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Model Colleges : Why Lagos Should Reduce Boarding Fees - Parents

• Parents should bear with tax payers - Lagos govt

Kunle Awosiyan

Many parents who cannot afford the new boarding fee of the Lagos Model Colleges have started withdrawing their children from the schools. A parent, Mrs. Angnes Okafor who has her daughter at the Lagos Model College, Meiran was among the parents who protested against the boarding fee hike in front of the state secretariat on Monday.

She told Echonews that she would be withdrawing her daughter from the school if the state government would not reduce the fee, which is now N100,000 per term. According to her, some parents had already withdrawn their children, adding, "I'm also considering the same option but I have to leave my work to join the protest, perhaps the government will listen to us. If there is no amendment, I have told the girl to prepare for any of the other public schools around."

Recall that the state government announced hike in the feeding

allowance and some other welfare activities but the parents cried out that the boarding fee was increased from N35,000 to N100,000.

The Parents Forum of Model Colleges stormed the secretariat gate and also directed some of its members to the various colleges where they refused the teachers from entering the schools. They shut down all model colleges.

Our correspondent who visited some of the colleges at Ojo, Ikorodu and Meiran noticed a low turnout of pupils.

It was gathered that many parents refrained from sending their children to the schools due to their lack of money to pay the new tuition. Attempts by the parents to persuade the teachers to accept their wards failed, which did not go down well with most of the parents on ground.

At Igbokuta Junior Model College, Pupils who had not paid N70,000 mandatory fee were not allowed to enter school. They were locked out by the teachers.

However, the school principal whom one of the



Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Jamiu Tolani Alli-Balogun

pupils identified as Mr. Raheem later intervened and instructed the teachers to register the pupils for resumption of school.

At this point, more students were allowed to come into the school and resume their academic activities. However, some parents had left angrily with their wards.

Also, it was observed that students in JSS1 and SSS1 who had initially paid the compulsory N70,000 were allowed into the school premises by the teachers.

Speaking on the issue, one of the concerned parents at Igbokuta Model College, Dr. Taofeek Ayinde, appealed to the Lagos State Government

to rescind its decision on the hike on the boarding fee.

According to him, the government should listen to the plights of parents and guidance on the issue, stressing that the government did not show empathy with the parents especially at this time of economic doldrums.

According to another parent, Esther Chidiebere, most parents thought the government would reverse or reduce the money during the midterm break but it never happened.

"I have two boys at the Model College, Ojo. I have withdrawn one and allowed the older one to continue. I'm a widow but then these children are my life. My salary is N80,000. I work in a private company," she said.

Some pupils in JSS1 and SSS1 who had already paid a mandatory N70,000 were allowed into the school without issue, highlighting disparities in the

enforcement of the tuition policy.

On September 16, the state government through a statement by the Ministry Basic and Secondary Education said that the review of the boarding fee is inevitable. It said it is aware a few parents have shown some concern about the inevitable increase in boarding fees in the State model colleges. Which, obviously has not been an easy decision to make.

The Ministry in the release, reassures all parents, that the welfare of their Children remains a top priority. Noting that the Lagos State Government continues to provide free education in 1,021 Primary schools, 369 Junior Secondary and 329 Senior Secondary schools which include the 32 model colleges across the State, which are Boarding Schools, except, Vetland Junior and Senior Secondary Schools.



Model College Meiran

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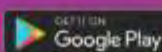
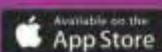
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Model Colleges : Why Lagos Should Reduce Boarding Fees - Parents

Parents should bear with tax payers - Lagos govt



Lagos Model College, Ojo

It urged parents to bear with taxpayers, adding that a lot goes into rehabilitating the hotels and make it habitable for the pupils even when the price of building materials had continue to go up. The Statement also explained that enrolment of a child into a Boarding School is an individual choice of every parent, and as such, they are expected to pay boarding fees at the beginning of every school term.

It noted that the boarding fees is used basically for feeding, janitorial and other cost-related miscellaneous to keep the Students in the hostels per term. The Schools from

this fees, also take care of energy costs of fuel and cooking gas, which are essential for preparing meals for boarding Students. According to the statement, "the concern of ensuring better welfare for our model college students, who are about one per cent of the entire basic and secondary school student population in the State, necessitated the increase in boarding fees.

The model college students enjoy all other privileges of free education vis a vis provision of education infrastructure, free tuition, technology support (free devices) provision of

adequate security in schools and payment of terminal examination fees (LASG pays WAEC fees for all public school students). The #35,000 boarding fees being paid since 2021 are not realistic in 2024. Ideally, none of our parents will testify to the reasonability of feeding a child of 12 to 18 years with 35,000 for three months. Noting that a comparative analysis of Federal and State public schools with boarding facilities across the country shows that the Lagos State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education is still very considerate of the reviewed rate

despite the incomparable cost of food and other expenses.

Meanwhile, the Lagos State House of Assembly has intervened following a protest by the parents. The Chairman, House Committee on Education, Hon. Mosunmola Sangodara, had been asked to invite all the concerned stakeholders and report back within a week.

This directive came after the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, met with the protesters at the Assembly gate.

During plenary on Monday, Obasa said that he had to intervene when he heard the crowd chanting protest

songs at the entrance to the Assembly.

He advised the parents to remain calm, assuring them that the matter would be addressed. Hon. Sangodara (Surulere II) informed the House that the committee had already engaged the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders.

Hon. Shabi Adekola (Lagos Mainland II) also explained that during a meeting with the officials of the Ministry of Education and others, it was agreed that the parents should continue paying N35,000 pending further review of the fees.

Hon. Gbolahan Yishawu (Eti-Osa Constituency II)

pointed out that the increment was primarily related to students' feeding costs. He, however, urged the government to explore ways to ease the financial burden on parents and offer assistance where necessary.

