I have put in a personal sacrifice aimed at resolving the lingering leadership crisis in the Assembly and ensuring my family's legacy in

promoting democracy, good governance, and service remained her guiding principle.

"It is with heavy responsibility that I wish to resign my position as the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly with effect from this day, March 3, 2025.

"I took this decision carefully and with firm consideration. On one hand, I accepted the position of Speaker, and on the other hand, I resigned because it is threatening the

democracy of this House. "I feel that I have demonstrated leadership and selfless sacrifice by resigning in order to protect these resources that we have suffered to build."

"I appreciate my colleagues, the management and staff of the House of Assembly, for their unwavering support throughout her short tenure, describing the moment as memorable despite its brevity.

"Thank you for finding me worthy to lead this

distinguished and honourable Assembly. I am not a quitter; however, I took this bold decision in order to save this legislative institution from further unnecessary conflict and embarrassment.

"I hereby reaffirm my commitment to continuously serve my constituency, Apapa Constituency 1, and the people of Lagos State. I urge my fellow lawmakers to remain focused on justice and fairness.

"Occasionally, we are

confronted by overwhelming challenges and conflicts, but as responsible leaders, we must not break down the legislative House that we collectively built in pursuit of justice and fairness.

"I appreciate the support and solidarity I received through calls, messages, and visits. I acknowledge the supremacy of party decisions in the political landscape.

"At this point, I take a bow as your Speaker and step down for this great House."

# Bridging Leadership: LJLA Fellows Visit Ikoyi-Obalende LCDA



As part of its commitment to experiential learning, the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy (LJLA) recently led its Fellows on an insightful Local Government Tour to the Ikoyi-Obalende Local Council Development Area (LCDA). The visit provided a firsthand look at governance at

the grassroots level and the critical role local governments play in driving community development. The tour was facilitated by the Executive Chairman of the Ikoyi-Obalende LCDA, Honourable Fuad Atanda-Lawal, who provided the Fellows with an in-depth

overview of the LCDA's strategic governance approach. Under his leadership, the LCDA has recorded significant progress in infrastructure development, access to clean water, healthcare, education, and human capital development. These improvements underscore the transformative impact of leadership that is

both strategic and people-centred. During the visit, the Fellows engaged in interactive sessions with key local government officials, discussing the challenges and opportunities inherent in grassroots governance. They also explored the intricacies of policy implementation at the grassroots level, gaining a deeper understanding of the balance between decision-making and community engagement. Honourable Fuad Atanda-Lawal emphasised the importance of governance that directly addresses community needs. "Effective governance begins

with understanding the needs of the people and implementing policies that create real change. At the local government level, we are closest to the people, and our decisions have an immediate impact on their daily lives", he stated.

He further highlighted the significance of engaging emerging leaders like the LJLA Fellows, in grassroots governance. "It is crucial to expose young leaders to the realities of local administration, as they represent the future of governance in Nigeria. I am confident that their experiences here will shape their perspectives on leadership and public service", he added.

The Executive Secretary of LJLA, Mrs. Ayisat Agbaje-Okunade, underscored the value of immersive learning in leadership development. "Leadership is not just about making policies;

it is about understanding the realities of the people. By engaging directly with local government leaders, our Fellows gain invaluable insights that will prepare them for impactful leadership roles in the future", she noted.

Agbaje-Okunade also emphasised how such initiatives strengthen the Academy's leadership framework. "The Local Government Tour is a core component of the Academy's leadership development strategy, designed to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical governance. As the Fellows continue their journey, these experiences will further equip them with the knowledge and skills to drive meaningful change in society", she added.

## Lagos Govt Releases Y2025 Land Use Charge Bills

...Offers 15% Discount for Early Payment

The Lagos State Government has released the 2025 Land Use Charge (LUC) Bill, reinforcing its commitment to the continuous provision of world-class infrastructure and services for all residents. According to the Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Abayomi Oluyemi, property owners across the state are encouraged to take advantage of the 15% discount on their Land Use Charge by making

early payments before the deadline. He explained that the Land Use Charge is a crucial revenue source that enables the government to maintain and improve essential public infrastructure, including roads, healthcare facilities, schools, and security enhancements. In his words, "Recent projects funded through taxpayers' contributions include: The Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT) Blue and Red Lines -

transforming urban mobility and reducing travel time; construction and rehabilitation of key roads and bridges - easing traffic congestion and improving connectivity; expansion of healthcare facilities - providing better access to quality healthcare for residents; enhanced security measures - ensuring a safer environment for businesses and communities

amongst others". Abayomi emphasised that Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's vision of building a safe, livable, and globally competitive megacity remains steadfast. The present administration intends to continue to implement policies that drive sustainable development, attract investments, and elevate Lagos to the ranks of the world's most

advanced cities.

"This is a call to action for all property owners to support this mission by fulfilling their civic duty and paying their Land Use Charge promptly. By doing so, they contribute directly to the growth and transformation of Lagos into a #Greater Lagos that all residents can be proud of.

