

**Got A Story?**  
Call  
08032178602

**To Place Adverts,**  
Call  
08025378799

Ejigbadero Receives Super Lightweight Boxing Champion Fajimi Taiwo



Pg.20

Why We Provide Free Bus Ride For The Elderly- Oyekan



Pg.25

# Echoneews

www.echoneews.ng

A publication of Echoneews Newspapers Limited **Monday 11th May - Sunday 17th May 2026**

## EndSARS:

# LAGOS TO REPLACE BURNT BUSES WITH 2000 FLEET

Pg. 2&4

...including 50 electric buses



**Oshodi-Isolo II:** Bamigbetan Secures Ejigbo Igbo Leaders' Support

Pg.12

**Rising Global Oil Prices Trigger Fresh Fears Over Petrol Cost in Nigeria**

Pg.14



Lagos Cybersecurity Council Chair, Osakwe, Wins Global Award

Pg.7

What Ikeja Residents Should Know About Lagos' New Parking Scheme

Pg.26

Lagos Unveils "Blue Book" to Reset Land Valuation

Pg.17

**Olasoju Adebayo Courts Non -Yoruba Communities**

Pg.27



# EndSARS: Lagos To Replace Burnt Buses With 2000 Fleet ...including 50 electric buses

By Kunle Awosiyan

Lagos State government will be replacing buses burnt during ENDSARS protest with 2000 fleet in the coming years.

An officer of the state Bus Service Limited, LBSL, told Echonews, adding that 100 new 29-seater bus out of the 300 already procured had arrived and that more will be coming between August and November this year.

This forms part of the government's plans to relieve BRT commuters of the pains they are currently passing through due to shortage of buses.

The #EndSARS protest of October 8, 2020 escalated into widespread violence in parts of Lagos, left significant damage across the state, with public and private assets destroyed.

Among the affected infrastructure were BRT buses, police stations, bus terminals, the Lagos DNA and Forensic Centre, and sections of the Lagos High Court.

Although the Lagos State Government pledged to replace the burnt buses and rehabilitate damaged terminals, many commuters say the transport system continues to suffer from vehicle shortages, long waiting hours, and deteriorating service standards.

The LBSL officer attributed the overcrowding at BRT terminals to shortage of operating buses and a high volume of daily commuters, which had led to excessive waiting times.

He also attributed the situation at some terminal to rising cost of diesel prices to about N2000/litre, which forced the withdrawal of some buses, hindering optimal service.

However, he said that 100 new 29-seater buses have arrived as part of a 300-bus initiative to ease pressure, with further deliveries scheduled for August and November 2026.

Another statement obtained by Echonews from the Ministry of Transportation, revealed that the government is planning to add over 2000 buses, including 50 electric ones in the coming years to

reduce the waiting time of commuters at various terminals.

Recall that the overall 2025 Lagos State budget was 3.37 trillion (officially 3,366,815,224,144), with capital expenditure heavily tilted toward transport infrastructure and mobility projects.

Transport sector received roughly 247-250 billion for multimodal transportation projects (rail, bus reform, terminals, BRT corridor upgrades, intelligent transport systems, depots).

A significant share went to Bus terminal expansion, fleet modernization, BRT lane rehabilitation.

The statement noted that there was fare stabilization/subsidy support before the later 2026 fare review for commuters.

The 2026 Lagos budget is approximately 4.27 trillion, representing a major jump from 2025 with rail getting the biggest slice of about 102.3 billion earmarked for the Green Line rail corridor (federal counterpart/infrastructure support linked to Lagos transit expansion).

The government also has plan for BRT/Bus system expansion with acquisition



Oluwaseun Osiyemi

of over 2,000 buses in the coming years.

The government's idea is to ensure its cleaner-energy/electric buses scheme Corridor modernization, the statement noted.

Lagos mobility spending stands between 40b and 70bn equivalent to be directed to bus/BRT operations, fleet procurement, and corridor upgrades within the broader transport envelope.

A visit by Echonews to major Lagos Bus Service Limited (LBSL) terminals at Berger, Tafawa Balewa Square (TBS), Oyingbo, and Obalende revealed persistent operational challenges, with passengers enduring long queues and delays.

At Berger bus stop, commuters reported waiting for up to an hour before boarding, especially during peak morning hours. The makeshift waiting shed accommodates only a few

people, leaving hundreds standing while awaiting buses.

The situation at TBS appears more severe during evening rush hours, with commuters often stranded for extended periods due to bus shortages.

Similar complaints were recorded at Oyingbo and Obalende terminals, where passengers described overcrowded buses and prolonged waiting times as routine.





# A new Lagos is in the works

The future is loading!

Pay your part. **Pay your tax!**



### Lagos State Internal Revenue Service

Lagos Revenue House, Assbifi Road, Central Business District, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos State

Tel: 0700-CALL-LIRS (0700 2255 5477)

Lagos State Internal Revenue Service (LIRS) | www.lirs.gov.ng | @lirsgovng | @lirs\_govng | info@lirs.net





# EndSARS: Lagos To Replace Burnt Buses With 2000 Fleet ...including 50 electric buses

Continued From Page 2

Many commuters also lamented the poor condition of available buses, citing malfunctioning air-conditioning systems, damaged charging ports, and excessive overcrowding.

Standard high-capacity BRT buses are typically designed to carry about 76 passengers, including both seated and standing commuters. However, several passengers alleged that some buses now carry significantly more than their intended capacity.

Some conductors, according to commuters, encourage standing beyond safe limits.

When asked about the overcrowding, one conductor declined comment, referring inquiries to the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA).

Passengers say the decline in service quality contrasts sharply with repeated fare increases.



The Lagos State Government approved a 13 per cent fare increase for Bus Rapid Transit and regulated bus routes effective March 2, 2026.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu had justified the increase as necessary to offset rising operational costs, including fuel prices, maintenance expenses, and salary adjustments driven by inflation.

However, many commuters argue that service delivery has not improved to match the

higher fares.

A commuter at TBS who identified herself simply as Taiwo described the experience as frustrating.

"The conductors usually tell us there are no buses available and urge us to board standing if we do not want to remain stranded. These buses used to be comfortable, with functioning air-conditioning, but that is no longer the case," she said.

Another Lagos resident, Mr. Shuaib Babatunde Adebayo, blamed poor

maintenance culture for the decline.

"It is disappointing to see public assets deteriorate this way. Many of these buses are either grounded or in visibly poor condition. It reflects badly on our maintenance systems," he said.

Transport analysts note that while the 2020 destruction dealt a significant blow to the BRT system, broader challenges such as inflation, rising diesel costs, fleet ageing, and maintenance inefficiencies have also

compounded service disruptions.

Meanwhile, LAMATA says efforts are underway to improve Lagos' transport network.

The agency recently convened a high-level stakeholders' workshop to update its Strategic Transport and Mobility Master Plan, outlining transportation priorities for Lagos through 2050.

The workshop, funded by the French Development Agency, brought together transport officials, economic planners, and representatives from relevant agencies.

Lagos State Commissioner for Transportation, Mr. Oluwaseun Osiyemi, said the state is shifting away from road expansion as the sole solution to congestion.

According to him, Lagos will focus on strengthening mass transit through expanded rail networks, improved BRT operations, and enhanced ferry transportation as part of an integrated mobility system.

LAMATA Managing Director, Engr. Mrs. Abimbola Akinajo, noted that with Lagos' population projected to hit 45 million by 2050, urgent transport reforms are essential.

She disclosed that extensive multimodal surveys have been completed and a new travel demand model developed to guide future planning.

For many commuters, however, long-term plans offer little comfort as they continue to grapple daily with delays, overcrowding, and declining service quality.





# LASPA GM Speaks on Commencement of On-Street Parking In Ikeja

In line with ongoing efforts to strengthen stakeholder collaboration towards improved parking management, the General Manager, Lagos State Parking Authority (LASPA), Mrs. Adebisi Adelabu, has paid a courtesy visit to the Chairman of Ikeja Local Government Area (L.G.A), Comrade Akeem Olalekan Dauda. Speaking during the meeting, Mrs Adelabu explained that the visit was aimed at sensitising the leadership of the Local Government about the activities of LASPA in ensuring proper parking in the State, informing them of the ongoing expansion plans, and introducing the On-Street Parking Scheme,

under which motorists would have to pay for parking. She further informed stakeholders that the On-Street Parking Scheme would commence within the year 2026 as a pilot scheme in designated Local Government Areas of the State including Ikeja L.G.A. Briefing the Chairman and the management team of the L.G.A further, the General Manager explained the effects of LASPA in ensuring proper parking in the State, noting that the responsibility for parking management was originally under the purview of the Local Government Areas in Lagos, but was ceded to LASPA by the Conference of the Local

Government Areas and Local Council Development Areas in Lagos State. She highlighted some of the benefits of the On-Street Parking scheme, including improved parking management, enhanced traffic flow, and job creation, particularly for residents within the selected areas. Mrs. Adelabu averred that Local Government Areas and Local Council Development Areas stand to benefit significantly from LASPA's initiatives in parking management, depending on their level of support and collaboration in implementing the On-Street Parking Scheme and other strategies of the Authority.

She reaffirmed the Authority's commitment to collaboration, stating that LASPA remains open to suggestions and inputs from local government authorities and other stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of the initiative and the continued development of the state. In his response, the Chairman, Ikeja L.G.A expressed appreciation for the visit and commended LASPA for its efforts in improving parking management across Lagos. He expressed the support of the Local Government Area for effective parking management and suggested the need for more sensitisation to educate residents on proper parking.

## LASRRA Seeks Stronger Collaboration With ASLIN



The General Manager of the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA), Mrs. Bilikiss Adebisi-Abiola, has reaffirmed the Agency's commitment to inclusive service delivery through enhanced collaboration with the Association of Sign Language Interpreters in Nigeria (ASLIN), Lagos State Chapter. She made this known while receiving a delegation from ASLIN, led by its Chairman, Mr. Olubowale Shodeinde, during a recent courtesy visit to the Agency. Represented by the Director, Information Management and Data Protection (IM&DP), Engr. (Mrs.) Christiana Farotimi, the General Manager expressed appreciation for the visit and commended the Association for its dedication to bridging communication gaps for the Deaf community. She noted that LASRRA remains committed to ensuring that all residents, including persons with hearing impairments, have

seamless access to registration and verification services across the State. The General Manager emphasised that collaboration with ASLIN would further strengthen the Agency's efforts in delivering inclusive and efficient services. Mrs. Adebisi-Abiola reiterated the Agency's readiness to work closely with ASLIN in deploying professional sign language interpreters to support Deaf residents, particularly during biodata capture and other registration processes. Earlier in his remarks, the Chairman of ASLIN, Mr. Olubowale Shodeinde, highlighted the importance of the partnership in addressing communication barriers and improving accessibility to LASRRA services for Deaf residents. He also commended the Agency for its outstanding performance in registering residents and maintaining a reliable database that supports the socio-economic development of Lagos State.





# LSACA Urges Workers To prioritise HIV Testing

... As Over 600 Benefit from Free Services at 2026 May Day Rally

The Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA) has called on workers across Lagos State to prioritise their health by embracing regular HIV testing and rejecting stigma, emphasising that good health is essential for productivity and economic stability. Delivering a goodwill message at the 2026 Workers' Day celebration held at Onikan Stadium, the Chief Executive Officer of LSACA, Dr. Folake mi Animashaun, congratulated workers for their resilience and invaluable

contributions to the growth of the state, describing them as "the engine of Lagos."

She noted that the 2026 Workers' Day theme, "Insecurity, Poverty - Bane of Decent Work," underscores the urgent need to address critical public health challenges such as HIV, which remain closely linked to broader socio-economic issues.