In his contribution, Hon. Bonu Solomon (Badagry I) added that parents had raised concerns that students unable to pay the new fee were not allowed to purchase food within the school premises adding that this had further complicated the situation.

The House is expected to await the report from the education committee before taking further steps.

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Environmental Sustainability: Lagos To Reward Compliant Industries



In its determined efforts to strengthen government advocacy programmes on pollution prevention, minimising industrial waste discharge and promoting innovations, the Lagos State Government has said that it is organising an industrial pollution abatement award.

This is to recognise and award industries with sound pollution abatement systems, across all industrial sectors in the State.

The Cleanest Award ceremony, also known as the Lagos Industrial Pollution Abatement Award (LIPAA), is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, November 26th, 2024, at the Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos.

The General Manager of Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA), Dr. Tunde Ajayi, who disclosed this today during a press conference held in Alausa, explained that the Year 2024 LIPAA award is aimed at encouraging industries, especially Manufacturing Organisations to implement pollution

prevention measures and stop the practice of discharging untreated waste (liquid or gaseous) directly into the environment or water bodies for public safety and the ecosystem.

According to Ajayi, the award will also encourage industries operating in the State to prioritise cleanliness and public safety in their operations, thereby, ensuring more compliance with government standard regulations on pollution control, industrial waste management and effluent discharge for the safety of the environment and the general public.

He disclosed that the initiative was conceived when it was observed during the agency's routine industrial inspection, that several industrial organisations operating in the State were mostly operating without pollution abatement plants in place, thereby discharging their untreated waste (liquid or gaseous) directly into the environment/water bodies. Also, some of those organisations with existing treatment plants

have packed them up for one technical problem or the other, thereby discharging raw effluent and air pollutants into the environment against the standard manufacturing regulations.

"It is against this background that LASEPA, as an Environmental Regulator charged with the responsibility of protecting the environment in the State, is organising this industrial pollution abatement award among our industries in the state to encourage them to implement pollution prevention measures and comply with the standard environmental practices.

"We want to ensure that all our manufacturing organisations have perfect and efficient pollution abatement and effluent treatment plants in place so that they don't discharge their hazardous wastes into the environment or water bodies for public safety and the ecosystem", he stated

Ajayi further disclosed that the award and prizes to be given have been categorised into nine sections within the

industrial sectors, meaning that each of the sectors will be recognised and awarded for being the best in cleanliness and compliance with the State environmental regulations in their respective sectors. The nine industrial Sectors, according to Ajayi include Foods, Beverages and Tobacco, Paints and Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Iron and Steel, Domestic /Industrial Plastics and Rubber. Other Sectors include Pulp/Paper, Printing and Publishing, Cosmetics, Soap and Detergents and finally, Non-metallic and Mineral Products.

He further explained that the award of recognition which will be made an annual event, will be given to the winners and two runners-up in each category, adding that the ceremony will be attended by top government officials including representatives of the members of the Lagos State Executive Council, (Lagos EXCO), Lagos State House of Assembly, Captains of Industry and other dignitaries drawn from the Public and private sectors.

Project 10m: LIMH Collaborates With LASG, Offers Hypertension Screening

Lagos Island Maternity Hospital, in collaboration with the Lagos State Government on "Project 10 Million", has offered scores of people, including patients and staff, free health screenings to mitigate the health risks associated with hypertension and diabetes that are now prevalent in the country

The exercise, which witnessed a large turnout of residents, was held on Friday inside the hospital's car park on the Island.

The proactive move on the life-threatening diseases by the hospital, is in line with the State Government's effort at curtailing the dreaded Hypertension Diabetes Mellitus through a comprehensive screening and public health enlightenment campaign tagged, "Know Your Numbers, Control Your Numbers".

Speaking at the event, the Head of Pharmacy of the hospital, Pharmacist Solape Adebayo said hypertension and diabetes, including obesity and high blood sugar, if detected early, could be proactively contained, through strict compliance to prescribed drugs routine and healthy living.

She said people will be doing themselves a world of good by engaging in regular check-ups for early detection of disease or ailment, to prevent untold suffering

when allowed to get out of hand, before seeking medical help.

According to her, "The diseases are treatable if detected early, with a healthy diet and disengagement from unwholesome lifestyle".

The Medical Director/CEO of LIMH, Dr. Olufemi Omololu explained that the campaign is in line with the National "10 Million Project" initiated by the Nigeria Governors' Forum.

He said the event, which coincided with the World Stroke Day of October 29, 2024, was designed to better educate the masses on the diseases that often lead to stroke, adding that the exercise is also to availed the people opportunities of free vital checks from 29th October to November 1, 2024.

Speaking further, Dr. Omololu explained that through regular checks on blood pressure, blood sugar screening, and other vital health indices, residents "can take control of their health", adding that such initiative by the State Government has, once again, demonstrated its intention and determination to safeguard the health and well-being of Lagosians, irrespective of state of origin.

The programme had Doctors, Pharmacists, Nurses and Medical Laboratory officers on ground, tending to the health needs of people that turned out.

LSMTL Moves To Curb Production, Sales of Substandard Building Materials

The Lagos State Materials Testing Laboratory Agency (LSMTL) is set to direct a fierce quality control mechanism in curbing the influx of substandard building materials used for the construction of projects across the metropolis.

As part of stringent measures in averting persistent building collapse, the General Manager of the Agency, Engr. Olayinka Abdul has called for the collective refusal of consumers to purchase sub-standard products such as steel, iron rods, electrical cables as well as the cement used for construction, even right at the point of discharge of such goods in the Open Market.