"To ensure convenience and seamless payment, property owners can pay their Land Use Charge using the following methods:

Internet Banking; Bank Deposits - at designated banks across the state; Mobile Payment - through USSD codes; POS available at LUC offices; Lagos Online Assistant - (LOLA - Whatsapp Robotic payment platform)", he added.

The Commissioner, therefore, urged all property owners to take advantage of the 15% discount by paying early and playing their part in making Lagos a modern, thriving metropolis.

# Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates Charterhouse Pry School

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to redefining educational excellence with the commissioning of Charterhouse Lagos Primary School, Ogombo, Ajah, and the groundbreaking ceremony for its Secondary School.

Speaking at the event today, Governor Sanwo-Olu, represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Barr. 'Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin described the development as a milestone in consonant with his administration's vision for inclusive, high-quality learning under the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus

Developmental Agenda.

"Charterhouse Lagos embodies a legacy of excellence while pioneering innovations tailored to our unique context. By offering the British National Curriculum alongside a strong Nigerian and African Studies Programme, the school ensures that our children are globally competitive yet deeply rooted in their heritage," he said.

He emphasised that the fusion of global and local curricula at Charterhouse Lagos will not only prepare students for top universities worldwide but also equip them to return home as leaders driving Nigeria's



future prosperity. Governor Sanwo-Olu praised the partnership between Lagos State and Charterhouse Lagos, describing it as a testament to the power of public-private collaboration in transforming education. He particularly commended the Director of Education and Founding Head, Mr. John Todd, for ensuring that 90% of the school's workforce comprises Nigerians and for his

commitment to teacher training through an annual Festival of Education.

He noted that with institutions like Charterhouse Lagos, families no longer have to send their children abroad for quality education.

"For decades, Nigerian families have faced the tough decision of sending their children overseas for education. Today,

Charterhouse Lagos changes that narrative. We are building schools that meet and exceed international standards, right here at home."

The Governor also acknowledged the Ministry of Education, the Private Schools Department, and other key stakeholders for their unwavering support in bringing the project to life. He assured Charterhouse Lagos of continued collaboration to ensure the school benefits the

surrounding communities through employment opportunities and outreach programs.

Among dignitaries at the event were top government officials, including the Commissioners for Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Tolani Alli-Balogun; Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade, and Investment, Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem; Youth and Social Development, Mr. Mobolaji Ogunlende, and other invited guests.

Charterhouse Lagos is the first British independent school in Nigeria and West Africa and a milestone in making

world-class education accessible in Lagos State and within its borders as a reputable hub for educational transformation in Nigeria.

# Tourism Commissioner Wants Stronger Partnerships In Hospitality Industry

The Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts, and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka has reaffirmed the Lagos State Government's unwavering commitment to driving growth in the hospitality sector.

Speaking at the Institute of Hospitality (UK), Nigeria Region's Annual General Meeting (AGM) held recently at Radisson Blu, Victoria Island, Benson-Awoyinka emphasised the importance of strategic collaborations between the

government and private sector in positioning Lagos as Africa's premier tourism and hospitality destination.

She noted that a thriving hospitality industry is built on strong partnerships, professional excellence, and continuous innovation, adding that the administration of Governor Sanwo-Olu is working tirelessly to create an enabling environment through capacity-building programmes, regulatory reforms, and investments in tourism infrastructure. Recognising the Institute of

Hospitality's role in shaping industry professionals, the Commissioner commended its efforts in mentorship and skills development, urging members to continue fostering a culture of excellence.

Mr. Femi Falebita, President of the Institute of Hospitality Nigeria, in his remarks, also called on industry stakeholders to embrace a shared responsibility in advancing the sector. He said: "We must think beyond short-term gains and focus on building a resilient industry that future



generations can inherit with pride. This means prioritising skills development, ethical leadership, and professional standards."

While acknowledging the financial challenges confronting the industry, Mr. Falebita remained optimistic about the Institute's ability to attract strategic sponsorships and

partnerships that align with its mission.

"Our priority is not just financial growth, but the empowerment of hospitality professionals through continuous learning and leadership development," he affirmed.

Adding to the discourse, veteran hospitality expert, Mr. Gbenga Sunmonu delivered an insightful goodwill message,

where he stressed the critical role of leadership in driving industry transformation.

He asserted that: "Leadership is more than a title; it is about setting the right example and inspiring innovation. As professionals, we must embrace change, empower our teams, and uphold the highest industry standards".