Dr. Animashaun stressed the collective responsibility of all citizens in safeguarding public health, urging workers to support health education initiatives, adopt

preventive practices, and access available care. She also called on employers to prioritise the health and welfare of their workforce by fostering inclusive and supportive work environments. During an inspection of LSACA's free HIV testing and counselling stand at the event, the CEO disclosed that over 600 workers benefited from the exercise. She explained that the initiative aligns with the Lagos State Government's commitment to promoting the health and well-being of its

workforce and advancing efforts toward achieving an HIV-free generation.

She warned that stigma, fear, and silence remain major barriers to tackling HIV, preventing many individuals from accessing testing and treatment. According to her, eliminating discrimination in workplaces and communities would encourage more people to know their status and seek care, ultimately strengthening the workforce and reducing poverty. "You cannot have decent work without good

health. When a worker is not healthy, productivity drops, income is affected, and poverty increases," she stated.

Dr. Animashaun reaffirmed LSACA's commitment to the THEMES Plus Development Agenda of the Lagos State Government, adding that the Agency is expanding access to HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services across communities and workplaces. She encouraged workers to take advantage of free, safe, and confidential HIV

testing services, noting that the process takes only a few minutes but can be life-saving.

She further encouraged residents who require support or information to access services at government health facilities or reach out through the Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA) toll-free lines: 080000060600 and 0900000LSACA. Residents can also connect with LSACA via its social media platforms on Instagram and X (@lsaca\_ng), as well as on Facebook at Lagos State AIDS Control Agency.





# Lagos Cybersecurity Council Chair, Osakwe, Wins Global Award

**D**r. Fene Osakwe, one of Africa's most influential cybersecurity leaders and Chairman of the Lagos State Cybersecurity Advisory Council, has won the Cyber Security Leader of the Year 2026 at the Global Cyber Awards.

The awards drew nominees from over 50 countries, reflecting the competition's global scale and prestige. Within the Cyber Security Leader of the Year category, there were nominees from India, the UAE, Greece, the United Kingdom, the United States, China, and Malaysia, making Dr. Osakwe's victory especially historic as he becomes the first Nigerian to win this distinguished honour.

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu hails Osakwe's victory as a "solid demonstration of the state's efforts to give the cybersecurity battle the attention it deserves".

Said the Governor: "Our plan is for Lagos to be the global financial hub and this requires a strong cybersecurity infrastructure - a dream which the Council shares and pursues vigorously".

The Cyber Security Leader of the Year award recognises individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, delivered measurable impact, contributed to the growth of the cybersecurity industry, and

invested significantly in developing others through mentorship and professional support. It celebrates leaders who not only drive innovation and strategy but also help shape the future of the cybersecurity profession through thought leadership, influence, and service.

Dr. Osakwe began his career at Deloitte in Lagos, Nigeria, where he built a strong foundation in cybersecurity, risk management, and advisory services. Over the years, he has grown into a globally recognised figure, leading cybersecurity for a multinational organisation listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and advising boards and executive teams across multiple continents. Today, he is a Professor of Practice in Cybersecurity, a highly sought-after international speaker, and a respected voice on digital trust, cyber governance, and national cyber resilience.

As Chairman of the Lagos State Cybersecurity Advisory Council, Dr. Osakwe has played a pivotal role in strengthening cybersecurity governance for Africa's largest digital and technology hub. Under his leadership, Lagos State recently published its Cybersecurity Guidelines for Businesses, a landmark framework designed to help

organisations improve cyber hygiene, enhance incident readiness, and align with global best practices.

Dr. Osakwe is deeply committed to mentorship and capacity building. He mentors Master's students in cybersecurity at the University of Aberdeen and the University of Westminster, helping shape the next generation of cyber professionals. He is also a respected thought leader, with

several publications featured on Forbes, where he shares insights on cyber strategy, leadership, and digital transformation.

The Cyber Security Awards were established in 2014 to reward the best individuals, teams, and companies within the cybersecurity industry. Excellence and innovation are core themes across all categories. As a completely independent event with no affiliation to

any magazines, organisations, or products, all judging decisions are made solely on merit, ensuring that winners truly represent the highest standards of achievement in the cybersecurity profession.

Dr. Osakwe's recognition as the Cyber Security Leader of the Year 2026 is an important moment for Lagos State, Nigeria, and the broader African cybersecurity community. For Lagos, it reinforces

the state's growing reputation as Africa's leading digital and technology hub and highlights the impact of its ongoing efforts to strengthen cyber governance and resilience.

For Nigeria and the continent, the honour reflects the increasing global visibility of African Technology professionals and signals Africa's expanding role in shaping conversations around Technology Governance, strategy, policy, and innovation on the world stage.



Fene Osakwe

# Lagos Seals Facilities For Noncompliance with Safety Regulations

The Lagos State Government has sealed several buildings, shopping malls and hotels for failing to comply with mandatory lift and elevator safety regulations. The enforcement operations, carried out by the Lagos State Safety Commission on Thursday, affected more than 12 facilities across key locations, including Admiralty Way in Lekki Phase I and parts of Ikeja. Officials said the action followed repeated failure by affected property owners and managers to register their lift systems with the state government for inspection, maintenance and safety monitoring. Leading the

enforcement team, the Commission's Chief Scientific Officer, Sovi Tijani, who represented the Director-General, Lanre Mojola, said the clampdown became necessary after persistent disregard for regulatory directives. He explained that registration of lifts and elevators is crucial to ensuring routine inspection and safeguarding users in both public and private buildings. According to him, the affected facilities had been served several notices and reminders but failed to comply within the stipulated timeframe. "We duly served

them notices, informing them of the need to comply before the expiration of the deadline, but they failed to do so," Tijani said. "Some refused to acknowledge or collect the letters from our officials, while others attempted to obstruct our personnel during enforcement." He stressed that the Commission would sustain its enforcement drive to protect lives and property, warning that poorly maintained elevators pose significant safety risks. Among the facilities sealed are The Heritage/AXA on Awolowo Road, Ikeja; Mosesola House, Debour House, Bosch

House on Soji Adegbege Close; Bridge View, Elizabeth Court, 10Bou Towers, Brion Court, Footprints Apartments, Lekki Luxury Flats as well as Brasas Mall on Admiralty Way, Lekki. The Commission urged building owners, facility managers and operators to comply with safety regulations by registering their lift systems and ensuring regular maintenance in line with government standards. It reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining a safe environment, warning that defaulters would continue to face sanctions until full compliance is achieved.

## J. Randle Centre For Yoruba Culture, History Wins Awards In Orlando



The Lagos State Government's flagship cultural project, the J. Randle Centre for Yoruba Culture and History, has won an Outstanding Historic Centre Achievement at the prestigious 32nd Annual Thea Awards, held at the JW Marriott Hotel, Orlando, Florida, United States. The Thea Awards, presented by the Themed Entertainment Association (TEA), are globally recognised as the highest honour in the themed entertainment and visitor attractions industry. The awards celebrate excellence in creating compelling places and experiences worldwide. The win places Lagos State on the global stage for cultural innovation, heritage preservation, and experiential storytelling. Located in Onikan, Lagos, the Centre is a state-of-the-art facility designed to showcase Yoruba history, arts, language, and traditions through immersive exhibits, live performances, and digital archives. The Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, led the State delegation to the Thea Awards Gala and TEA INSPIRE 2026

conference. She was joined by Project Contractor and Design Architect for the Centre, Mr. Seun Oduwole. Speaking on the award, Mrs. Benson-Awoyinka stated, "This win validates Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's vision to position Lagos as a global destination for culture and tourism. The J. Randle Centre is not just a museum, it is a living, breathing celebration of Yoruba identity, built to international standards. To be recognised among the world's best themed experiences is a proud moment for Lagos and for Nigeria", she said. The Thea Awards Gala brought together creators from Walt Disney Imagineering, Universal Creative, Wētā Workshop, and other global leaders in themed entertainment. The award underscores the Centre's world-class design, curatorial depth, and its potential to drive cultural tourism in Lagos. With the recognition, Lagos joins industry-leading destinations like Walt Disney Universe, Orlando, Wētā, New Zealand, Mandalay Bay / Bob Marley Group, Las Vegas, Kochikane Museum, Japan, The Story of Emily, UK, and the Yoruba heritage on the world stage.





ADVERTISE IN

# Echonews

## DIGITAL NEWSPAPER



### ADVERT RATES

COLOUR PAGE		BLACK & WHITE	
FULL PAGE	N250,000	FULL PAGE	N200,000
HALF PAGE	N145,000	HALF PAGE	N115,000
QUARTER PAGE	N70,000	QUARTER PAGE	N55,000

Subscribe | Advertise | Partner

[www.echonews.ng](http://www.echonews.ng) | [www.facebook.com/EchonewsNG](https://www.facebook.com/EchonewsNG)

Got A Story? Call / Whatsapp 0803 217 8602 To Place Adverts, Call 0810 568 4363



# Lagos Begins Second Edition of Eko Schools Arts Competition

The Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture has officially launched the second edition of the Eko Schools Arts and Crafts Competition 2026, themed: "THIS IS LAGOS!", reaffirming its commitment to youth empowerment and the growth of the creative economy.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Bopo Oyekan-Ismaila, speaking at a press conference recently, noted that the competition serves as a strategic platform to discover, nurture, and showcase the immense creative potential of young people in Lagos. She emphasised that the initiative aligns with Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda, particularly the Entertainment and Tourism pillar.

Reflecting on the maiden edition, she revealed that the competition received 153 entries from students across secondary and tertiary institutions in Lagos State. Nine outstanding winners emerged across three categories, earning scholarships and gaining visibility that continues to amplify their talents.

"That success affirmed one truth: Lagos is brimming with creative brilliance. Our young people are ready to lead the creative economy when given the right opportunities," she stated.

Announcing the commencement of the 2026 edition of the competition, the Permanent Secretary disclosed that the Ministry is scaling up the competition with Structured mentorship from industry

professionals, Broader industry engagement, internship opportunities and exposure and increased visibility for participants across digital and physical platforms.

She further noted that the competition bridges the gap between classroom learning and real-world creative enterprise, equipping young participants with relevant skills for today's global economy while preserving and promoting Lagos' rich cultural heritage.

Mrs. Oyekan-Ismaila called on school administrators, teachers, parents, and guardians to encourage active participation, stressing that they are nurturing the next generation of artists, innovators, and cultural ambassadors. She also commended media partners for their continued support in



amplifying the initiative. Addressing prospective participants, she declared: "This is your platform. This is your moment. Let your creativity speak. Let your art tell the story of Lagos and open doors to limitless possibilities."

She announced that the registration portal for the competition is now open at [www.ekoschoolsartsandcrafts.com](http://www.ekoschoolsartsandcrafts.com) and will run from Monday, May 4 to Monday, May 25, 2026. Reaffirming the State Government's

commitment to the creative sector, the Permanent Secretary stated:

"When creativity thrives, innovation flourishes. When innovation flourishes, economies grow. And when economies grow, the

people are healthier and happier."

She expressed optimism that this year's edition will be bigger, more inclusive, and more impactful, producing creative talents who will proudly represent Lagos on the global stage.

## Finance Permanent Secretary Honoured By Service Companion

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Tajudeen Alao Mahmud, has been honoured with an Award of Excellence by Service Companion in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the advancement of the Public Service.

The award presentation, which took place on Monday in Ikeja, serves as a symbol of gratitude and appreciation for distinguished individuals whose commitment, professionalism, and leadership continue to strengthen the Public Service.

Speaking on the significance of the recognition, Mr. Rasulu Taiwo, the Chairman of the Association, described the Public Service as a noble institution built on the dedication of exceptional individuals. He noted that the strength of the Service lies in the rare gems that knowledgeable and selfless leaders, who consistently impact younger officers, and drive sustainable growth and development. According to him, Mr. Mahmud's recognition highlights his unwavering

dedication to service excellence and capacity building, and his continued support for the development of future leaders within

the Public Service. The Ministry of Finance congratulates the Permanent Secretary on this well-deserved

honour and reaffirms its commitment to holding excellence, integrity, and impactful service delivery in Lagos State.