Engr. Abdul made this call during the courtesy visit of a 15-man delegation from the Association of Real Estate Developers of Lagos State (AREDOLS) led by its Chairman, High Chief Bashiru Lawal, the Eletu Ilado and Inagbe Island, appealing for deliberate and sustained efforts from developers,

construction workers and consumers to check advent of subpar services emanating from use of items that are below standard, yet unnecessarily expensive. She said, "I urge you to place a revolution on the purchase of these substandard goods that have proliferated quality assurance in the open market, which subjects construction of projects to mediocrity and one that perpetuates danger to lives. Nigeria is not the only country across the continent affected by inflation. This is a global phenomenon, yet, we have most of the building materials coming at a very reduced presentation with a supposedly 12mm iron rod coming at 8mm upon test, technically reducing the durability of projects, or worse still posing danger to lives"

"The cost and quality of a purchase are quite abnormal. Hence, sanctions will be placed on curbing the circulation of these substandard building materials in Lagos. Let every



construction worker petition these companies on why they grossly depreciate production quality that will invariably induce future loss either during checks on materials testing procedures or building collapses, which will all count as documented evidence against them when actions are taken", Engr. Abdul added.

While speaking on the Lagos State policy on construction processes, the General Manager

admonished that statutory Destructive Tests should be executed at every stage of erecting structures, with Non - Destructive Tests particularly slated for renovation works to long-standing buildings or fire-engulfed structures.

She disclosed that short messages will be sent soon to all captured houses on the Electronically Generated Information System of construction sites of houses that span 10 years

of existence and those of over 50 years considered heritage structures.

Her words, "It is quite sad that most long-standing buildings of over 50 years are being demolished for newer structures, thus leaving Lagos State without heritage buildings. This development is abnormal and will certainly jeopardise the unique feature of every settlement and its peculiar Real Estate pattern. These structures should be professionally reinforced as heritage buildings and not destroyed to accommodate newer structures that, most times, are subservient to these edifices".

"To discuss this extensively, we have planned a stakeholders' forum at every community hall in the IBILE settlements of Lagos State and also to deliberate on construction issues, as well as some fall-out approaches that will affect some settlers on the revamped processes of the Agency being part of

systematic change to curb episodes of collapse across the State", she added.

In his address, the Chairman of AREDOLS, Chief Bashiru Lawal, applauded Engr. Abdul's incentives and initiative at ensuring newer modalities of operations for seamless scrutiny of Materials tests in averting buildings' collapse.

Chief Hawwal Sanni, the General Secretary of AREDOL, stated that the Government's presence is highly required in curbing anomalies associated with Materials tests, as this is the only strategy in curtailing unprofessionalism through the formulation of policies which will foster adequate participation of its over 300 members, across Lagos State.

He said, "We are well aware of newer modalities by your Agency, and we want to associate with it to ensure that all levels of unprofessionalism are curbed under Government policies that will certainly foster development".

The Chairman, Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM), Mrs. Victoria Mopelola Peregrino has implored teachers to be ready to invest in themselves in the ever-changing technological system if they must remain relevant in the new world order.

She gave the advice in her remarks at the opening ceremony of a two-day workshop organised by the Commission for Teachers on GLs 15-17 drawn from all the education districts in the State.

She noted that the teaching world has reached a great milestone that has never been achieved in history with the advent of technological innovations and the emergence of digital platforms.

TESCOM Deepens Teachers' Knowledge of Creating Technology-Infused Classroom

Peregrino further disclosed that the two-day workshop was carefully designed, bearing in mind that the 21st-century teaching methodology has been greatly characterised by constant changes and disruption of the old order. The Chairman reiterated the commitments of the State Government to continually train and retrain teachers across all levels to build their capacity to meet the 21st-century educational challenges.

Welcoming participants to the workshop, the Permanent Secretary of the Commission, represented by the Director of Teachers

Education and Capacity Development, Mrs. Aloba Abidemi, thanked the State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, for his continued support to the education family, especially TESCOM.

Aloba implored participants to maximise the opportunities inherent in the two-day workshop, which was designed to deepen their knowledge of technology and bring about overall improvements in transforming the students as well as building public confidence in the teachers.

The opening ceremony of the workshop had in attendance board

members of the Commission, Dr. Segun Agbaje representing District III and Mrs. Abimbola Adeola Idowu, representing District IV. They both advised participants to be active, make it a participatory workshop and get the best of the opportunity to improve their performances in their various classrooms.

The theme of the two-day workshop, held at the Teaching Service Staff Development Center, Owutu, Ikorodu, is "Creating and Maintaining A Technology-Infused Classroom for Advanced Level Teacher GLs 15-17".



Lagos is Our Old Time Friend-UK Foreign Secretary

• British MP visits Lagos in first diplomatic mission to Africa

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, received the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary, Mr. David Lammy, in a courtesy call at the State House in Marina, hours after the British envoy arrived Nigeria in his first trip to Africa to discuss UK's new approach to the continent. Lammy, accompanied by the British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Dr. Richard Montgomery, and his deputy, Jonny Baxter, said Lagos became his first port of call in his Africa tour, given the centuries-old relationships between the two countries.

The Foreign Secretary said the socio-cultural and economic relationship between the United Kingdom and Nigeria was second to none, pointing out that Lagos had a huge number of families with relatives in London and other parts of the UK. The mutual dealings, the envoy said, had been further strengthened in business, remittances and finance cooperation.

Lammy said his visit was to further enhance the bilateral ties between the two countries, creating mutual understanding that would unlock more opportunities for both sides in thriving trade relations. He said: "My first port of call in my visit to the continent of Africa is Lagos, which is naturally a bustling economic hub not just for Nigeria but also West Africa. What I have been experiencing since my arrival in Lagos is dynamism, vibrancy and huge opportunities that exist in this great city. These values befit our approach to the continent, which rests on mutual growth of our economies.

"We have seen how the Red Line is increasing transportation options in Lagos and it is pleasing to

see UK manufacturers as being part of this transportation growth in Lagos. We want to see more of mutual cooperation in this sector. There is more we can do in several other areas. I am here to say the UK is very much open for more business with our old friends, and I dare say Lagos represents the old friendship. There is a win-win for our businesses and our societies."