# Pay Workers N487,000 Entitlement Claims- Court Orders Ikoyi Club

By Felix Kuyinu



The National Industrial Court in Ikoyi Lagos has directed the Ikoyi Club to pay its worker the sum of N487,000,000 as entitlement benefits. The court ruled that the Ikoyi Club, reducing the employee's salary and leave allowance in April, May and June 2020 was a breach of employment contract. Justice Ikechi Nweneka, who gave the order also said

that the incident an unfair practice under 4 labour law provisions. Justice Nweneka has now ruled that the Club should pay the employer, simply identified as Adekola, the sum of N337,247, for balance of salary, a long side N101,003.85 as his prorated leave allowance for the same period. Additionally, the Court ordered the firm to transfer the sum of

N17,837.98 and N13,211.32 and N17,717.66 for outstanding pension contributions to the worker's Stanbic IBTC Retirement Savings Account: N17,717.66 for the duration. Furthermore, the Club was also ordered to pay the worker the sum of N200,000 as costs for the legal action. Prior to the rulling, the claimant claimed that his employment was confirmed on December 1, 2018, and he had been performing duties

as Head of the Committee Secretariat. Adekola mentioned that the Club had reduced his salary without informing him of the reason, which according to him violates his employment contract and the International Labour Organization's Protection of Wages Convention. The Ikoyi Club,

however, submitted that the plaintiff was not entitled to an acting allowance or the salary scale of the Head of Committee Secretariat, as he did not produce the required written notification for acting in a higher capacity. The Club argued that the payment of N330,046.38 represented Adekola's terminal benefits, and the salary reduction due to the COVID-19 pandemic was justified as fair labor

practice. However, the Court found the club's arguments unconvincing, particularly noting that the internal memo allegedly informing staff about the salary deduction was not produced in evidence. Justice Nweneka ruled that no deductions could be made from an employee's salary unless permitted by law, and dismissed the Club's defense of fair labor practice.



# Lagos Attorney Charges Notary Members On Advanced Practices

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State Attorney General, Lawal Pedro, SAN, has admonished members of the Society of Notary Public to offer advanced services in the state. Pedro, during an interactive session with the notary members held at the Conference Room of the Ministry of Justice in Alausa, Ikeja, on Tuesday, emphasized the crucial role assigned to the members in ensuring authenticity and credibility of legal documents. The Attorney disclosed that a credible performance by the group can significantly reduce fraudulent activities, citing such feat recorded in foreign

countries.

Pedro, who was conferred an award by the notary members, admonished the group to remain fair, efficient and accessible to residents to the state. He added that the Ministry of Justice is keen on positive partnership with the notary team to further effect record keeping in the state and Nigeria.

He commended the organization's efforts in enhancing governance and professional standards in notarial services.

The visiting entourage disclosed that the award bestowed on the Attorney was in full recognition of his commitment to advanced notarial practices in the country.

The society also



acknowledged the support of the Ministry of Justice which has ensured continuous improvement of the society.

President and Master of Notaries, Marlies Allan, said: "I wish to recognize the giant strides you {Pedro} and your team in the Ministry are making to ensure that our justice system is strengthened for a better environment.

"Your support and encouragement are invaluable as we embark on a new chapter in the advancement of the notarial profession in Nigeria.

"We are well aware of the critical role of notaries in ensuring the integrity of legal documents, reducing fraud,

and enhancing governance.

"Since the formation of the Society for Notaries Public, it has been at the forefront of professionalizing notarial services in Nigeria, particularly with the introduction of digital notarization under the Notaries Public Act, 2023.

"The new law enables notaries to authenticate documents electronically, conduct

remote notarizations, and use digital seals and signatures; aligning Nigeria's notarial system with global best practices." Allan added: "The Society is collaborating with the Supreme Court and technology partners to implement new regulations, eliminate quackery, and enhance notarial services while noting that discussions with foreign embassies are also ongoing to secure international recognition of Nigerian notaries.

"With these, we crave for continuous support from the Ministry on two things which includes; Mandatory Notarization of Jurat Witnessing in Registrable Deeds; and Integration of Remote Notarization with Justice IT Infrastructure."

# P Square Sibling, Jude Okoye, Remanded Over Alleged \$1M Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu



Former producer was remanded in prison by the Presiding Judge, Rahman Oshodi. At the proceeding, the Economic and Financial Crime Commission, EFCC, stated that Okoye also indulged in another fraudulent act to the tune of £34,000,000. The EFCC filed a four-count charge against

the defendant accusing him of dishonestly converting the funds in music proceeds from three companies for personal use.

Okoye pleaded not guilty.

Justice Oshodi opposed his bail application and scheduled the next trial for May 16 and 23.

# Olasoju Distributes Ramadan Packages to League of Imams

Kehinde Adeleye

In an annual tradition aimed at supporting the local Islamic community, Olasoju Adebayo, the Executive Chairman of Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), distributed Ramadan packages to imams across the council area.

The initiative seeks to ensure a smooth and blessed observance of the holy month and ease the financial burden faced by clergy members and their families during the 30-day fasting period.

The packages

contained essential food items, demonstrating Olasoju's commitment to fostering religious

harmony and promoting peace in the council area.

During the distribution event held on the council premises last

Thursday, Olasoju emphasized the significance of unity, peace, and reflection during Ramadan and

called for continued prayers for Isolo, Lagos, and Nigeria's growth and prosperity. In response, the imams expressed

gratitude for the thoughtful gesture and offered prayers for Olasoju's continued success as chairman.



# Residents Laud Oloyede on New Borehole

Kehinde Adeleye

Responding to the urgent need for improved water supply, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, swiftly took action by completing a borehole water project at Arowojobe Street.