# Lagos Tourism Supports Coker-Aguda Beauty Pageant

## ... Says Grassroots Initiatives Critical To Tourism Growth

The Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting grassroots-driven tourism and youth empowerment through its support for community-based cultural initiatives.

This was demonstrated at the maiden edition of the Coker-Aguda Beauty Pageant 2026, held on Friday, 1st May

2026 in Coker-Aguda, where the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Bopo Oyekan-Ismaila, was represented by the Director, Research and Development Department, Mr. Frank Temitope Legunsen.

The event, organised by the Coker-Aguda Local Council Development Area, served as a platform to celebrate culture, creativity, and

youth potential, bringing together contestants who showcased intelligence, confidence, and cultural awareness. Speaking at the event, the Permanent Secretary noted that community-based initiatives such as the pageant play a critical role in advancing tourism development at the grassroots level. She emphasised that these platforms

not only promote cultural identity but also stimulate local economies and encourage youth participation in creative enterprise. "Grassroots initiatives like this are essential to building a sustainable tourism ecosystem. They provide opportunities for young people to express themselves, while also projecting the cultural richness of our communities",

she stated.

She further highlighted that the initiative aligns with the Lagos State Government's broader vision of positioning tourism as a key driver of socio-economic growth, in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda.

Mrs. Oyekan-Ismaila commended the organisers for their foresight and commitment to youth development,

urging that such programmes be sustained and expanded to reach more communities across the State.

She also encouraged the contestants to see their participation as a stepping stone to greater opportunities, noting that platforms like the pageant can serve as catalysts for personal growth and community impact.



# Oshodi-Isolo II: Bamigbetan Secures Ejigbo Igbo Leaders' Support



As part of his ongoing consultation tour ahead of the House of Representatives primaries, former Chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan (KOK), paid a courtesy visit to Eze Alex Nwoye and leaders of the Igbo

community in Ejigbo, where he received a warm reception and strong expressions of support. The visit, which underscored the long-standing relationship between Bamigbetan and the Igbo community, reflected the goodwill he cultivated during his tenure as

Chairman of Ejigbo LCDA. Speaking during the meeting, prominent community leader, Chief Uju, commended Bamigbetan for his unwavering support for the Igbo people over the years, describing him as a dependable ally and the community's preferred

candidate for the House of Representatives.

She offered prayers for the success of his aspiration, declaring that it is "KOK's turn" to represent Oshodi-Isolo Federal Constituency II at the National Assembly.

Also speaking, Chief John, the Assistant Public Relations Officer of the Igbo community in Lagos State, praised Bamigbetan's track record of impactful leadership during his time as LCDA Chairman.

He noted that the community had not forgotten his contributions to the development of Ejigbo and pledged their full support for his ambition during the party primaries.

In his remarks, Hon. Bamigbetan expressed appreciation to Eze Alex Nwoye, his wife, and members of the Igbo community for the warm reception and solidarity.

He reaffirmed his commitment to inclusive leadership, equity, and governance devoid of ethnic bias, stressing that his political philosophy has

always been rooted in justice and fairness for all residents, irrespective of tribe or background.

Bamigbetan recalled his previous interventions on behalf of the community, including his support for residents in Iamoshe, as evidence of his long-standing dedication to national unity and grassroots development.

He also emphasized the historic significance of his aspiration, noting that his emergence would mark the first time Ejigbo LCDA would produce a representative for Oshodi-Isolo Federal Constituency II in the House of Representatives.

At the end of the meeting, the Igbo community in Ejigbo, under the leadership of Eze Alex Nwoye, declared what they described as "100 per cent support" for Bamigbetan's aspiration.

The endorsement is seen as a major boost to his consultation efforts as political activities gather momentum ahead of the

## Bamigbetan Visits Ojon of Ejigbo for Royal Blessings

As part of his ongoing consultation tour ahead of the House of Representatives primaries, former Chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan (KOK), paid a courtesy visit to Eze Alex Nwoye and leaders of the Igbo community in Ejigbo, where he received a warm reception and strong expressions of support.

The visit, which underscored the long-standing relationship between Bamigbetan and the Igbo community, reflected the goodwill he cultivated during his

tenure as Chairman of Ejigbo LCDA.

Speaking during the meeting, prominent community leader, Chief Uju, commended Bamigbetan for his unwavering support for the Igbo people over the years, describing him as a dependable ally and the community's preferred candidate for the House of Representatives.

She offered prayers for the success of his aspiration, declaring that it is "KOK's turn" to represent Oshodi-Isolo Federal Constituency II at the National Assembly.

Also speaking, Chief John, the Assistant Public Relations

Officer of the Igbo community in Lagos State, praised Bamigbetan's track record of impactful leadership during his time as LCDA Chairman.

He noted that the community had not forgotten his contributions to the development of Ejigbo and pledged their full support for his ambition during the party primaries.

In his remarks, Hon. Bamigbetan expressed appreciation to Eze Alex Nwoye, his wife, and members of the Igbo community for the warm reception and solidarity.

He reaffirmed his commitment to

inclusive leadership, equity, and governance devoid of ethnic bias, stressing that his political philosophy has always been rooted in justice and fairness for all residents, irrespective of tribe or background.

Bamigbetan recalled his previous interventions on behalf of the community, including his support for residents in Iamoshe, as evidence of his long-standing dedication to national unity and grassroots development.

He also emphasized the historic significance of his

aspiration, noting that his emergence would mark the first time Ejigbo LCDA would produce a representative for Oshodi-Isolo Federal Constituency II in the House of Representatives.

At the end of the meeting, the Igbo community in Ejigbo, under the leadership of Eze Alex Nwoye, declared what they described as "100 per cent support" for Bamigbetan's aspiration.

The endorsement is seen as a major boost to his consultation efforts as political activities gather momentum ahead of the



# NSITF Partners Lagos to Expand Workers' Compensation Protection

AtumeTerfa

The Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the Lagos State Government in strengthening the implementation of the Employees' Compensation Scheme (ECS), a programme designed to protect workers against workplace injuries, disabilities, occupational diseases, and death. The renewed

partnership was highlighted during a strategic engagement between officials of the NSITF and the Lagos State Government, where both parties stressed the need to deepen awareness and compliance with the compensation scheme across public and private sector organisations. Speaking at the meeting, Managing Director of the NSITF, Oluwaseun

Faleyeh, described the Employees' Compensation Scheme as a critical social protection initiative that guarantees financial and medical support for employees who suffer work-related accidents or health challenges while carrying out their duties. He noted that many employers and workers still lack adequate knowledge of the scheme despite its importance in promoting

workplace safety, employee welfare, and economic stability. According to Faleyeh, stronger collaboration with Lagos — Nigeria's commercial hub and one of the country's largest employment centres — would significantly improve the reach and effectiveness of the programme. The Employees' Compensation Scheme, established under the Employees' Compensation Act 2010, provides compensation for

injured workers or dependants of employees who lose their lives in workplace-related incidents. The scheme also covers rehabilitation, medical treatment, and compensation for occupational hazards. Officials at the engagement emphasised that the expanding implementation in Lagos would help protect thousands of workers across sectors including manufacturing, transportation, construction,

healthcare, and the informal economy. Representatives of the Lagos State Government reiterated their readiness to work closely with the NSITF to strengthen compliance among employers and ensure workers understand their rights and protections under the law. The state also stressed the importance of safer work environments, improved occupational health standards, and prompt compensation for affected employees as part of broader labour and social protection reforms. Industry stakeholders at the meeting called for more public sensitisation campaigns, digital compliance systems, and stronger enforcement mechanisms to encourage wider participation in the scheme. They maintained that effective implementation of the Employees' Compensation Scheme would not only improve workers' welfare but also boost productivity and confidence within Nigeria's labour sector.





# Rising Global Oil Prices Trigger Fresh Fears Over Petrol Cost in Nigeria

[AtumeTerfa](#)



global volatility over time by reducing dependence on imported refined petroleum products.

However, economists warn that any sustained increase in PMS prices could worsen inflationary pressures, raise transportation costs, and increase the prices of goods and services across the country.

Consumer groups have also expressed concern over the potential effect on households and small businesses already grappling with high living costs and unstable electricity supply. Oil marketers and industry observers are now closely watching international crude price movements, exchange rate stability, and domestic supply conditions to determine whether another fuel price adjustment may be unavoidable in Nigeria's downstream market.

**P**etrol prices across Nigeria may come under renewed pressure as surging global crude oil prices continue to raise concerns over the cost of importing and distributing Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) in the country.

The sharp rise in international oil prices, driven by geopolitical tensions, production cuts by major oil-producing nations, and growing

global energy demand, has begun to impact fuel market dynamics in Nigeria, where petrol pricing remains heavily influenced by foreign exchange rates and global crude benchmarks.

Industry analysts warn that despite increased local refining efforts, fluctuations in the international crude market could force marketers to adjust pump

prices upward in the coming weeks if the trend persists.

Brent crude, the international benchmark closely monitored by Nigeria's oil sector, recently climbed significantly amid supply concerns linked to ongoing tensions in the Middle East and output decisions by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies.

Energy experts say the situation is particularly sensitive for Nigeria

because petrol importation costs are tied directly to crude oil prices, shipping expenses, and the naira's exchange rate against the dollar.

Market operators have also pointed to rising landing costs of imported petrol, stressing that independent marketers may struggle to maintain current retail prices if international market pressures continue.

The development

comes months after the deregulation of Nigeria's downstream petroleum sector reshaped fuel pricing nationwide, leading to periodic adjustments in pump prices based on market realities.

Meanwhile, stakeholders in the oil and gas industry believe the operational expansion of the Dangote Refinery could help cushion the impact of



# Nigeria's GDP Climbs 11.2% in Dollar Value as Reforms Reshape Economy

AtumeTerfa

**N**igeria's economy posted an estimated 11.2 per cent growth in dollar terms last year, highlighting a surprising level of resilience as the country navigated one of its most challenging periods of economic transition in recent years.

The growth comes amid sweeping reforms introduced by the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, including the removal of fuel subsidies, foreign exchange liberalisation, and broader fiscal restructuring aimed at repositioning Africa's largest economy.

Despite persistent inflation, rising living costs, and pressure on household incomes, analysts say improved oil output, increased activity in key non-oil sectors, and gradual stabilisation in the



foreign exchange market helped drive economic expansion in dollar-denominated Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Economic experts noted that the increase reflects more than just nominal growth, pointing to stronger foreign exchange inflows, renewed investor confidence in select industries, and improved external sector performance after years of currency distortions and market uncertainty. Figures from the

National Bureau of Statistics showed that sectors such as telecommunications, agriculture, trade, and financial services continued to serve as major pillars of economic activity, reinforcing the growing importance of the non-oil economy. Nigeria's oil sector also recorded modest recovery as crude production levels improved following intensified efforts to curb pipeline vandalism and crude theft in major producing regions. Observers say recent reforms

have begun to change international perception of Nigeria's economy, particularly among investors monitoring policy consistency and long-term market stability. The naira's volatility during the period initially weakened the country's GDP valuation in dollar terms, but subsequent adjustments in the exchange rate market and improved liquidity reportedly helped strengthen

broader macroeconomic indicators. Global financial institutions including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have acknowledged Nigeria's reform efforts, while also cautioning that stronger social intervention programmes are necessary to protect vulnerable citizens from the harsh effects of economic adjustment. Financial analysts believe sustaining the momentum will

require stable exchange rates, improved electricity supply, infrastructure development, and stronger support for domestic industries and exports. Stakeholders also argue that expanding industrial productivity, encouraging local manufacturing, and reducing dependence on crude oil revenue will be crucial to securing long-term economic stability and inclusive growth for Nigeria's rapidly growing population.