Lammy said the UK looked forward to a new partnership with Lagos in expansion of clean energy consumption, which would help the city to bolster its adaptation to climate change.

The Foreign Secretary

mulled a potential deal with two UK companies willing to invest in clean and renewable energy in Lagos.

Sanwo-Olu told the visiting British envoy that the new UK's trade approach aligned with the State's growth plan, noting that Lagos possessed a huge population of creative and dynamic young people yearning for new opportunities across sectors.

He said the State Government had sustained an investment in knowledge-based training opportunities for young people to develop their talents and make their skills lucrative in modern economic order.

This agenda, the Governor said, is to make Lagos a human development capital of the continent, where investors would find competent professionals with right skills in any sector of the economy.

Sanwo-Olu shared business opportunities

waiting to be harnessed in waste management, stressing that Lagos grappled with over 10,000 metric tons of waste daily, which could serve as raw materials for companies converting waste to clean energy.

He said: "We want you to

go back home with the level of confidence that Lagos is a place to put investment and we will continue to make this environment a lot more attractive to businesses that are looking forward to more growth and opportunities."



Sanwo-Olu Seeks More Investors at Global Summit on Tourism

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has called on investors to partner with the State Government in building a sustainable tourism ecosystem around the vast human capital and natural resources in Nigeria.

The Governor spoke during the Opening Ceremony of the Global Tourism Investment Summit organised by the International Tourism and Investment Conference (ITIC) at Queen Elizabeth II Centre, Westminster, London.

The theme of the Global Tourism Investment Summit, which aims to provide fresh perspectives and insights on the future of environmentally friendly investments and the sustainability of the global tourism industry, was "The Evolving Landscape of



the Hospitality Sector: Embracing Green and Sustainable Investments."

Governor Sanwo-Olu was represented at the high-level gathering of tourism ministers, industry leaders, and developers from the tourism, travel, and hospitality sectors by the Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka.

Speaking as a Keynote Speaker during the morning conversations

on "Tourism perspectives in the evolving global economic context," Governor Sanwo-Olu spoke about the strides his administration has made in tourism development and the role the entire value chain in Arts, Fashion and Music Creatives has played in promoting Lagos tourism globally.

He, however, noted the room for improvement and called for investors to join in building a sustainable tourism

ecosystem around the vast human capital and natural resources in Nigeria.

He said: "Our Government is very deliberate about the need to improve the tourism ecosystem in Lagos State and that's why we carefully infused Entertainment and Tourism as a major pillar in our T H E M E S + development agenda.

"We have made modest achievements in tourism, entertainment and arts since the start of the administration. We have trained thousands of youth in different areas of creative arts such as film making, animation, music production among others.

"The Government has given grants to film producers and other professionals in the ecosystem, making magic that speaks to the spirit of Lagos as

the creative hub in Africa."

According to the Chairman, International Tourism Investment Corporation Ltd, and former Secretary-General of UNWTO, Dr. Taleb Rifai, and the Group CEO & Managing Director of International Tourism Investment Corporation Ltd, Ibrahim Ayoub, Governor Sanwo-Olu was invited to the summit and honoured based on his unwavering commitment to investing in and developing Lagos State as a premier global tourism destination.

The Global Tourism Investment Summit plays a significant role in advocating for global investment in sustainable tourism projects, thereby shaping the future of the global tourism industry.

Lagos Felicitates Tiffany Amber

The Lagos State Government has applauded Tiffany Amber for its resilience and growth in Nigeria's fashion industry as it marks its 25th anniversary with a grand runway event at Eko Atlantic City, on Saturday. In his opening remarks at the event, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu emphasised the need to create an enabling environment where the private sector can thrive. saying "We must present ourselves and create an ambience that allows businesses, particularly in the creative sector, to flourish, do well, and grow". He highlighted that fashion is not only part of the creative industry but also a crucial component of Lagos State's tourism ecosystem. Governor Sanwo-Olu reiterated that the Lagos

State Government is dedicated to supporting the creative industry, underscoring its role in boosting the state's economy and cultural influence. "The creative industry is one that the Lagos State Government is firmly committed to, offering our support through policies, choice of appointments, programmes, and, where possible, financial backing to ensure the sector's growth", he stated. He acknowledged the contribution of Folake Akindele-Coker, the founder of Tiffany Amber, who pioneered Nigeria's first ready-to-wear fashion label when the brand launched in November 1998. The Governor noted that the runway event, one of the longest in recent years, mirrors the brand's ambition to compete globally, likening it to the

prestigious runways of Paris and New York. Speaking at the event, Mrs. Folake Akindele-Coker expressed her excitement and appreciation for the dignitaries and guests present. She thanked all who have supported Tiffany Amber and

highlighted the brand's journey from Lagos to the world stage. "Our story has been written with resilience, brilliance, and elegance, and Lagos is where it all began. Lagos is where it will forever remain. Tiffany Amber's success is proudly Nigerian and deeply

connected to its roots", she said. Dignitaries in attendance included Ministerial Nominee for Industry, Trade, and Investment, Mrs. Jumoke Oduwole; Honourable Commissioner for Tourism, Arts, and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka; Honourable

Commissioner for Industry, Trade, and Investment, Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem; and Special Adviser on Climate Change and Circular Economy, Dr. Titilayo Oshodi, alongside other distinguished guests from the fashion and arts industries.



Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has reiterated his administration's willingness to continuously collaborate with relevant key players to address climate, environment and waste management challenges in the State. He assured the House of Representatives Committee on Ecological Funds that the Lagos State Government will put into good use and be accountable with the Ecological Funds and other support and interventions from the Federal Government. Governor Sanwo-Olu spoke at the weekend while receiving members of the House of Representatives' Committee on Ecological Funds, led by its Chairman, Hon. Aminu Sani Jaji, at the Lagos House, Marina. Sanwo-olu, while seeking more support in mitigating environmental issues in the state, stressed the benefits of timely completion of the

Lagos Will Make Good Use of Ecological Fund-Sanwo-Olu

proposed intervention to avert additional costs.