This new water source offers residents free access to potable water and aligns with the administration's

mission to enhance the overall quality of life for Oshodi-Isolo residents.

Community members expressed their gratitude and excitement for the timely completion of this essential project. The provision of clean water will address long-standing challenges faced by the residents in obtaining water for household use.

Otunba Oloyede assured community members that his administration remains committed to

prioritizing initiatives that positively impact people's lives.

Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of residents taking ownership of the new project, ensuring proper usage and regular maintenance to safeguard this valuable resource for future generations.

"This borehole project is not just about providing water, but about bringing succour and relief to our people. We listened to your cries, and we have

delivered. I urge the Community Development Association (CDA) and residents to take responsibility for the facility, use it judiciously, and protect it against vandalism," the chairman stated. The residents expressed gratitude to the chairman, commending his leadership and dedication to fulfilling his campaign promises.

They described the

intervention as a timely relief that would put an end to their constant struggle to buy water from vendors.

An excited resident, Mrs. Comfort Ayoola, could not hide her happiness, as she said: "I am very happy with this project. You can see the joy on the faces of our people. We have been having difficulty getting water, and the chairman came to our aid. We are happy and pray that God continues to bless our chairman, Otunba Kehinde

Oloyede (Kendoo)."

The borehole project is one of several ongoing people-oriented projects by the Oloyede-led administration, aimed at enhancing the standard of living across all wards in the local government area.

The Chairman reiterated his commitment to delivering more projects that will uplift the lives of the people and further promote development in the local government.

# LASG Temporarily Suspends E-call-up System On Lekki-Epe Road

By Mohammed Adekola

Lagos State Government has temporarily suspended the enforcement of the e-call-up system for trucks along the Lekki-Epe corridor following a meeting with key unions in the petroleum and transport sectors. The decision was reached after discussions with the Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), the Independent



Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), the Nigerian Association of Road Transport

Owners (NARTO), and the Petroleum Tanker Drivers (PTD). The disclosure was

conveyed in a

statement on the official X page of the Lagos State Ministry of Transportation on

Tuesday, 6th March 2025.

“Rising from the meeting which was held at the Conference Room of the Ministry of Transportation, Lagos State, the Ministry yielded to the request of the Union leaders, ( NUPENG, IPMAN, NARTO and PTD) to suspend enforcement of the e-call-up system to allow them further engagement with their members,” the statement read in part. The statement highlighted that the suspension allows unions more time to

ensure their members comply with parking regulations. Union leaders pledged to enforce proper truck parking, while the Ministry of Transportation warned that enforcement would resume if violations persisted. The meeting was attended by Transportation Commissioner for Lagos State, Oluwaseun Osiyemi, Permanent Secretary Olawale Musa, and union representatives.

Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission (LASIEC) and Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA have reaffirmed their commitment to conducting free, fair, and credible local government elections, as its Chairman, Justice Bola Ighile, led a delegation to inspect preparedness in Ikosi-Ejinrin Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Agbowo. The team was received by the Chairman of the LCDA, Akogun Wale Raji Anomo, alongside council executives, legislators, and management staff. Anomo commends LASIEC's proactive

## LASIEC Visits Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA

approach in ensuring the readiness of its offices and pledged the council's support in facilitating a smooth electoral process.

Justice Ighile, in her remark, assured residents of the

commission's dedication to upholding electoral integrity. “We are fully prepared to conduct free, fair, and credible elections. LASIEC will adhere strictly to electoral guidelines

and collaborate with stakeholders to create a conducive environment for voters,” she stated. LASIEC Chairman emphasized on the importance of voter education, security,

By Mohammed Adekola and logistical planning, urging the council to mobilize residents for peaceful participation in the polls.

Key officials present

were the LCDA Vice Chairman, Alh. Wasiu Oluwole Dehinsilu; Council Manager, Mr. Sunday Awobajo; Leader of the House, Hon. Hassan Mustapha Owolabi; as well as other cabinet members, legislators, and the Commission's Electoral Officer for Ikosi-Ejinrin.

Since its inauguration by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on January 10, 2025, LASIEC has been engaging with local councils across the state to ensure adequate support for a smooth and credible election process later in the year.



# LASIEC Team Pays Working Visit to Eredo LCDA

By Mohammed Adekola



In a crucial step toward the success of the 2025 local government elections, Officials of the Lagos State Independent Electoral

Commission (LASIEC) paid a working visit to Eredo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) on March 4, 2025. The visit, led by LASIEC Chairman Justice Bola Okikiolu

Ighile, aimed to strengthen collaboration with local authorities and ensure a seamless electoral process.

Hon. Ismail Monsuru

Akinloye, Chairman of Eredo LCDA, was ably represented by Hon. Lateef Adesanya, who received the

LASIEC delegation. Discussions centered on the commission's preparations, election guidelines, and the role of the LCDA in facilitating pre-election activities. Justice Ighile reiterated LASIEC's commitment to conducting a free, fair, and credible election but emphasized the need for local government support to enhance voter participation and maintain transparency.