# Mosadioluwa Attributes Real Estate Stability To Improved Security

BY Emmanuel Daniji

The Chief Executive Officer of Harmony Gardens and Estates Development Limited, Saheed Mosadioluwa (ÌBÍL), has said that the renewed confidence in Lagos State's real estate sector is largely driven by improved security, architecture, government reforms, and sustained collaboration between developers and host communities. He made the remarks during a birthday prayer visit held at Lekki Aviation Town in Ibeju-Lekki, where he reflected on the evolution of property development along the Ibeju-Lekki-Epe axis over the past five to seven years. According to him, the real estate environment in Lagos was once marked by fear and uncertainty, with investors often worried about losing legitimately acquired properties to land grabbers. "There was a time when people believed they needed to use force whether guns or other means just to protect what they had invested in. It discouraged many from investing in Nigeria," he said.

Mosadioluwa noted that his company and other stakeholders had to confront what he described as a deeply rooted challenge of land grabbing and illegal occupation in parts of the state.

"We sacrificed a lot—our integrity, our reputation, even our safety. At some point, it nearly cost lives," he added.

He explained that areas such as Ibeju-Lekki, Epe and corridors extending toward Ibeju-Ode have now witnessed significant improvements, with cases of land grabbing and activities of illegal operators drastically reduced.

"We fought land grabbing at every level: those in uniform, those in civilian clothing, and organised groups behind them. Today, the environment has changed

significantly," he said.

The real estate developer also commended reforms within the security system, noting that improved oversight has reduced incidents of impersonation and abuse of authority in land-related disputes.

"The system is getting cleaner. You hardly hear of land grabbers operating in police uniform anymore," he stated.

He further praised the Lagos State Government for the enforcement of the Lagos State Property Protection Law, describing it as a major turning point in restoring investor confidence and order in the property market.

Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, according to him, has played a key role in strengthening the legal framework that now supports safer and more transparent real estate

transactions.

"Lagos State has done a lot of work. The legal framework has helped restore balance. Investors can now begin to enjoy their investments," he said.

Despite the progress, Mosadioluwa stressed that sustainable development still depends heavily on strong relationships with host communities, often referred to as Omo-Oní.

He explained that respect, dialogue and inclusion remain key to preventing disputes and ensuring long-term peace in development areas.

"Even after land is sold, the community still sees itself as part of the system. We respect them and ensure peaceful coexistence," he noted.

On broader economic challenges, he acknowledged

that inflation, high interest rates and rising construction costs continue to affect housing delivery across Nigeria.

He said developers are now adopting flexible payment structures and innovative financing models to help ease the burden on homebuyers, while public and private sector initiatives continue to address housing deficits.

However, he identified the rising cost of building materials, particularly cement, as a major concern affecting affordability in the sector.

"The price of cement and other materials has increased significantly, and that directly affects housing affordability," he said.

Mosadioluwa also cautioned against unethical practices in the real estate industry, urging investors to always verify land titles and ensure proper documentation before any transaction.

"Proper documentation is critical. Buyers are urged to ensure verification of property titles

before finalising transactions," he warned.

Looking ahead, he expressed optimism about the future of Nigeria's property sector, noting that stronger enforcement of existing laws remains essential to sustaining current gains.

"The laws are already in place. What we need now is enforcement to protect investors and ensure accountability," he stated.

He also called for deeper inclusion of host communities in development planning, stressing that peace at the grassroots level remains key to attracting investment and sustaining growth.

"Our real audience is the community, not the internet. When the community is at peace, development thrives," he added.

With improved security, legal backing and growing cooperation between stakeholders, he said the Ibeju-Lekki-Epe corridor is steadily regaining its position as one of Lagos State's most attractive real estate investment destinations.





# Lagos Unveils “Blue Book” to Reset Land Valuation

BY Emmanuel Daniji

Lagos State has taken a decisive step toward reshaping how land is valued, traded, and regulated within Nigeria's most dynamic property market, unveiling a revised Fair Market Value (FMV) framework alongside a new reference document widely referred to as the “Blue Book” — a policy shift that could redefine transparency, pricing logic, and investor confidence in the state's real estate ecosystem. At a recent stakeholders' engagement convened by the Lagos State Lands Bureau, government officials positioned the initiative not as a routine administrative update, but as a structural correction to a system that had, for years, struggled to keep pace with Lagos' rapid urban expansion and volatile property valuations. According to the Permanent Secretary of the Lands Bureau, Kamarr

Olowosago, the reform was driven by a simple but long-standing distortion: land valuation rates in Lagos had remained largely static since 2005 and only began to undergo meaningful reform efforts around 2012. In a city where land values can shift dramatically within months due to infrastructure expansion, population pressure, and commercial demand, the gap between official valuation and market reality had widened significantly. Olowosago explained that the state's initial attempt at restructuring the valuation system involved an extensive 18-month data-gathering process, in collaboration with professional bodies and industry stakeholders. That exercise, he said, formed the technical backbone for what has now evolved into a

more structured, data-driven valuation regime. The latest iteration — culminating in the Blue Book — reportedly took nearly another year of consultations, reviews, and executive approvals before being finalised by the State Executive Council. Tracing the policy's legal foundation, Olowosago referenced an Executive Order issued in January 2015 under former Governor Babatunde Fashola, later gazetted in February of the same year. That order, he noted, formally established the framework for aligning government-imposed land charges with prevailing market conditions, while also introducing reforms aimed at improving ease of doing business and reducing transactional bottlenecks in the property sector. A central pillar of the policy is its requirement for periodic review every five years,

designed to ensure that valuation data does not become obsolete in a fast-changing urban environment. The last review, carried out in 2021 under Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, laid the groundwork for the current update. The newly introduced Blue Book framework is anchored on four strategic priorities: improving ease of doing business, optimising state revenue, ensuring transparency in land transactions, and aligning official valuations with real market conditions. Government officials insist that the objective is not to impose higher charges, but to eliminate inconsistencies that have historically created disputes, slowed transactions, and distorted investor expectations. Olowosago stressed that the reform is also intended to capture previously unrecognised developments and emerging

neighbourhoods, refine zoning classifications, and ensure uniformity in how land values are applied across different parts of Lagos. In his view, maintaining outdated valuation benchmarks in a rapidly expanding megacity would undermine the credibility of the entire land administration system. “A transparent and market-aligned system reduces disputes, shortens transaction timelines, and improves investor confidence,” he noted, underscoring the government's argument that clarity in valuation is as important as the figures themselves. From a governance standpoint, the state expects the Blue Book to serve multiple functions beyond revenue collection. It is being positioned as a planning tool, a database improvement mechanism, and a reference point for policy

decisions affecting urban development. Officials also anticipate that a more predictable valuation system will strengthen compliance, reduce informal negotiations, and ultimately improve internally generated revenue. Beyond the Lands Bureau, the reform is also being framed as part of a broader institutional alignment across ministries responsible for infrastructure, housing, and urban development. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Waterfront Development, Wasiu Olayinka — speaking on behalf of the Head of Service, Bode Agoro — reinforced this perspective, describing the Blue Book as a product of extensive data integration and inter-agency collaboration. Olayinka noted

Continue on page



# Lagos Unveils “Blue Book” to Reset Land Valuation

*Continue from page 17*

that Lagos State had long grappled with inconsistencies in valuation practices, a situation that often resulted in disputes, revenue leakages, and reduced confidence among local and foreign investors. The Blue Book, he said, was conceived as a unified reference point capable of standardising property valuation across diverse zones and property categories. He also highlighted the human

capacity dimension of the reform, disclosing that the implementation process included targeted training for public officers involved in land administration. This, according to him, is critical to ensuring that the framework does not remain a policy document on paper, but translates into consistent operational practice across government offices.

From a real estate perspective, the implications of the Blue Book are significant and

far-reaching. For developers, investors, and property buyers, the introduction of a more transparent and market-reflective valuation system could reduce one of the sector's most persistent challenges: unpredictability in government charges and land-related costs. In theory, this should improve feasibility planning for large-scale developments, reduce approval delays, and enhance confidence in long-term investment projections. For the informal

property market, however, the reforms may introduce a new level of scrutiny. Areas previously undervalued or loosely classified could see adjustments that bring them closer to actual market realities, potentially narrowing arbitrage opportunities that have historically existed between official and unofficial pricing structures.

More broadly, the Blue Book represents an attempt by Lagos State to institutionalise data as the

backbone of its land economy — moving away from perception-based valuation toward a structured, periodically reviewed system that reflects the pace of urban transformation.

In a city often described as West Africa's most active real estate hub, where demand frequently outstrips supply and land remains one of the most contested assets, the success of this framework may ultimately depend not only on policy design, but on consistent enforcement, stakeholder buy-

in, and the state's ability to continuously update its data in realtime.

If effectively implemented, the reform could mark a quiet but fundamental shift in Lagos real estate — from a market often defined by opacity and negotiation, to one increasingly guided by standardized, publicly referenced value structures.

And in a sector where perception often shapes price as much as location does, the Blue Book may become less of a document, and more of a new language for how Lagos understands land itself.





# Council Leadership Meets Residents, Groups in Igando-Ikotun

Kehinde Adeleye



Igando Ikotun LCDA witnessed a series of official engagements focused on community development, institutional collaboration and civic responsibilities, as council leadership interacted with key stakeholders across the area. The day's activities commenced with participation in the Local Government May Day

celebration and staff monthly prayer, where the Chairman, Snr Comr Lasisi Ayinde Akinsanya was represented by Mrs. Mojisola Badmus. The event brought together council officials and workers in a moment of reflection and unity. As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen grassroots development, the

leadership received the executive members of Fagbile Estate Phase I LCDA, Isheri Osun, Ijegan, led by their Chairman, Mr Ebagun Gabriel. Discussions centred on issues affecting the community and possible areas of collaboration to improve living conditions. In a related development, officials from the

Abaranje Area Office, led by Mr Adeshina Orilawi, paid a courtesy visit aimed at reinforcing institutional relationships and improving coordination on local matters. Also received was Barr Ogunwuyi Rotimi, a prominent political stakeholder, whose visit further highlighted support for initiatives geared

toward grassroots development within the LCDA. Meanwhile, Team Lagos Igando Ikotun, led by Olasunkanmi Rasheed, held a briefing session with council officials to review their activities and discuss strategies to enhance performance, particularly in youth and sports development. The council leadership also

attended to various civic matters during the day, addressing issues of concern to residents and ensuring continued administrative responsiveness. The engagements underscore a sustained commitment to inclusive governance, collaboration and community driven development in Igando Ikotun LCDA.



# Ejigbadero Receives Super Lightweight Boxing Champion Fajimi Taiwo

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

There was a moment of pride and celebration in Agbado/Oke-Odo LCDA as the Council Chairman, Hon. Abiodun Jimoh Isola (Ejigbadero), received rising boxing star Fajimi Taiwo following his recent championship victory.

Fajimi, who emerged Super Lightweight Boxing Champion, visited the council after his

impressive win at the Indoor Sports Hall of the National Stadium, Surulere, on April 27, 2026. The bout, tagged "Battle of the Ages 13.0 (Clash of the Unbeaten)," was organised by De Lad's Boxing Promotion in collaboration with Ariya Networks.

The visit was both a courtesy call and a moment of appreciation, as the young athlete acknowledged the support and

encouragement he received from the council leadership, which he said played a role in his motivation and success.

In his remarks, Hon. Ejigbadero praised the boxer's discipline, focus and resilience, describing his achievement as a clear example of what can be achieved when young talent is properly supported and given the right

platform to grow. He reaffirmed his administration's commitment to youth development through sports, stressing that investing in young people remains key to building a stronger and more progressive community.

According to him, talents like Fajimi Taiwo represent the future of the LCDA and must continue to be encouraged to

excel on both national and international stages.

The meeting was attended by top council officials including the Secretary to the Local Government, Prince Buhari Sulaimon, Council Manager Mrs Gbemisola Fregene, Chief of Staff Mr Rabiul Abdulrasheed, Deputy Chief of Staff Mr Oriade

Saheed Ademola, and several supervisory and advisory officers across youth, sports, tourism, culture and public affairs.

The engagement ended on a positive note, with renewed assurances from the council to continue supporting sports development and creating more opportunities for young talents to thrive.