He said, "You are coming at a time we really need help. But we don't just want help; we want partnership. We want people that appreciate and understand the need for us to solve problems, and by solving the problems, you are not solving the Lagos problems; you are solving the Nigeria's problems because Lagos is a place that every ethnic national has a representative.

"We want to plead that whatever you are supporting us with, let us see it to completion because a job that is 80 percent done is not still done. It is only when it is 100 percent that we can say it is done.

"I want to assure the committee of our willingness to work with you and seek the

support that you are willing to extend to us. We assure you that whatever support is given to us, we will put it to good and accountable use and show the benefits of the intervention."

Speaking earlier, Hon. Jaji said his Committee

will ensure that substantial intervention comes to Lagos to address ecological and environmental challenges.

He said, "We have visited several places in Lagos, and we have seen the challenges, and all the challenges we

saw are real challenges, and the challenges must be addressed permanently with the intervention fund from the Federal Government.

"We will ensure that the Ecological Fund is utilised properly. We will ensure that Lagos State

gets significant intervention. All the committee members were so impressed with the Lagos State Government capacity and the way it is addressing issues. So, the Committee will ensure that substantial intervention comes to Lagos."



Compliance With Procurement Law, Non-Negotiable - Pedro

The Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice in Lagos State, Mr. Lawal Pedro (SAN), has declared that compliance with the Public Procurement Law of the State by all stakeholders in public procurement is sacrosanct and non-negotiable.

Mr. Pedro made the declaration in an address delivered on his behalf by a Director of Commercial Law in the Ministry of Justice, Mrs. Folashade Thomas-Orogan, who represented him at the Procurement Summit, organised by the Lagos State Public Procurement Agency.

The Attorney-General who is also a member of the Governing Board of the Lagos State Public Procurement Agency, pointed out that in keeping with the provisions of the Procurement Law, the procurement process of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the State must be transparent, competitive and accountable, adding that anything to the contrary is unacceptable.

Mr. Pedro, therefore, enjoined public officers saddled with the responsibility of managing resources of the State Government, including Accounting Officers, Procurement Officers, Accountants, State Counsel, Auditors and Planning Officers, among others to be conversant with the Procurement Law and fully comply with its



provisions with regard to their functions.

He warned that nobody has the liberty or the licence "to set aside any provisions of the Law to suit his/her whims and caprices at any time and under any guise whatsoever", adding that public officers must therefore, "desist from unlawful actions that can bring the State Government into disrepute and cast doubts on the integrity of the public procurement system of the State".

The Attorney-General further pointed out the Procurement Law must be complied with at all times whether in a challenging or booming economic situation or circumstance.

Mr. Pedro also urged public officers in the State to continue to strive for excellence in the implementation of the Public Procurement Law so

that the State can continue to enjoy the honour and respect of diverse stakeholders in public procurement across the world and also reap the benefits of efficiency and probity associated with due process in public procurement.

In his welcome address at the occasion, the Director-General, Lagos State Public Procurement Agency, Mr. Fatai Idowu Onafowote explained that the Summit was organised as a platform for stakeholders to brainstorm and generate ideas that would strengthen the public procurement system in the State in the midst of the current economic challenges in the country, pointing out that this informed the choice of the theme of the Summit: "Ensuring Best Practices in Public Procurement in a Dwindling Economy".

The Director-General noted that the rising costs in the macro-economic environment have serious implications for public

procurement, practitioners, service providers and other people entrusted with the management of public funds as Governments at all levels are expected to justify the primary objectives for their existence by ensuring the security and welfare of the citizenry even in a challenging economic situation as currently being experienced in the country and even beyond.

Mr. Onafowote added that the Summit was, therefore, designed "to proffer practicable solutions and strategies that will enable the State Government to deliver dividends of democracy to the people of the State without compromising quality or circumventing due

process in public procurement even at a time of macro-economic instability our country is currently passing through".

He, therefore, expressed the hope that participants at the Summit would generate ideas that would assist public officers who manage public funds and resources to develop and implement policies and strategies that would put the State Government on a good pedestal in meeting its obligations to the people of the State.

The Director-General expressed appreciation to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu as well as the State House of Assembly for their relentless support of the Agency.

Also, in a goodwill message, the Chairman, House Committee on Procurement, Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon.

Samuel Olufemi Apata pointed out that the House is particularly interested in the Agency because there is a nexus between the objectives of the Office and the oversight functions being carried out by the House.

Hon. Apata added that while there is no point denying that there are economic challenges confronting the nation, there is no justification for cutting corners and compromising due process in public procurement activities in the State.

The lawmaker restated the commitment of the Honourable Speaker and Members of the House to continue to support and complement the efforts of the Agency towards ensuring best practices in the public procurement system of the State.

Other dignitaries who participated at the event were the Special Adviser to the Governor on Taxation and Revenue, Mr. Abdul-Kabir Ogunngbo; the Permanent Secretary, Office of Works, Arc. Adebayo Odusanya; the Executive Chairman, Lagos Internal Revenue Service (LIRS), Mr. Ayodele Subair; the Chairman, Special Committee on the Rehabilitation of Public Schools (SCRPS), Mr. Hakeem Smith; representatives of Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the State as well as Procurement Officers of MDAs of the State, among a host of others.