Justice Ighile introduced key members of her team, including the Eredo LCDA Electoral Officer,

Mr. Habeeb Abiola Ashaka, who hosted the session. Hon. Lateef Adesanya, speaking on behalf of the LCDA chairman, assured LASIEC of the council's full cooperation in ensuring a hitch-free election process.

LASIEC officials inspected the nearly completed agency building within the LCDA to assess office spaces designated for their personnel. This assessment is part of ongoing efforts to ensure all logistical arrangements are in place ahead of the elections.

# Epe Girls Shine at National Science And Mathematics Competition

By Mohammed Adekola

Epe Girls senior secondary school, have made history by emerging as the 4th Runner-up in a fiercely contested national competition featuring over 3,000 schools.

The colorful event, which seeks to promote academic excellence in mathematics and sciences, was held at Eko Hotel and Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos.

The competition, marking its 10th Anniversary Edition



organized by the Maths4Life Foundation International under the leadership of the President Omoniyi Osuntuyi saw the girls represent Epe and Lagos State, standing out as the only public senior secondary school to reach the finals.

Mr. Yusuf Kassim, expresses his pride and celebrated the achievement, emphasizing the significance of their performance: "Fifteen seconds is no small time. You represented not just Epe, but the entire Lagos State. I

am so, so proud of you girls."

Orimisan Keturah Testimony and Olanihun Munirat Oluwatuminiu, both science students in SS3 represented the school and were closer to clinch the star prize. Their outstanding performance highlights the potential and brilliance within Nigeria's public education system, proving that determination and hard work can compete on any stage.

# 500 Students Gets Free JAMB Form in Ifako-Ijaiye LGA

Kehinde Adeleye

In a move to increase access to tertiary education for underprivileged students, the Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government Area (LGA) in Lagos has distributed free Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) forms to 500 students.

Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat described the initiative as a step towards removing financial barriers to education, with funding provided by the administration.

To further support the beneficiaries, the LGA has arranged free tutorial classes to



prepare them for the JAMB examinations. Expressing gratitude

for the relief provided to her family, beneficiary Adeola Lawal hailed the

initiative. LGA officials announced plans

to introduce mentorship programs

to offer additional support to the students

# Ifako-Ijaiye LG Launches "Joint Action Against Tuberculosis"



Kehinde Adeleye

diabetes while providing free health services at all Primary Health Care Centers (PHCs) in the area.

Spearheaded by Chairperson Mrs. Fausat Adejumoke Hamzat and Lagos State Governor's Wife Mrs. Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, the program underscores the local government's commitment to addressing pressing health concerns and improving access to essential medical services for its

residents.

Key offerings of the program include:

**Health Talks and Counseling:** Educational sessions on TB prevention, symptoms, and treatment.

**Hypertension Screening:** Free blood pressure checks with lifestyle guidance.

**Diabetes Screening:** Early detection and management advice for participants.

**TB Chest X-ray Screening:** Identification of potential TB cases for timely intervention.

**Free TB Treatment:** Enrollment in treatment plans for diagnosed

individuals.

The event saw significant community participation, with health professionals and volunteers delivering services and engaging residents.

The program successfully increased awareness about TB, identified new cases, and fostered a stronger connection between the local government and the community.

Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government remains committed to improving public health outcomes and will continue to host similar initiatives in the future.

In collaboration with key stakeholders, Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government has

launched a three-day health initiative called "Joint Action Against Tuberculosis" from March 3rd to 5th,

2025. The initiative aims to raise awareness about tuberculosis (TB), hypertension, and

# Queens of Afrobeats: Iconic Debut Albums by Female Stars

By Nurudeen Adebayo

For any artist, releasing a debut album is a defining moment—a stamp of identity and a statement of intent.

It is the culmination of years of dreams, sweat, and the hunger to be heard. But for female artists, particularly in the high-stakes world of Afrobeats, the challenge is even greater.

Public perception looms large, branding efforts are exhaustive, and the burden of proving one's worth in a male-dominated industry can feel insurmountable.

Culture observers and music veterans might debate the difficulty of making a debut album, but there is little argument about the risks involved.

A weak debut can stall an artist's career before it even begins. For even the most certified hitmakers, their first full-length project can either be a launching pad to superstardom or a stumbling block that derails their trajectory.

It's a reality that female artists know all too well. Industry heavyweights like Tiwa Savage, Yemi Alade, and Simi have all openly discussed the extra hurdles women face compared to their male counterparts.

Even Odumodublvck, one of the most celebrated voices in the current Afrobeats movement, has acknowledged the gendered double standards in the industry.

Yet, despite these challenges, female artists have delivered some of the most compelling and culturally impactful debut albums in Afrobeats history.

And while conversations around legendary debuts often center on male hip-hop icons and Afropop juggernauts, the women

have been just as pivotal in shaping the sound and expanding its reach.

In celebration of Women's Month and as a prelude to International Women's Day, we turn the spotlight to seven groundbreaking debut albums from Afrobeats' leading ladies—projects that not only defined careers but also left an indelible mark on the culture.