# 300 Agege Youths Empowered with Skills, N100,000 Grants

Kehinde Adeleye

It was a day filled with excitement, relief and renewed hope in Agege as 300 young people stepped into a new phase of their lives, armed with practical skills and financial support to begin their own businesses.

The occasion marked the graduation of participants from the second edition of the Noble Skill and Empowerment Program, an initiative driven by Hon Wale Ahmed to tackle unemployment and create real opportunities at the grassroots level. Beyond the celebration, what stood out most was the impact as each graduate received

100,000 as startup support, giving them a real chance to put their training into practice immediately.

The event brought together key leaders within the community, including the Chairman of Agege Local Government, Hon Vinod Obasa, and the Chairman of Orile Agege LCDA, Hon Akinola Abiodun Idowu. Their presence



reflected a shared commitment to youth development and the growing importance of partnerships in addressing local economic challenges.

Also in attendance were community leaders, youth groups, parents and training partners, all of whom played a role in shaping the success of the programme. For families present, it

was more than a ceremony. It was a moment of pride and reassurance that their children now have a path forward.

The beneficiaries were trained in various vocational fields such as tailoring, hairdressing, catering, barbing, shoemaking and ICT. After weeks of hands on learning, they left not just with certificates but with confidence and the tools needed to earn a

living.

For many of the young participants, the financial support meant everything. It removed a major barrier that often follows skill acquisition which is the lack of capital to start. With the 100,000 grant, they can now begin small businesses, support themselves and even contribute to their households. Speaking at the event, Hon Vinod Obasa praised the

initiative, noting that real development starts when people are given the means to stand on their own. He assured that the local government will continue to support efforts that directly impact the lives of residents. Hon Akinola Abiodun Idowu also encouraged the graduates to make good use of the opportunity, reminding them that their success will reflect not just

on them but on the entire community. For Hon Wale Ahmed, the programme is about more than training. It is about changing mindsets. He stressed the need for young people to see themselves as creators of opportunities rather than waiting endlessly for limited white collar jobs. He also hinted that more editions of the programme are on the way, with plans to reach even more youths across the area.

As the event came to a close, the atmosphere remained one of celebration and optimism. Graduates proudly showcased their work, parents expressed joy and the community witnessed firsthand what targeted empowerment can achieve. With 300 youths now equipped with both skills and financial backing, Agege is taking a meaningful step toward building a stronger and more self reliant future one young entrepreneur at a time.



# Road Construction: Langbasa, Harmony Estate Demolitions Stir Pain, Hope

Residents of Langbasa and Harmony Estate in Eti-Osa Local Council Area of Lagos State are reeling from the demolition of homes, shops, and kiosks as a major road construction project by the Lagos State Ministry of Works and Infrastructure takes shape in the area. The project, which cuts across Oba Elejigbo Street, Mallam Eshinlokun Street, and sections of Kingsley Osuh Avenue, is being executed by Visible Construction Limited. Officials say the intervention is designed to improve road connectivity, ease movement, and support long-term economic growth in the community. The works are expected to run for about 15 weeks, though the overall scope may extend to six months or more.

But on the ground, the transformation has come at a heavy human cost. While a section of residents welcomed the project as a long-

AtumeTerfa

overdue development that could open up the area and improve infrastructure, others have been left devastated by the scale and speed of demolition. In Osho axis and adjoining streets such as Abel Abayomi Street, families and traders say they are still recovering from sudden displacement and loss of property.

Several affected residents alleged that demolition teams arrived with little warning, giving them minimal time to salvage belongings or make alternative arrangements.

"Heavy machines just came in and started pulling down buildings. We were not properly informed," one resident said.

Traders in the area also reported significant financial losses, with kiosks and shops cleared in the process. Mallam Mohammed Sheriff, a local



trader, said many families have been pushed into hardship. "People are now sleeping outside. We are begging the government to intervene," he said. Questions have also been raised about compensation and relocation plans. Mr Joshua Ogunmeye, whose family property was partly demolished, described the experience as distressing and said communication from authorities was unclear.

"A large portion of our compound was taken, but there was no clear compensation arrangement explained to us," he said.

The demolition exercise reportedly extended to sensitive sites, including burial grounds, forcing

families to take difficult steps. A relative of the late Baale of the community confirmed that the family had to exhume and rebury their loved one to allow the road alignment to proceed, describing the experience as painful but unavoidable.

"I spent so much building my house up to roofing level, and now half of it has gone," lamented another affected resident, Madam Londoner. Beyond property loss, residents also reported disruptions to basic services, including electricity supply, after power infrastructure was damaged during the demolition operation.

Government officials, however,

insist that due process was followed. They said consultations were held with stakeholders, including community leaders, residents, and the traditional ruler of Langbasa, before work commenced. According to officials, a community meeting was held where residents reportedly agreed to allow the project to proceed despite the expected disruptions.

They also noted that the monarch appealed for a short delay to allow the completion of the Ebi Ijugbo Masquerade Festival before full construction activities intensified.

Describing the project as a key infrastructure

intervention, a government source said the road upgrade is intended to improve mobility, safety, and environmental standards in the area.

"This is a development-driven project aimed at improving infrastructure and security. It is not targeted at residents," the official said, adding that the road would ultimately benefit the wider community.

Despite these assurances, affected residents continue to call for urgent compensation, clearer resettlement plans, and better communication to soften the impact of the ongoing transformation.



# Hafis Omoware Bows Out After Meritorious Service

Kehinde Adeleye



experiences and fond memories, describing the retiring officer as a mentor, team player and advocate of best practices in procurement administration.

In his response, Mr Hafis Ayinde Omoware expressed gratitude to the council leadership and staff for their support throughout his service years. He described his time in Ojokoro LCDA as fulfilling and memorable, while urging serving officers to remain committed to integrity, discipline and excellence in public service.

It was a day filled with emotion, appreciation and celebration at Ojokoro Local Council Development Area on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, as staff and management gathered to honour the retirement of the Head of Procurement, Mr Hafis Ayinde Omoware, after years of dedicated service in the Lagos State Public Service.

The council hall was filled with

warmth and excitement as colleagues, friends, management staff and well-wishers came together to celebrate a career widely described as impactful and committed to excellence.

Leading the tributes, the Chairman of Ojokoro LCDA, Hon. Barr Yemisi Rosiji, praised Mr Omoware for his professionalism, integrity and consistent dedication to

duty. She noted that his contributions significantly strengthened administrative processes within the council and left a lasting impression on both leadership and staff.

She described him as a calm and dependable officer who served with sincerity and played a key role in ensuring due process in procurement activities. According to her, his years of service would be

remembered for discipline, commitment and quiet excellence.

Also speaking at the event, Mr Ogunshakin Irewole, Director of Post Service at the Lagos State Local Government Service Commission, who represented the Lagos State Head of Service, commended the retiree for his contributions to public service. He urged him to embrace retirement with peace, good

health and fulfillment after years of service to the state.

The Council Manager, Mrs Akinola Mojisola Abeni, also lauded the leadership of the Executive Chairman for creating a supportive working environment, while describing Mr Omoware as a thorough professional whose impact would not be forgotten easily. Colleagues and staff members took turns sharing personal

goodwill messages, presentations, music and cultural displays, creating a festive atmosphere that reflected both appreciation and respect.

As he bows out of active service, the occasion marked not just the end of a career, but the celebration of a legacy built on dedication, professionalism and commitment to grassroots development.





# Folawiyo Charges Students To Be Consistent In Academic Excellence

**C**hairman of Lagos Island East LCDA, Mr Muibi Folawiyo has urged students across the community to prioritize their academic excellence and cultivate the habit of consistency in shaping their

academic future positively. The council boss instructed primary, secondary school students across Lagos Island East LCDA to set a precedence of educational excellence in their tests, assignments which will be

handy in their quest to seek promotion to the next class of hierarchy. "This term is very important because it determines your promotion to the next class. Every lesson, assignment and test counts more than ever now. It is your

opportunity to show how much you have learned throughout the year," he said. He encouraged the students to remain focused, determined, shun distractions and take their studies with immediate urgency to excel.

"Stay focused, be consistent and take your studies seriously. Avoid distractions, attend classes regularly and do not hesitate to ask questions when you need help." Folawiyo however advises the young pupils to build their

educational excellence on discipline, hard work and seriousness in class activities. "Remember, success is built on discipline and hard work. Make this term as your best yet give your all and finish with excellence."



# Why We Provide Free Bus Ride For The Elderly- Oyekan

By Saheed Afolabi

**C**hairman of Lagos Island LG, Mr Taiwo Oyekan has disclosed the reason for influencing the free bus ride for the elderly and physically challenged residents of the community.

In a move aimed at enhancing social inclusion and easing the daily struggles of vulnerable residents, the Lagos Island Local Government has officially launched a free transportation service.

The initiative, announced by the council boss is specifically designed for the elderly and physically challenged persons within the community.

The new service follows the Chairman's recent focus on community-driven infrastructure,



coming shortly after the council acquired new waste disposal trucks and tricycles to improve local sanitation.

Oyekan said the purpose of the free bus ride is to

improve mobility and social inclusion for vulnerable community members which includes the elderly and physically challenged.

He emphasized

that the scheme is about the people and our communities, noting that his administration remains determined to do more to improve the quality of life

for all residents.

The dedicated buses will significantly reduce the financial and physical burden often associated with using commercial transportation in

the busy Lagos Island metropolis. To access the free bus ride, eligible residents are urged to present their voters card at the Secretariat to complete their registration process.





# What Ikeja Residents Should Know About Lagos' New Parking Scheme

*Kehinde Adeleye*

**T**here are plans underway to change how parking works across Ikeja, and residents may soon begin to notice a more organised system on their streets.

Officials from the Lagos State Parking Authority (LASPA), led by its General Manager, Mrs. Adelabu, recently met with the leadership of Ikeja Local Government to discuss how both sides can work together to

address the growing challenges caused by indiscriminate parking in the area.

At the heart of the conversation is a new On-Street Parking Scheme, which will be introduced in phases across selected parts of Lagos, with Ikeja listed as one of the pilot locations. When it begins in 2026, motorists will be required to pay to park in designated areas,

a move the authorities say is aimed at bringing sanity to the roads and reducing daily traffic stress.

For many residents and business owners, poorly managed parking has long contributed to congestion, blocked access roads, and general disorder. LASPA believes the new system can help restore order, improve traffic flow, and even open up job opportunities for

people within the community who will be involved in managing the scheme.

Mrs. Adelabu explained that while parking used to be handled by local councils, the responsibility is now being coordinated at the state level. However, she emphasised that success will depend heavily on the support of local governments and the cooperation of residents who use these roads every day.

She also made it clear that the agency is open to feedback, noting that community input will be important in shaping how the system works in reality, not just on paper.

Responding to the visit, the Chairman of Ikeja Local Government, Comrade Akeem Olalekan Dauda, welcomed the initiative and acknowledged the need to address parking challenges in the

area. He stressed that beyond enforcement, proper awareness and education will be key to helping residents understand and adapt to the new system.

As the rollout approaches, the message from both sides is clear: the success of the new parking arrangement will not rest on government alone, but on how well the community embraces and supports the change.