WAPA Takes “Ounje Lore Awo” To Lagos Island

The Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA), on Friday, took the “Ounje L'Ore Awo” programme, a comprehensive food and nutrition initiative aimed at enhancing the health and well-being of women and families across the state to the Lagos Island division. Commissioner for WAPA, Hon. (Mrs.) Bolaji Dada, who led the charge at the programme targeted at 120 women in Lagos Island Local Government Area,

emphasised that the programme aligns with the Federal Food and Nutrition initiative and WAPA's commitment to combating malnutrition and promoting healthy eating across the state. “Women play a vital role in the family, particularly in ensuring nutritious meals at home,” Dada noted. She highlighted WAPA's outstanding performance, achieving the highest ranking among 13 government agencies on the 2023 Food & Nutrition policy implementation, with a

notable 66.93% score in the national ranking. Reflecting on the programme's guiding principle, “You are what you eat,” the Commissioner explained the health impacts of good nutrition, stating, “Proper nutrition is crucial for physical, mental, and emotional health. By making conscious food choices, we can build healthier, happier communities across Lagos State.” The “Ounje L'Ore Awo” programme has already reached several communities, including Ikorodu, Eti-Osa,

Alimosho, and Somolu, with plans to expand to Badagry LGA, Badagry West, and Olorunda LCDAs in the coming weeks. Earlier this year, WAPA was a key participant in launching Lagos State's new five-year Multisectoral Plan of Action for Food and Nutrition (2025-2029), demonstrating the Ministry's dedication to advancing food security and health across Lagos. In her goodwill message at the event, the Chairman of the House Committee on Women Affairs and Job

Creation, Princess Omolara Lawal Olumegbon, who commended the Ministry for bringing the initiative to the Lagos Island division, called for the capturing of more residents of the division in all of its programmes and policies. As part of the event, nutritionist and food expert, Shola Malomo encouraged attendees to practice mindful eating, stressing the importance of balanced meals and food hygiene. Delivering the vote of thanks, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Mrs. Oluyemi Kalesanwo, recognised the

commitment of the Lagos State government to the development of families, households and every citizen. Mrs. Kalesanwo also urged beneficiaries to complement the state government's efforts by staying healthy, eating well and influencing members of their families to do the same to ensure a Greater Lagos for all. Attendees included notable figures such as Lagos Island APC Chairman, A.G.O Sodiq and Taofeek Ope, Secretary of APC Lagos Island Local Government.



WAPA Commends Leadership of Lateef Jakande Academy

The Honourable Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA), Mrs. Bolaji Cecilia Dada has commended the leadership of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy (LJLA). Speaking during a visit of the Academy, led by the Executive Secretary, Mrs. Aishat Okunade to the Ministry on Thursday, Hon. Dada said all the fellows of the Academy that have been deployed to the Ministry are a true reflection of what the Academy represents, which is grooming young men and women. She said the commitment to fostering leadership development and empowerment is truly commendable, adding that the Ministry is always willing to collaborate with the Academy.

Dada said that she has had the honour of attending several of the academy programmes, and can personally attest to the positive impact they have had on participants. She said the Academy empowers individuals and equips them with the necessary leadership skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in various fields, thus contributing to the socio-economic development of our beloved state. In her remarks, the Executive Secretary of the academy, Mrs. Aisha Okunade said the visit signifies the



Academy's dedication to leadership, and appealed for continuous

collaborative opportunities, between the Ministry and the Academy in order to focus on ways to further

amplify the collective impact of both organisations. In her remarks, the

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mrs. Oluyemi Kalesanwo thanked the team for the

visit, adding that the Ministry looks forward to strengthening WAPA's collaboration with the Academy.

ASSEMBLY

Lagos Assembly Presents Cars To Senior Staff

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State House of Assembly has given out official cars to senior staff of its Directorate Cadre. The presentation held this week had beneficiaries which included directors and deputy directors across the various departments and units that make up the Assembly. Speaker of the House,

Honourable Mudashiru Obasa, said that the provision was made to bolster productivity and service, alongside enabling a seamless working experience for the recipients. Obasa also hinted that the occasion marked an important landmark to ensure effectiveness, encourage productivity and hard-work.

At the event, The Speaker said: "The Lagos State House of Assembly has become a yardstick for measuring legislative prowess and excellence due largely to the result-oriented focus of the staff and management. "As a result of this, it is just necessary to boost this efficiency and keep the

Assembly up there as the perfect example of legislative effectiveness that it has become in our democratic Nigeria. "We cannot falter or step down from the successes we have achieved so far. The Lagos State House of Assembly has created that pathway in this democracy for the smooth running of the society "We want to continue

to have a House of Assembly that does not only have a conducive environment, but with staff who are always eager to meet the needs of Lagosians through inputs in pro-people legislation for which the House is poised. "It is pleasing to say that the vehicles would help the beneficiaries meet official needs and tasks and enhance our collective goals of making Lagos better each day.

Reps Committee on Ecology Inspects Erosion-Prone Areas In Lagos

Members of the House of Representatives Committee on Ecology Funds on Friday visited Lagos to gain firsthand experience of some erosion-prone areas and ensure that all appropriated funds are properly applied. The team led by the Vice Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Oyedeji Oyeshina, included Hon Paul Nnamchi, Hon Kafilat Ogbara, Hon Ahmed Doro, Hon Hassan Abubakar 111, Hon. Yakubu Noma, Abdullahi Gwarzo, Hon Patrick Umoh, Hon Aminu Aliyu Gari, Hon. Hassan Jakduwa, Hon Aminu Ibrahim Kafu, and Hon Danladi Aguye were received by a high powered team led by the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab being and taken round many of the erosion-prone areas of the State. Addressing newsmen after the tour, the Vice Chairman, Hon Oyedeji Oyeshina said the team was in Lagos just as it has gone round some other states in the geopolitical zone to find a lasting solution to erosion challenges in the State.