## 7. Tems – Born in the Wild (2024)

For Tems, the journey to her debut album was anything but rushed. After years of cultivating a distinct sound and amassing a loyal global fanbase, *Born in the Wild* arrived in 2024 as a fully-formed statement of artistry and independence.

Released under RCA Records, the album spans 18 tracks across 54 minutes—an ambitious effort that blends Afrobeats with soul, R&B, and introspective lyricism. Anchored by singles like *Love Me Jeje*, *Me & U*, and *Burning*, the project reflects both vulnerability and strength, a testament to Tems' ability to navigate complex emotions while remaining sonically adventurous.

Featuring collaborations with J. Cole and Asake,

and with production from heavyweights like GuiltyBeatz, Sarz, and P2J, *Born in the Wild* shattered records by peaking at No. 56 on the U.S. Billboard 200—the highest-charting debut album by a Nigerian female artist. It's a remarkable feat for an artist who began her journey with self-produced bedroom recordings.

## 6. Waje – W.A.J.E (2013)

By the time Waje released her debut album in 2013, she was already a familiar voice in Nigerian music. Her powerful vocals on P-Square's 2008 hit *Do Me* had introduced her to audiences far and wide. But *W.A.J.E* was where she fully stepped into her own spotlight.

A sweeping 14-track project spanning nearly an hour, *W.A.J.E* featured a stellar lineup of collaborators including Tiwa Savage, Burna Boy, and Phyno. With production from industry legends like Cobhams Asuquo and Del B, the album was a showcase of Waje's vocal prowess and emotional depth.

From the soul-searching ballad *I Wish* to the playful *Onye*, Waje's debut was a bold declaration of her place in the industry—an assertion that female vocalists could command as much power and presence

as their male counterparts.

## 5. Omawumi – Wonder Woman (2009)

In 2007, Omawumi captured the nation's heart as the first runner-up on *West African Idols*. By 2009, her debut album *Wonder Woman* proved she was more than just a reality TV sensation—she was a force to be reckoned with.

With a genre-bending mix of R&B, pop, dance, and Afro-fusion, *Wonder Woman* showcased Omawumi's ability to seamlessly switch between styles without losing her identity. Tracks like *In the Music* and *Today Na Today* became instant classics, combining catchy melodies with relatable storytelling.

At a time when mainstream female voices were scarce in Nigerian music, Omawumi filled a crucial gap, paving the way for future generations of women to break through.

## 4. Chidinma – Chidinma (2012)

When Chidinma won *Project Fame West Africa* in 2010, expectations were high. Her self-titled debut album in 2012 didn't disappoint.

With hit singles like *Kedike* and *Jankoliko*, Chidinma quickly transitioned from reality show winner to certified pop star. The album blended contemporary R&B with Afrobeats, offering a fresh and youthful sound that resonated with fans across Nigeria and beyond.

More than just a collection of songs, Chidinma was a pivotal moment for women in the industry—proof that a young woman with talent and determination could carve out a lasting career.

## 3. Yemi Alade – King of Queens (2014)

Few debut albums have had the seismic impact of Yemi Alade's *King of Queens*. Released in 2014, the album catapulted her to continental superstardom, largely thanks to the runaway success of *Johnny*.

A 29-track juggernaut, *King of Queens* was a statement of ambition and versatility. It fused Afrobeats with reggae, highlife, and R&B, while Yemi's charismatic delivery and pan-African appeal made her a

household name across the continent.

## 2. Ayra Starr – 19 & Dangerous (2021)

If there's one debut that defined a new generation of Afrobeats, it's *19 & Dangerous*. At just 19 years old, Ayra Starr delivered a project that was confident, experimental, and culturally resonant.

With its breakout hit *Bloody Samaritan*, the album positioned Ayra as a future global superstar. It also earned her a Grammy nomination and solidified her place in the new wave of Afrobeats royalty.

## 1. Tiwa Savage – Once Upon a Time (2013)

No discussion of iconic debuts is complete without Tiwa Savage's *Once Upon a Time*. With 21 tracks spanning over an hour, the album was both an artistic statement and a commercial powerhouse.

Singles like *Kele Kele Love* and *Eminado* became anthems, while Tiwa's blend of sultry R&B and upbeat Afrobeats set a new standard for female-led projects. Over a decade later, the album's legacy endures as a blueprint for women aspiring to global success.



# Why I Took a Long Break from Acting - Bukky Wright

By Nurudeen Adebayo

**V**eteran Nollywood actress Bukky Wright has opened up about the reason behind her long hiatus from the movie industry.

In a recent interview with Ebuka Obi-Uchendu on Channels TV, the actress revealed that she stepped away from acting to focus on raising her children, especially during a critical time in their lives.

According to Wright, the decision was necessary because



she wanted to be present for her children, who live abroad, rather than leaving them in the care of others.

She explained, "I didn't fall out of love with acting, and I

haven't done it all. There are still lots of things I'm looking forward to doing, but I had to take a break for my children. My children called, so I had to take a break."