# Olasoju Adebayo Courts Non-Yoruba Communities



Kehinde Adeleye

Stakeholders in Isolo Local Council Development Area have renewed calls for unity and inclusiveness as political leaders engage non-indigenous communities ahead of the 2027 general elections. The Chairman of Isolo LCDA, Olasoju Adebayo, has assured non-Yoruba-speaking residents that their contributions to the political success of the All Progressives Congress (APC) would be recognised and

rewarded. He gave the assurance through the Secretary to the Local Government, Hon. Musbau Quadr, at a well-attended stakeholders' meeting held in Ajao Estate over the weekend. The meeting, organised by the Special Adviser on Ethnicity, Hon. Mrs. Onyinechi Ojeikwe, brought together representatives of various ethnic groups including South-South, South-East, Nupe, and Arewa

communities, alongside residents of Ajao Estate. In her address, Ojeikwe said the gathering was aimed at strengthening support for the APC and promoting the message of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's "Renewed Hope" agenda. She described the engagement as a call for unity and political participation, urging attendees to remain committed to what she termed national and community

progress. The Seriki of the Hausa community in Ajao Estate, while commending the council for including non-indigenes in governance, praised the administration for appointing representatives from the area into key positions. He also appealed for future political consideration, including representation at the councillorship level. Representatives of various ethnic groups including Nupe, South-South, and Igbo

communities expressed readiness to mobilise support for the APC in the area. They, however, called for fair recognition and inclusion in return for their efforts. The Chairman of the Isolo Community Development Committee, Hon. Segun Olatunde, used the opportunity to encourage residents to actively participate in the electoral process and ensure their voter registration details reflect their current locations.

He also stressed the importance of cooperation among all ethnic groups in advancing community development. Other speakers, including community leaders and political stakeholders, praised the initiative, describing it as a step towards stronger engagement and grassroots mobilisation. They urged continuous dialogue and deeper inclusion of all groups in local governance.

In his remarks, Olasoju Adebayo commended the turnout and reaffirmed his administration's commitment to inclusiveness. He noted that the era of neglecting loyal supporters was over and encouraged stakeholders to remain committed to the party's objectives ahead of the elections. The meeting concluded with renewed commitments from participants to work together for political stability and development in Isolo LCDA.



# Badagry LCDA Sensitizes Traders At Ibereko, Aiyegbaju Markets

By Felix Kuyinu

Badagry previously held at Local Morogbo, Council Checkpoints, Development Area Ajagamibo and has held a three-day sensitization on markets in Oko-Afo, also as part of its efforts to improve administrative activities and revenue generation. Personnel from the council secretariat paid an oversight visit at the Ibereko, Ilogbo-Eremi and Aiyegbaju markets to engage stakeholders at the facilities for dialogue on the necessities at the markets in providing governmental support for sellers and buyers. The visiting team led by the Special Adviser on Market Matters, Gbedeji Yemaren, relayed that the exercise is sequel to the ones

maintaining clean and safe market environments, urging traders to adopt preventive safety measures against fire outbreaks by procuring fire extinguishers and ensuring electrical appliances are switched off after business hours, and also advised traders to maintain cordial relationships with market executives, describing them as vital links between the government and traders, especially during emergencies and policy implementation. The Chairman of the Revenue Committee, Abraham Odu, assured traders of the council's commitment to creating an enabling

environment for businesses to flourish. Odu, however, reminisced on the importance of the traders to pay approved dues promptly to support ongoing developmental projects across the council area. He also warned against making payments to unauthorised individuals or engaging in unreceipted transactions, assuring traders that accredited revenue officers would soon be officially introduced through market executives. As part of measures aimed at strengthening accountability and improving market administration, he disclosed that the

council would soon commence enumeration of shops and stalls across all markets in Olorunda LCDA. Responding on behalf of traders at Ilogbo-Eremi Market, the Iyaloja, Esther Disu, appreciated the council delegation for engaging directly with market men and women. Disu encouraged traders to comply with the revised fees while also drawing the attention of the government to pressing needs within the market, particularly water and toilet facilities. The Babaloja of the market, Solomon Akeyi, also commended the council for ongoing transformations within the market, assuring the government of

traders' cooperation in revenue payment while appealing for more support and provision of basic amenities. At Aiyegbaju Market in Ibereko, the Babaloja, Olowo Awesu, equally welcomed the delegation and appealed to the council to always support traders whenever necessary, noting that such interventions would go a long way in boosting petty businesses and easing economic hardship. The Iyaloja of the market, Adenike Olaitan, also urged the council to be considerate in the implementation of the new market rates in view of the prevailing economic situation affecting traders and residents.



# Badagry West LCDA Distributes Educational Materials To Pupils

go a long way in improving academic outcomes. The Supervisor for Education, Lanre Olatunde, opined the measure as an effort to creating reforms to strengthen basic education across the LCDA as well facilitate the students academic excellence and also ease the burden of efforts by the parents in providing the needed items for their children.

The Chairman of Badagry West Local Council Development Area, Rauf Yemaren, has presented education materials to pupils as schools resume. Yemaren distributed a total of N10,000 exercise books, school uniforms, school bags and

mathematical sets to aid conducive learning experience during the new term. In the occasion tagged "Back To School", held at the L.A Primary School, Apa, the council head engaged pupils and teachers, and emphasized on the

importance of education as a foundation for a brighter future; and also urged the pupils to remain focused, disciplined and committed to their studies while making effective use of the materials provided. He reaffirmed his administration's commitment to promoting quality

education and improving learning conditions for pupils in the community. While reacting to the exercise, the Education Secretary, Badagry Local Government Education Authority Hontonyon Joel, lauded the Chairman, describing it as a

strategic intervention that will positively impact teaching and learning across schools in the council area. He said that the provision is a commendable effort that clearly demonstrates Yemaren's passion for education and the development of the pupils, adding that it will





# Kosofe Christians Demand Religious Balance In Assembly Seat

A fresh debate over inclusion, fairness and political representation has emerged in Kosofe ahead of the 2027 election cycle, following a call by a coalition of Christian organisations urging the leadership of the All Progressives Congress to address what it described as a long-standing religious imbalance in Kosofe Constituency I. The appeal, made through an open

letter by the Federation of Young Men and Christian Association, Kosofe Chapter, has added a new dimension to conversations already building around zoning and candidate selection within the constituency. For many residents, the issue goes beyond politics. It touches on identity, participation and the feeling of belonging within a constituency widely known for peaceful coexistence

between Christians and Muslims. In the letter addressed to the Governor's Advisory Council, APC leaders in Kosofe and the Lagos State chairman of the party, the association argued that representation in the Lagos State House of Assembly since 1999 has heavily favoured one faith. According to the group, Christians have occupied the Kosofe Constituency I seat for only four years within nearly three decades of

democratic representation, while Muslim lawmakers have held the position for about 26 years. The coalition specifically referenced the late Bayo Osinowo, who represented the constituency for 16 years, and the current lawmaker, Sanni Okanlawon, whose tenure would amount to 10 years by the end of his current term.

For the Christian groups, the figures reflect what they described as a sustained imbalance in a constituency where both religious communities contribute actively to political and social life. The letter stressed that Kosofe has maintained relative peace over the years because of mutual respect and coexistence among residents, warning that prolonged exclusion from key positions could gradually weaken that sense of inclusion.

"We are not asking for favour. We are asking for fairness," the group stated, arguing that equitable representation strengthens unity

By Emmanuel Daniji

rather than division.

At the centre of their demand is a request for the APC to zone the next Assembly ticket in Kosofe Constituency I to a competent Christian candidate, which the coalition described as the minimum step required to restore confidence and balance.

The association also called for a more structured framework that would encourage religious rotation in future political arrangements within the constituency.

The open letter was signed by Sarah Joseph on behalf of Christian organisations and affiliates across Kosofe.

Political observers say the development introduces a sensitive but significant conversation into the local political climate, especially as aspirants continue consultations ahead of the next electoral cycle.

Kosofe Constituency I remains one of the politically active constituencies in Lagos, with strong APC dominance and a highly engaged grassroots

structure. As a result, discussions around zoning, inclusion and representation are expected to influence internal party calculations in the coming months.

Within the constituency itself, reactions have been mixed.

While some residents see the call as a legitimate appeal for fairness and broader participation, others believe political representation should remain based strictly on competence and electability rather than religious considerations.

Still, many agree that the letter reflects a deeper desire among groups within the constituency to feel visibly included in leadership structures.

As of the time of filing this report, the APC leadership in Lagos had not issued an official response to the demands raised in the letter.

But with 2027 gradually approaching and political consultations already intensifying across Kosofe, the issue of representation — religious, political and demographic — is increasingly becoming part of the wider conversation shaping the future of the constituency.





# Residents Hail Sanwo-Olu Over New Transformer In Agiliti

**R**esidents of Oluwalogbon Kajola Agiliti Community Development Association (CDA) in Agiliti under Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area have commended Lagos State Governor, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, over the delivery and installation of a new electricity transformer aimed at improving power supply within the community.

The transformer, delivered on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, is expected to boost electricity distribution and improve socio-economic activities in the area, which residents said has suffered electricity challenges for years.

Speaking on behalf of the community, the CDA Leader, Chief Emmanuel Oshobanjo, expressed appreciation to the Lagos State Government for what he described as a timely



intervention capable of easing the burden on residents and business owners. According to him, the installation of the transformer would help stabilize power supply and improve living conditions within the community.

He noted that residents had long awaited government intervention on electricity challenges affecting homes, businesses and social activities within the area.

Also speaking, Pastor Dr. Olu Arikawe of Gbamgboye

Street commended Governor Sanwo-Olu for sustaining grassroots infrastructural development across communities in Lagos State.

The community elder particularly acknowledged the efforts of the Special Adviser to the Governor on Rural Development, Nurudeen Yekinni Agbaje, for facilitating the delivery of the transformer to the community.

Residents described the intervention as a major relief, noting that improved

electricity supply would positively impact artisans, traders, students and other members of the community who rely heavily on stable power for daily activities.

In his remarks, Dr. Agbaje reiterated the commitment of the Lagos State Government towards closing infrastructural gaps in rural and semi-urban communities across the state.

He explained that the provision of the transformer aligns with the rural development agenda of the Sanwo-Olu

administration, which focuses on improving access to essential infrastructure such as roads, electricity and water supply. According to him, the government remains committed to ensuring inclusive development across Lagos State through the THEMES Plus Agenda.

He stressed that no community would be neglected in the state government's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life of residents. Dr. Agbaje also urged residents to take ownership of the project by

safeguarding the transformer against vandalism and ensuring proper use of the facility for the collective benefit of the community. He stated that the intervention further demonstrates the responsiveness of the Lagos State Government to the needs of residents at the grassroots level.

The event attracted several community stakeholders and leaders including Chief Oyelakin, Chief Taiwo, the community treasurer, and Pa Anthony Odunbona, who all praised the state government for the intervention and reaffirmed their support for developmental initiatives within the community.

Residents described the installation of the transformer as another visible sign of government presence in Agiliti and expressed optimism that the improved electricity supply would stimulate economic activities and enhance community development.



# Ogudu Mourns As Ologudu, Oba Nojeemdeen Fashola, Joins Ancestors

**O**gudu Land in Kosofe Local Government Area has been thrown into mourning following the death of its traditional ruler, Oba Nojeemdeen Fashola, the Ologudu of Ogudu Land, who reportedly passed on in the early hours of Wednesday, May 8.

Palace sources confirmed that the first-class monarch died peacefully at his residence in Ogudu, though details surrounding the circumstances of his death have not been officially disclosed as at the time of filing this report.

The development has plunged the ancient community into a solemn mood, with residents, traditional chiefs and cultural custodians already commencing mourning rites in accordance with Yoruba tradition. Oba Fashola ascended the throne as Ologudu



of Ogudu Land about four years ago and had since been regarded as a stabilising figure in the community, presiding over cultural preservation,

conflict resolution and local development matters within the domain. During his reign, he was widely respected for promoting peace

and unity among residents while also working closely with community leaders and local government authorities on issues affecting

the growth of Ogudu. Following news of his passing, several parts of the community witnessed a noticeable slowdown in

commercial and social activities, as markets and public spaces operated at reduced levels in honour of the late monarch.

Residents described the development as a painful loss, noting that the traditional ruler played a key role in maintaining harmony within Ogudu and strengthening cultural identity in the area.

Traditional chiefs have since begun consultations in line with custom, as the community prepares for the official mourning period and subsequent rites of passage for the departed monarch.

The Ogudu Traditional Council is expected to announce funeral and burial arrangements in due course, in line with Yoruba traditional protocols.