He said: "This team has visited some states in the Northern part as well as Eastern parts and now in the South West, we recognise that erosion challenges is part of the effects of climate change and funds allocated to combat it must be used judiciously" Hon Oyedeji explained that the federal government had decided to pause on the use of the Ecological Funds to allow the committee to conduct a holistic assessment and advise FG on the subsequent disbursement of the funds to States appropriately. He stressed that part of the committee's mandate is to ensure that all communities affected by erosion and other ecological issues are adequately catered for when the funds are allocated. According to him, "I would like to emphasise that the Federal Government would not relent but will continue to collaborate with all the states to perform its responsibilities of maintaining a safe and sustainable environment for all". While speaking, the Commissioner for the

Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab, expressed optimism that residents of the erosion-prone areas in the state would have cause to enjoy the benefits of the funds. "I believe very soon, our people are going to enjoy the benefits of these funds; According to what the Vice chairman just said, the Federal government had to pause on the disbursement of ecological funds deliberately which shows that it plans to rework the allocation

process to ensure it becomes more effective" Wahab added.

He recalled that the State Government officials had in 2019 conducted a comprehensive assessment on all erosion-affected areas and requested funds from the Federal government to resolve the issues.

He emphasised that it is very essential for the Federal and State Governments to collaborate in ensuring a sustainable development of all parts and providing a quality living environment for all residents.

He added that Lagos awaits the Ecological and intervention funds approval to fix some ecological challenges which the State has been experiencing for a while. He added that the funds would be deployed to some projects which have already been identified to address the devastating effect of erosion and flood menace in the affected communities.

He expressed appreciation to the committee members for visiting Lagos State in the South West to see how the erosion scourge which had posed a serious threat to lives and properties can permanently be addressed in the affected

areas and communities.

Also on the trip were the Permanent Secretary, Office of Drainage Services, Engr. Mahamood Adebite; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Waterfront Infrastructure Development, Mrs. Lolade Aina and other top State officials as well as staff of the committee from Abuja. The erosion-prone areas visited include Orimolade Street, off College Road; Alade Bucknor Estate, off Fagba Road; Sango Toll Gate Bridge, Lagos/Abeokuta Expressway; Maidan/Agiliti area of Ketu and Agboyi Ketu area of the State.



Couple On Trial For Sexually Assaulting Teenager

By Felix Kuyinu

A man and his wife have been held for prosecution over accusations of sexual assault on a 19-year-old girl.

The duo, Omolara Alashe and Rahmon Lateef, were arraigned at the Ikeja Special Offences and Domestic Violence Court in Ikeja, Lagos.

The Police told the sitting that the accused duo committed the alleged offence in Ketu, Lagos and are facing charges bordering on conspiracy, rape, sexual assault and stealing.

They pleaded not guilty. The Investigation Police Officer, IPO, Elizabeth Osikolu, said that that

the incident happened in 2022. She added that the victim's daughter, now deceased, sought for accommodation assistance from the defendants. The latter obliged.

The IPO said: "While the survivor was living with the first and second accused, she experienced physical abuse many times whenever she made mistakes.

"At other times, the 1st defendant would wake her up at midnight and stripe her naked and the second defendant would have sexual intercourse with her without her consent.

"They were in the sitting room one day when the



1st defendant suddenly started beating her, striped her naked and inserted her fingers in her vagina without her consent.

"After she was done, she threw out her belongings and seized

her ATM card and MTN line and the salary she was making at the time in order to deny her access to her money."

She continued: "The couple had a baby which died in October 2022. Since then, the 1st defendant has not

been able to conceive again.

"So they decided that instead of the 2nd defendant getting married again, they decided to use the survivor to bare children for him.

"The victim reported the

incident at the Lagos like necessary medical examination was conducted on her at Mirabel Centre.

Justice Rahman Oshodi, who presided over the matter, adjourned the case till February 3, 2025.

Suspect Held Over N5M Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

The Special Offences and Domestic Violence Court in Ikeja Lagos has sentenced one Sulaimon Tunde to remand over allegations of N5,000,000 fraud.

Justice Rahman Oshodi ruled that the suspect be held at the Ikoyi Correctional Centre till his re-arraignment.

During his initial arraignment by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, the suspect was said to be facing a three-count amended charge dated October 7, 2024, bordering on obtaining money by false pretence, stealing and issuance of dud cheque.

The charge reads: "That you, Sulaiman Razaq Tunde, sometime in 2024 in Lagos, with intent to defraud deceitfully obtained the sum of N5 million from one Kingsley Nwokike, by falsely representing to him that the said amount was for an investment into real estate, with 80 per cent return, of which representation knew to be false."

Furthermore, the defendant, without sufficient funds to his credit in Union Bank Plc, Account No. 0008531954 deceitfully issued a cheque No. 00090251, dated

21st July, 2023, in the sum of N9,000,000 in favour of Kingsley Nwokike as payment for both the principal and interest sum of money.

The defendant pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The prosecution urged the court to remand the defendant till his trial date. In reaction, the defence counsel, Blessing Ozioko, moved a bail application, praying the court to grant the application and on liberal terms.

Justice Oshodi, refused to grant the bail application saying. He said that the defence counsel should have filed it earlier.

The judge remanded the defendant and adjourned to December 13, 2024.

Man, 33, Arraigned For Rape, Armed Robbery

The Lagos State Police Command has arraigned one Leonard Okafor for allegedly raping and robbing a woman at gunpoint.

Okafor was put on trial at the Yaba Chief Magistrates' on a two-count charge bordering on rape and armed robbery. He was thereafter remanded at the Ikoyi Correctional Centre.

Earlier, the Police Prosecutor, Godwin Oriabure, told the Presiding Magistrate, Omobola Salawu, that the defendant committed the offences on October 10.

Face charge against the defendant reads: "That you, Okafor Leonard, 'm'on the 10th day of October 2024, at Bariga, in the Yaba magisterial District, did unlawfully have sexual intercourse with one [name withheld]'f'at gunpoint, threatening



By Felix Kuyinu

to kill her if she refused and thereby committed an offence punishable under section 260 (1) (2) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State of Nigeria, 2015."