The actress

emphasized the importance of a mother's presence in a child's life, particularly during their formative years, noting that children abroad can be challenging

to manage without parental supervision. "You don't want to leave your children with anybody abroad, especially at a certain age," she said. "That's when they'll say, 'You're not my mum, you can't talk to me like that.' So, be there yourself."

Wright also highlighted the sacrifices mothers make, comparing the roles of mothers and fathers in raising children. She noted that mothers often have to take on responsibilities like

O mugwo — a traditional postpartum care practice—while fathers typically do not.

"Mothers will always be mothers," she said. "I'm not faulting any man for being a father, but in Yoruba land, we'd say, 'Iya ni iya mi, Baba ni baba gbobo aye,' meaning, 'My mother is my mother, but a father can be a father to many.'"

Despite her break, Bukky Wright assured fans that she remains passionate about acting and is planning a return to the screen in the near future.

## KOSOFE

# First Lady Lauds Bada Over Ikosi Primary Healthcare Centre

**I**kosi-Isheri LCDA Mayoress, Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada, Welcomes First Lady of Lagos State to New Primary Healthcare Centre. Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada, Mayoress of Ikosi-Isheri LCDA, warmly received the First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. Ibijoke Claudiana Sanwo-Olu, at the newly constructed Ikosi Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC).

The visit showcased the state-of-the-art facility, which

promises to revolutionize healthcare delivery within the LCDA.

Accompanied by her husband and other esteemed council members, Princess Bada led the First Lady on an extensive tour of the project.

The Ikosi PHC stands as a testament to the grassroots-driven governance that defines Ikosi-Isheri LCDA.

The First Lady commended Princess Bada and the LCDA for their dedication to improving the welfare

of residents through healthcare and cultural initiatives, such as the Ikosi-Isheri Cultural Carnival.

Impressed by the size and quality of the facility, Dr. Sanwo-Olu said, "I don't know why you keep calling this a PHC; it is worth more than a general hospital." Her remark highlights how Mayoress Bada's leadership is raising the bar for infrastructure in Ikosi-Isheri LCDA, in line with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's

T.H.E.M.E.S Plus agenda.

Though yet to be

equipped, the Ikosi PHC is a direct reflection of purposeful leadership, prioritizing the well-being of

residents.

The project underscores the Mayoress's commitment to ensuring that quality healthcare is not a privilege but a right for all in Ikosi-Isheri LCDA.





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# FCCPC Files Lawsuit Against MultiChoice Nigeria

Kehinde Adeleye

The Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) has initiated legal proceedings against MultiChoice Nigeria Ltd. and its Chief Executive Officer, Mr. John Ugbe, for disregarding regulatory directives and hindering an ongoing inquiry. In a statement issued on Wednesday in Abuja, the FCCPC's Director of Corporate Affairs, Mr. Ondaje Ijagwu, revealed that

MultiChoice had ignored the commission's instructions to maintain existing subscription rates for DStv and GOtv and went ahead with a price increase on March 1. The FCCPC had previously directed MultiChoice Nigeria on February 27 to halt any price adjustments pending the conclusion of an inquiry into the proposed increase. The company's defiance of the order has led the



commission to file charges against MultiChoice Nigeria and its CEO at the Federal High Court, Lagos Judicial Division. The charges include willfully obstructing the commission's investigation, ignoring

instructions to suspend a price hike, and attempting to mislead the commission by implementing the increase without addressing objections. The FCCPC asserts

that MultiChoice's actions reflect a deliberate attempt to undermine regulatory authority, distort market fairness, and deny consumers the legal protections they are entitled to.

The commission views the company's

behavior as a direct challenge to regulatory processes and a pattern of disregard for consumer rights and fair competition.

In addition to the lawsuit, the FCCPC is considering further enforcement measures, such as sanctions, penalties, and regulatory interventions, to ensure compliance and accountability.

The commission reaffirms its commitment to protecting consumers from exploitative practices and holding dominant industry players accountable for adhering to fair market principles and legal requirements.

## IKORODU

# Adesina Pledges to Complete All Ongoing Projects

By Nurudeen Adebayo



The Chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Hon. Wasiu Adesina, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to completing all

ongoing projects before the conclusion of his tenure.

Speaking at the council secretariat, Hon. Adesina provided updates on key infrastructural

developments aimed at improving the lives of residents and enhancing the council's operational efficiency. According to the chairman, the construction of the

Legislative Chamber is progressing rapidly. He described the project as a vital step toward strengthening operations within the local government. Additionally, the facelift of the council secretariat is underway, a move designed to improve the work environment for staff and create a more welcoming space for visitors. Hon. Adesina also highlighted ongoing road

infrastructure projects across the local government. He noted that work on Itunmaja Road is advancing steadily, while one side of Itunla Ajina Road is already under construction.

These efforts, he said, are part of a broader initiative to enhance connectivity and ease transportation challenges for Ikorodu residents.

"As we approach the end of this administration, our priority remains the timely completion of all ongoing projects," Hon. Adesina stated. "We are committed to

delivering these infrastructural developments as a lasting legacy for the people of Ikorodu."