As of the time of this report, tributes continue to pour in from residents and community stakeholders who described Oba Fashola as a father figure whose reign brought relative peace and cohesion to Ogudu Land.



# Market Leaders Back Ogunleye For Second Term In Ikorodu

**M**arket leaders and women across Ikorodu Constituency I have endorsed Hon. Gbolahan Ogunleye for re-election into the Lagos State House of Assembly, citing his continued support for traders, grassroots empowerment and interventions aimed at improving market activities within the constituency. The endorsement came during a consultation visit by the lawmaker to market leaders and women across Ikorodu West, Ikorodu North and Ikorodu Central on May 6, 2026, as political consultations ahead of the 2027 elections continue to gather momentum within the division. Speaking on behalf of traders and market associations, the Iya-Oloja General of Ikorodu Division, Deaconess Busola Isikalu, commended the lawmaker for maintaining regular engagement with market stakeholders and responding to the challenges faced by traders across

the constituency. According to her, Hon. Ogunleye has consistently demonstrated concern for the welfare of market women through empowerment initiatives and direct interventions aimed at sustaining small businesses. She noted that one of the most impactful interventions facilitated by the lawmaker was the distribution of interest-free loans to traders, which many beneficiaries reportedly used to stabilize and expand their businesses amid the harsh economic realities confronting small-scale entrepreneurs. The market leaders also praised the lawmaker for intervening in cases involving traders whose goods were confiscated during enforcement exercises by government taskforce officials. They stated that his involvement in several of such incidents helped in securing the release and return of seized goods,

thereby reducing losses suffered by affected traders. The traders described the interventions as evidence of accessible and responsive representation, adding that Ogunleye has maintained close contact with grassroots stakeholders since assuming office. While pledging support for his re-election, the market leaders appealed for further government attention to market infrastructure and trading conditions within Ikorodu Constituency. They specifically called for improved market

facilities, better sanitation, enhanced security and the establishment of additional markets to accommodate the growing number of traders operating within the constituency. According to them, increasing commercial activities and population growth within Ikorodu have placed pressure on existing market structures, making expansion and modernization necessary. Responding to the endorsement, Hon. Ogunleye appreciated the traders and market women for what he

described as their continued trust and confidence in his representation. The lawmaker assured the traders that their concerns and requests would receive adequate attention, adding that he would continue to engage relevant government agencies to improve market conditions across the constituency. He disclosed that discussions would be initiated with the Lagos State Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development towards addressing issues relating to market expansion,

infrastructure and trader welfare. Hon. Ogunleye further reaffirmed his commitment to policies and programmes that would promote economic growth, empower residents and improve the livelihoods of people within Ikorodu Constituency. The consultation meeting attracted market executives, traders, community stakeholders and political supporters from different parts of the constituency, further reflecting the growing political activities ahead of the next electoral cycle in Lagos State.





# LGEA Restores Order At Ikorodu School Frontage



The Education Secretary of the Local Government Authority (LGEA), Ikorodu Local Government, Taiwo Odumbo, has enforced the directive of the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board to stop the frontage of African Bethel Primary School, Ota Ona, Ikorodu, from being used as a commercial motorcycle park. The move followed complaints and concerns raised

over the increasing use of the school frontage by commercial motorcycle riders, popularly known as Okada riders, a situation residents and stakeholders described as unsafe and inappropriate for a learning environment. Following the intervention by the Education Secretary, sanity has reportedly returned to the school environment after the commercial

riders vacated the area. According to Alhaji Odumbo, immediate steps were taken after the issue was brought to the attention of the authority. He explained that discussions were promptly held with leaders of the motorcycle transport union to address the situation and ensure compliance with government directives aimed at protecting public school environments.

"In doing so, I promptly engaged with the leadership of the motorcycle transport union. As a result, the school entrance has now been vacated, and representatives of the union have been stationed at the location to ensure compliance," he stated. The Education Secretary further disclosed that additional measures have been introduced to prevent a recurrence of the

situation. According to him, a signpost would be mounted at the school frontage to restrict activities around the premises. He also stated that officials of the authority would conduct regular monitoring visits to ensure continuous compliance and maintain the orderliness around the school.

The action is in line with the directive of the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board aimed at safeguarding public primary schools and ensuring that learning environments remain safe, clean and conducive for pupils. Residents and stakeholders within the area have welcomed the intervention, describing it as necessary to protect schoolchildren from traffic hazards, noise and other environmental disturbances

associated with commercial motorcycle operations. Alhaji Odumbo also appreciated the concerned resident who alerted the authority to the situation, noting that public cooperation remains important in protecting educational facilities. "We sincerely appreciate the individual who brought this matter to our attention, as well as all stakeholders whose cooperation ensured swift resolution. Together, we continue to uphold the safety, orderliness and moral integrity of our learning environments," he added. The development has been commended by parents and residents who believe the restoration of order around the school will create a safer atmosphere for pupils, teachers and other members of the school community.



# Aruwe Charges Residents To Participate In Nassco Household Enumeration

By Saheed Afolabi



It will also correct outdated information for residents who have changed their addresses or contact details and register new beneficiaries into the national social safety net database. Aruwe stressed the importance of active participation. He said the exercise is very important to ensure that every eligible resident of Mushin is properly captured so they can benefit from the Federal Government's social intervention programmes. He urged all residents to come out, provide the required information, and take advantage of the opportunity, adding that no one should be left behind. Some residents who participated early expressed appreciation for the initiative. Mrs. Tola Adeyemi, a beneficiary, said it was a good opportunity for people like her to be properly registered. She noted that many had issues with their previous records, but could now correct them and have hope of benefiting from government support. Another resident, Mr. Tolani Sadiq, commended the Chairman for bringing the exercise closer to the people, saying it shows he truly cares about the welfare of the residents. The Mushin LG boss reiterated his call to all residents market women, artisans, youths, and households to take the exercise seriously and ensure their data is accurately captured so they can qualify for various federal palliatives and empowerment programmes.

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe, has urged residents to fully participate in the Household Enumeration and Data Update Exercise by the National Social Safety Nets Coordinating Office (NASSCO), saying it is key to benefiting from Federal Government social intervention programmes. Aruwe, who facilitated the exercise in the area, stated that the programme is designed to ensure no eligible resident of Mushin

is left out of federal support initiatives. The enumeration, which began in Akinwunmi/Onifade CDA, Federal Ward H2 (Ward E), is a phased exercise that will be extended to all Community Development Associations (CDAs) across the Local Government. According to the Chairman, the exercise will update incomplete household records, including National Identification Numbers (NIN), bank account details, phone numbers, and dates of birth.



# ITRA Commends Aruwe's Commitment To Residents Health Condition

By Saheed Afolabi

In commemoration of World Asthma Day, the Integrated TB and Respiratory Care in Africa (ITRA) partnered with the Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe, to organise a large-scale free medical outreach providing screening, treatment, and awareness on respiratory health for residents.

The programme, which drew a significant turnout of Mushin residents, offered comprehensive services including registration, spirometry, lung function tests, blood pressure checks, weight measurements, and general vital signs assessments.

ITRA officials praised the Chairman's proactive leadership and dedication to the health of his constituents. Speaking at the event, Professor Obianuju Ozoh, Site Lead for ITRA, commended Aruwe for his strong commitment and support,



describing the partnership as a model for bridging critical healthcare gaps in respiratory care.

"Partnerships like this with Chairman Tunbosun Aruwe are critical in addressing healthcare disparities, particularly in respiratory care," Prof. Ozoh said.

"His proactive leadership and genuine concern for the wellbeing of Mushin residents have made this impactful outreach possible."

The outreach also focused on public education, with health professionals stressing the importance of

proper asthma management and the consistent use of inhalers.

They described inhalers as essential life-saving tools that must be prioritised and made readily available to patients, noting that many individuals still neglect proper treatment due to

lack of awareness.

The team leader of the ITRA delegation highlighted the shortage of skilled personnel for specialised respiratory tests in the country, and commended the Mushin LG Chairman for his readiness to expand such initiatives.

Beneficiaries of the free screening and treatment expressed deep appreciation to both ITRA and Aruwe for bringing quality healthcare services to the grassroots. Many called for the continuation and expansion of the programme to reach more residents.



# Fashion Icon, GAP Co-Founder, Doris Fisher Dies

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)



**D**oris Fisher, co-founder of American clothing retailer GAP, has died at the age of 94, the company confirmed on Monday. According to a statement released by GAP, she passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family. No cause or exact date of death was disclosed. Paying tribute,

GAP President and CEO Richard Dickson described Fisher as a rare visionary whose influence helped shape the company's identity and culture. "There is simply no equal to Doris Fisher. In Gap-speak, she was a true original," he said. "She understood firsthand the value of self-expression, diversity, and

inclusion. And she worked tirelessly to ensure that Gap Inc. always did more than sell clothes." Doris Fisher and her late husband, Donald Fisher, founded the first GAP store in San Francisco in 1969. The brand quickly grew into a defining name in casual American fashion, focusing on affordable, ready-to-wear

clothing such as jeans, T-shirts and sweatshirts. The company name "Gap" was reportedly inspired by the phrase "generation gap," reflecting the young customers the founders aimed to attract. Their retail approach emphasised simplicity, with neatly organised sizes and well-stocked stores

designed to make shopping easier for customers. Over the years, GAP expanded into a global retail group, acquiring and developing other major brands including Banana Republic and Old Navy. Today, the company operates about 3,500 stores worldwide, including both company-owned and franchise

outlets. Dickson added that Fisher's creativity and forward-thinking approach continue to influence the company's culture. "Never content with what is, Doris continuously imagined what might be and then made it happen," he said. Doris Fisher is survived by her three sons, Robert, William and John.



# BBNaija Season 11 Announced as Organisers Drop Audition Hints

Kehinde Adeleye

The organisers of Big Brother Naija have hinted at the return of the reality television show for its 11th season, with auditions expected to begin soon. In a post shared on its official X account on Tuesday, the organisers released a teaser message that

read, "Biggie is calling. Are you ready to answer?" alongside a video announcement confirming that audition details will be released shortly. The update also stated, "It's back. Auditions coming soon," sparking excitement among fans of the popular reality show across the country.

The

announcement comes months after the conclusion of Season 10, which premiered on July 26, 2025, featuring 29 housemates competing for a grand prize of 150 million.

Season 10 introduced several changes to the show's format, including a redesigned Head of House challenge

now held on Sunday nights, with winners retaining power only until a follow-up challenge on Monday. Housemates who finish last in the challenge are automatically placed for nomination.

The season also featured new twists such as the "Bag of Big Twists,"

controlled by the Head of House, and a "red telephone" that rings randomly with instructions from Biggie. Another addition was the "Influential Player of the Week" role, which added a new layer of strategy to the game.

Imisi Ayanwale emerged winner of Season 10 after securing 42.8

percent of the total votes, beating finalists including Dede, Koyin, Sultana, Kola, Jason Jae, Mensan, Isabella and Kaybobo. With Season 11 now on the horizon, anticipation is already building as viewers await official details on audition dates, requirements and possible new twists for the upcoming edition.





# I Once Considered Death Amid Career Frustration - Dele Odule



**V**eteran Nigerian actor, Dele Odule, has revealed that he once went as far as pricing his own casket during a very difficult period in his life.

The respected Nollywood star made the

disclosure during an interview with FeelrightTV, where he opened up about what he described as a dark and hopeless phase in his career.

According to him, the decision was not linked to illness, but rather a deep

sense of frustration and discouragement about his future in the film industry at the time.

"I had priced my own casket before, when I was in a state of hopelessness and complete loss of hope. Olaiya Igwe

went there with me. Olaiya started crying like a baby," he said. He explained that he felt stuck in his career and began comparing his progress with that of his peers, which made him feel left behind and discouraged.

"I wasn't sick, I just longer have breakthroughs in the industry. I was fed up because all my schoolmates were doing far better than me and my life was nothing to write home about," he added.

Dele Odule, who began his acting career in the 1970s, rose to prominence in 1993 after his role in the Yoruba classic film *Ti Oluwa Nile*, which helped establish him as a major figure in the Nigerian film industry.



# Korede Bello Urges Couples to Have More Kids

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

**N**igerian singer Korede

Bello has called for a return to larger families, saying that having more children could increase the chances of producing exceptional talents and geniuses in society. The singer made the remarks in a video broadcast where he reflected on declining birth rates and changing family patterns, especially among young couples.

He cited late pop icon Michael Jackson as an example, noting that the music legend was the seventh child in his family and suggesting that his existence might have been missed if his parents had chosen to have fewer children.

"I have been wondering, what if Michael Jackson's mother had stopped at two or six kids? He was the seventh. Imagine a world without him just because she chose fewer children," he said. Korede Bello expressed concern that many modern families are now



having one child or very few children, describing it as a growing trend that could affect future generations.

He acknowledged

economic challenges but questioned whether society might be losing the chance to produce more extraordinary

individuals due to shrinking family sizes.

"What is going on with this fewer kids people are having nowadays? I understand that

the economic situation limits our desires to populate the earth," he said. He further appealed for a rethink on family planning trends,

saying society should not lose the warmth and potential of larger households.

"We need more Michael Jacksons," he added.



# I Can Combine Government Role With Music Career - Davido

Kehinde Adeleye

**N**igerian music star Davido Adeleke, popularly known as Davido, has said that taking up a government position would not stop him from continuing his music career. The singer made

this known during a recent livestream conversation with Davrel, where he discussed his views on politics and public service. According to him, if he ever decides to work in government, he would still find a

way to perform, although not at the same level as before. "If I ever decide to work in government, I would still be performing. I don't think that stops anything," he said. Davido referenced former Haitian President Michel

Martelly as an example of someone who combined political leadership with music, noting that Martelly still performed even while in office. He explained that while he once had interest in politics, his enthusiasm has

reduced over time due to observations about how entertainers perform after joining public office. The singer also expressed doubts about the success of Nigerian celebrities who

transition into politics, saying many have not achieved significant impact in that space. Davido added that these realities have made him more cautious and less passionate about pursuing a political ambition for now.





Kehinde Adeleye

# “Send Him Back Home” Yvonne Jegede Begs for Freedom of Detained Blogger

**N**ollywood actress and filmmaker, Yvonne Jegede, has called for the release of social media blogger, Justice Crack, saying his continued detention is becoming uncomfortable

and affecting his family. In a video message, the actress acknowledged that the blogger may have acted wrongly, stressing that civilians should not interfere in military-related matters.

“We have come to understand that he has done wrong. We have also come to understand that a civilian should not dabble into military affairs. We accept that,” she said. However, Jegede appealed for leniency, urging authorities to

consider his family situation and release him. “I am coming on his behalf, his wife, kids and associates to say please release him back to his family. Please send him back home,” she said. She further described the

situation as distressing, noting that prolonged detention has become “embarrassing,” especially given current economic realities. “It’s becoming embarrassing that this is where we are having to flex

muscle,” she said. She also appealed for compassion, stressing that it was unfair for a breadwinner to be separated from his family for so long. “Times are hard; it is quite unfair and inhumane to take a breadwinner from his family,” she added.



# Court Remands Suspect Over Alleged Rape Of Neighbour's Daughter

By Felix Kuyinu

**O**ne Howell Imoni has been held at the KiriKiri Correctional Centre over allegations of raping his 11-year-old daughter in Iyana-Ipaja area of Lagos State.

The Police, at the Ikeja Magistrates' Court, held that Imoni, a resident at building number 2, Bangelu Street, Ipaja Command area, has been imposed a one-count charge of rape.

Police Prosecutor, Adegoke Ademigbuji, told the court that the defendant committed the offence on March 22 at his residence by luring the girl to a secluded place and had sexual

intercourse with her.

Ademigbuji added that a neighbour caught him in the act and raised the alarm.

"Passers by intervened and took the defendant to a

police station," the prosecutor said, adding that the offence contravened Section 261 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

The Magistrate, Omolara Kushanu, who did not take

Imoni's plea, directed that the case file should be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for advice.

Ms Kushanu adjourned the case until May 27 for the DPP's advice.



# 29yr Old Man Faces Prosecution Over Child Abduction

By Felix Kuyinu



The police in Lagos has arraigned a suspect, Samson Ijuo, for alleged act of child abduction. Ijuo, at the Ojo Magistrates' Court

in Ojo, was accused of perpetuating the disappearance of the minor and put on a two-count-charge of conspiracy and abduction which

he denied. Police prosecutor, Esther Adesulu, told the court that the defendant acted in concert with accomplices who are still at large to commit offence

between June 2025 and February in the Mosafejo area of Ojo, taking the victim, his neighbour's underage son to an undisclosed location without

informing the child's parents. Adesulu said that the alleged offences fall under Section 269 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015 after which the

court granted the defendant bail in the sum of N300,000, with two sureties in the same amount. The matter was adjourned until May 20.



# Gafar Liameed Attributes 2026 Lagos FA Cup Success To Cultural Identity

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of the Lagos State Football Association (LSFA), Gafar Liameed, has revealed the importance of grassroots football development, stating that competitions organised by the association go beyond trophies to focus on nurturing young talents and promoting cultural identity of Lagos.

Ikorodu City won the Lagos FA Cup for the third time in their history after defeating G12 FC 1-0, while Robo Queens defeated Ghetto Tigers Ladies 4-0 to win the women's category.

Speaking to the Press, Liameed emphasised the transformative power of the competition for young players

while fostering in the cultural identity of Lagos State.

"This competition is not just about winning trophies. It is about developing talents, empowering young players, and celebrating our identity as Lagosians," he said.

He described the young participants as the future of football in the state

and highlighted LSFA's deliberate efforts to give them prominence. "These young players represent the future. Giving them a role on such a stage is part of our long-term vision for football development."

The LSFA boss added that, the cultural significance of the game in

integrating Lagos rich cultural heritage into football makes the sport more impactful and accessible to indigenous residents.

"Football is deeply rooted in our culture. Bringing that cultural identity into the game makes it more meaningful for everyone

involved," he said. Liameed assured that the association remains committed to continuous improvement of the competition, with a clear focus on talent discovery and sustainable growth.

"We will keep improving this competition. Our focus remains clear: grassroots development, talent discovery, and building a stronger future for football in Lagos."



# LSSC Set To Transform Rugby

By Saheed Afolabi

Rugby in Lagos State is set to witness transformational growth and development as the State Sports Commission commits to rigorously rooting the sport in primary schools, secondary schools, and local communities through youth engagement and a strategic partnership with the British Rugby School in Lagos.

This was revealed by the Director General of the Lagos State Sports Commission, Mr. Lekan Fatodu at the final of an invitational tournament put together by the Nigeria Rugby Football Federation, Hombre Sports, and the British Rugby School, with the support of the Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC).

Mr. Fatodu, represented by the Director of Sports Development, Mr. Nunayon Travih, noted that sports development alongside education is a core part of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's T.H.E.M.E.S. Plus agenda. He emphasised that the Commission is committing significant efforts to ensure youth participate in sports alongside



their academic pursuits, a model exemplified by the British Rugby School.

"For us at the Lagos State Sports Commission, our focal area is the engagement of the youth. So, we will take rugby as a sport to both primary and secondary schools and within the youth bracket, so that when they grow into adult life, they have a sport to which they can grow with and develop themselves to become better individuals within society, and for their later life living.

"We do appreciate this initiative that the British government is having a British Rugby School, which is going to have education

and sport. This aligns with the T.H.E.M.E.S. Plus Agenda of Mr. Governor, as being propagated by the Lagos State Sports Commission. So, we see the initiative and we support it, and that's why we are here in our large numbers to give support and encouragement to them.

"And from a conversation with the principal of the school earlier today, we intend to partner with them. Considering that Lagos State has well over a thousand secondary schools, we will introduce rugby to schools, encourage them to develop within the school ecosystem, and at the same time, encourage inter-collaboration within the British Rugby School and

the Lagos State school system, so that we can have players and athletes coming to compete together on a neutral field.

"This tournament represents an opportunity for the youth. It represents a platform for growth, for our athletes to choose other sports. Because it's not just football, tennis, or athletics. It is an opportunity to develop their individual talent and to give another platform for them to grow in the different areas of sports that are available within the context of sport."

Also speaking at the event, Mr. Azeez Ladipo, the General Manager of the Nigeria Rugby Football Federation and former captain of the national team, the Stallions,

explained that the competition was designed to give local domestic players regular game time, which is essential for improving performance.

To ensure the continuity and sustainability of the sport, Mr. Ladipo mentioned that the federation is partnering with the British Rugby School, which boasts fantastic infrastructure, as well as other corporate partners and the Lagos State Sports Commission.

In his words, "The purpose is to give local domestic players game time. That's the only way to improve. I think over the years we've had competitions that have gone down because the organisers couldn't continue them anymore.

"So, what we're doing this time around is to have a more structured domestic competition alignment. We'll have different circuits - one in Lagos, one in the Delta. This will run annually or biannually in a sustainable manner, in such a way that an individual cannot determine whether it dies or doesn't.

"This event is more like a precursor to the flagship one, which is the Lagos Sevens that will be coming up by year-end. We had 11 teams invited for this tournament - seven male and four female across the country - and by the next event, we'll widen the net to capture more teams to have a fantastic one."

The event, in which the Barewa Rugby team from Kano defeated the Cowrie Rugby team from Lagos 19-0 to lift the trophy in the Male Category, and the AJ Sharks from Lagos defeated the Barewa female team 5-0 to win the female category, was attended by French International Rugby Olympian, Aaron Grandier, who was on hand to inspire and mentor the young players.



# Eguaoje Celebrates Nigeria's Readmission Into CAF A Coaching License

By Saheed Afolabi



The Head of Coaching Education at the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Dr. Terry Babatunde Eguaoje, has expressed immense joy following the Confederation of African Football's (CAF) decision to readmit Nigeria

into the prestigious CAF A Coaching Convention after nine years.

The development allows the NFF to resume organising CAF A Licence coaching courses in the country, marking a significant milestone for coaching development in Nigeria.

In a letter addressed to the NFF, CAF's Coaching Education Project Manager, Jaida Zakaria, informed the NFF that the submitted CAF A course curriculum had been approved. The letter stated that the federation can now proceed to request a CAF A

course through the CMS, subject to an inspection visit.

Reacting to the breakthrough, Dr. Terry Eguaoje described the achievement as huge one which will avail indigenous coaches the opportunity to have the highest CAF coaching

certification.

"This is truly huge, after nine years! Admission into the CAF A coaching convention is a big deal. This is in addition to the CAF D, C and B that had been approved at various times by CAF," Dr. Eguaoje said.

The elated coaching

education chief noted that the readmission completes the full CAF coaching pathway for Nigerian coaches and will significantly enhance the quality of coaching education in the country.

NFF General Secretary, Dr. Mohammed Sanusi, who is himself a CAF coaching instructor, also welcomed the positive development.

"We are elated by this positive development for the cause of coaching in our country. The NFF will commence preparations in earnest to put logistics in place for the first CAF A-Licence coaching course in this country since 2017," Dr. Sanusi stated.

The return to the CAF A Coaching Convention is expected to boost the standard of coaching in Nigeria, providing local coaches with access to the highest level of CAF certification without having to travel abroad.



# For News Round Lagos Read Echoneews

Read Echoneews Online  
 Subscribe for Echoneews Whatsapp E-Copy  
 www.echoneews.ng @ Publisher@echoneews.ng

Published by Echoneews Newspapers Limited

21, Ona Iwa Mimo Street, Ori Oke Bus Stop, Ejigbo, Lagos. www.echoneews.ng Email: echoneews1111@yahoo.co.uk  
 Managing Editor: Obe Rasheed • Editor: Kunle Awosiyan Circulation: Opeyemi Akinlade • Adverts: 08025378799