The chairman reiterated his administration's resolve to ensure no project is left incomplete, underscoring his dedication to fostering sustainable progress and development within Ikorodu Local Government.

Residents have expressed optimism about the chairman's pledge, anticipating improved infrastructure and better living conditions as these projects near completion.

# Onilude Committed To Improving Local Entertainment Hub

By Saheed Afolabi

**C**hairman of Badagry LG, Mr Olusegun Onilude has expressed his support in uplifting the entertainment hub of the community during recent romance with the Association of Juju Musicians of Nigeria (AJUMN), Badagry Zone. Badagry's cultural scene received a significant boost as Onilude opened the new zonal office of the Association of Juju Musicians of Nigeria (AJUMN).



Chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude in a group photograph with the executives of AJUMN

This move underlines the local government's dedication to nurturing artistic talent and preserving the area's rich

musical heritage. Onilude emphasized the vital connection between entertainment, tourism, and economic growth, particularly in

Badagry, a key tourist destination. He praised AJUMN's leadership for their commitment to unity and creativity, envisioning the new office as a future hub for

Juju music innovation. "As the nation's premier land border community and a top tourist destination that welcomes diverse

visitors daily, it is in our best interest to uplift and support local talent, especially in the entertainment industry. "Entertainment is not

just a form of recreation; it is a vital aspect of tourism, cultural identity, and economic empowerment. I commend the leadership of AJUMN for this initiative. As the office officially begins operations today, I pray that it becomes a hub of innovation, growth, and success for our Juju musicians." Adding to the celebration of local achievement, Onilude also welcomed the winners of the Most Beautiful Girl in Badagry pageant, urging them to use their platform to promote positive change within the community.

# Empowerment: Beneficiaries Commend Gbenu

By Saheed Afolabi

**T**he chairman of Badagry, Gbenu Joseph has drawn commendations from the beneficiaries of the recently concluded empowerment. The empowerment program provided a significant financial boost to 200 residents through the fifth annual cash empowerment program, held at Suntan Beach Hall. The initiative aimed

to ease economic hardship and promote stability among residents and business owners. Gbenu urged recipients to invest the funds wisely, emphasizing the council's commitment to improving residents' lives. "As leaders, it is our responsibility to serve the people and make decisions that benefit the greater good. I am committed to doing just that." Beyond the financial



3rd from left: Chairman of Badagry West LCDA, Gbenu Joseph with some of the beneficiaries at the 5th annual empowerment program of his administration

aid, he announced upcoming commissions of key community projects, including a Customary Court and

new school building. Community leaders, Bamgbose Joseph

and Ade Agoro, praised the council boss leadership and dedication to serving the people, with

beneficiaries expressing sincere gratitude for the program's positive impact.

# Lagos FA Gears Up For State League

By Saheed Afolabi

The Lagos State Football Association (LSFA) State League is building anticipation as organizers finalize plans for the 2025 season. A crucial draw ceremony and media conference is scheduled for March 12, 2025, at 11:00 AM at the Teslim Balogun Stadium Sports Bar.

In the lead-up to the draw, the LSFA will conduct thorough inspections of designated venues across the state's five



Logo of the Lagos State Football Association (LSFA)

divisional football associations. These inspections, along with player screenings, will commence in the Ikorodu Divisional Football Association. Wale Joseph, Chief Executive Officer of the Lagos State League, emphasized the importance of the upcoming events. "The draw ceremony on March 12th is a key milestone as we prepare for a successful league season," Joseph stated.

"We are committed to organizing a league

that all stakeholders can be proud of."

Joseph urged the five divisional associations to fully cooperate during the player screening and venue inspection processes. "We will be strictly enforcing compliance," he warned, highlighting the LSFA's dedication to maintaining high standards.

With the league's kickoff scheduled for March 19, 2025, the countdown is on, and excitement is building as the LSFA prepares to deliver an engaging and competitive season.

## IKEJA

# Odumbaku Discusses Skill Development With Photographers, Videographers

Kehinde Adeleye

In a meeting held last week at the Ojodu LCDA secretariat, Chairman Hon. Olusegun Odunmbaku hosted members of the Association of Professional Photographers and Videographers (Ojodu LCDA Chapter), led by Chairperson Mrs. Lola Adenubi.

The purpose of the visit was to introduce the association to the council and explore potential partnerships to support artisans in the creative industry. The association proposed joint initiatives to train and equip unemployed and unskilled

individuals in photography and videography while seeking avenues to empower its members. In recognition of Hon. Odunmbaku's leadership and development efforts, the group presented him with a framed portrait and unanimously endorsed his continued tenure.

As a former professional photographer, Hon. Odunmbaku emphasized the importance of skill acquisition in addressing unemployment. He vowed to integrate the association into the council's

empowerment programs, offering training, equipment distribution, financial support, and



empowerment programs, offering training, equipment distribution, financial support, and

palliatives for artisans and youth. The collaboration between Ojodu LCDA and the

Association of Professional Photographers and Videographers holds promise for nurturing

talent, promoting skill development, and fostering opportunities in the creative sector.



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