Second charge reads: "That you, Okafor Leonard 'm'on the same date, time and place in the aforementioned magisterial district did rob one [name withheld]'f' of her money to the sum of Five thousand naira (N5,000) and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 296, punishable under section

297 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015."

Magistrate Salawu did not take Leonard's plea. Rather, she ordered the case file to be duplicated and a copy sent to the Director, Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for legal advice. She ordered that the defendant be remanded pending legal advice from the DPP and adjourned the case till November 14.

"Ecobank Nigeria Has Best Web Portal"

Ecobank Nigeria has been awarded the "Best Web Portal" in Nigeria at the Phillips Consulting Digital Jurist Awards, ahead of 22 other commercial banks. This prestigious recognition highlights Ecobank's leadership in digital banking and its commitment to delivering innovative, customer-focused solutions.

The Digital Jurist Awards, created by

digital experts at Phillips Consulting, assess the performance and effectiveness of digital platforms across various industries, including banking, telecommunications, and government. The evaluation covers websites, web portals, mobile apps, and social media, with a focus on organizations that have excelled in digital

transformation.

Kola Adeleke, Executive Director of Commercial Banking at Ecobank Nigeria, said the award is a reflection of the bank's commitment to using digital technology to enhance customer experience. He emphasized that digital banking is the future of the industry, and Ecobank has long embraced this shift. He also commended the

organizers and reiterated the bank's dedication to providing seamless, reliable, and secure digital banking solutions.

The recognition reinforces Ecobank's position as a leader in digital innovation and highlights the growing role of technology in shaping the future of banking. Ecobank Nigeria is an affiliate of the Ecobank Group, the leading private pan-

African banking group. Ecobank Nigeria offer a comprehensive suite of financial services and solutions to Consumer, Commercial, Corporate and Investment Banking clients at over 250 branches and 60,000 Xpress Point agencies.

The Ecobank Group was established in 1985 to drive the financial integration and socio-economic

development in Africa. With a presence in 35 sub-Saharan African countries as well as in France, the UK, UAE and China, Ecobank has unrivalled expertise and experience across Africa. Its pan-African platform provides a single gateway for payments, cash management, trade and investment across Africa and beyond.



Digital Jurist Awards

In this exclusive interview, our correspondence, SAHEED AFOLABI spoke with Nigeria foremost women football advocate and convener of the Soccer Queens Award, Moses Bako who talked about the impacts of the award to players and benefits to their careers.

What motivated you to organize the Soccer Queens Award?

I was motivated by the passion and dedication of female footballers, often overlooked and underappreciated. I wanted to create a platform to recognize and celebrate their achievements, inspiring future generations to pursue their dreams."

And that's why I took the 3 tiers of the NWFL Premiership Championship and Nationwide.

Why did you decide to focus on women's football?

I recognized the disparity in attention and resources between men's and women's football. By focusing on women's football, I aim to bridge this gap, promoting equality and empowering women in sports."

The sport has long been overshadowed by men's football, but it's gaining momentum, with the 2023 World Cup attendance nearly doubling since 2019. Women's football offers valuable lessons for advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in business and society. The key benefits of promoting women football, Promoting Gender Equality: Women's football challenges traditional gender roles and stereotypes, promoting equality and empowerment. Developing Leadership Skills: Playing sports imparts key skills like teamwork, leadership, grit, and resilience, benefiting women in their personal and professional lives. Inspiring Role Models: Visible role models in women's football inspire girls and women globally, fostering confidence and self-belief. Driving Social Change: Women's football can shift societal norms, generating new images of strong women and promoting positive change.

What's the criteria in selecting a deserved award winner?

Our selection process considers factors such as performance, skill, sportsmanship, leadership, and community impact. A panel of experts and stakeholders review nominations to ensure fairness



Moses Bako

and transparency.

It's a bit tasking because we need to be at venues to monitor the Premiership and the Championship.

What's the benefit of the awards to the players and coaches?

The Soccer Queens Award provides recognition, increased visibility, and motivation for players and coaches. It also offers opportunities for networking, sponsorship, and personal growth. For players, winning an award can signal to the world that they've arrived and help cement their

credibility, especially if they're young or emerging talents. It can also give them a morale boost, highlighting their achievements and hard work. For coaches, awards can raise their profile, leading to invitations to attend conferences, join judging panels, and speak at industry events. This increased visibility can attract new clients, talent, and opportunities. Awards can also showcase a coach's leadership and innovative approaches, demonstrating their ability to inspire and motivate their teams.

How would the award inspire other players?

By celebrating outstanding achievements, we inspire young players to strive for excellence, fostering a culture of determination and resilience. The award serves as a beacon of hope, encouraging girls and women to pursue football careers.

What are the challenges faced in organizing the Soccer Queens award?

"Key challenges in organizing the Soccer Queens Awards are:

Logistical Challenges

- Coordinating with various stakeholders, such as teams, players, and administrators

- Managing the nomination and voting processes

- Ensuring fairness and transparency in the selection process

Financial Challenges

- Securing funding and sponsorships

- Managing event expenses, such as venue rental and catering

Administrative Challenges

- Collecting and verifying nominee information

- Coordinating with presenters and guests

However, our dedication to empowering women in football drives us to overcome these obstacles.

How did you source finance for the award?

I approached individuals and

did a little crowdfunding and the following helped out Sabina Chikere, Fred Newton, Wemimo Matthew, Matilda Otuene, Onyinanya Ogechukwu, Faith Ikidi, Tochukwu Oluehi, Peace Ikerebe, Obi Ogbala, Faith Oluchi, Segun Akeusola, Ohia Juliana, Jadesola Adelabu, Tosan Blankson, Peter Alade, Bravehearts FC, Dirisu Kate, Vivian Ikechukwu, Tosin Ojo, Perpetua Nkwocha, Onome Ebi. Others are, SavidPro Sports and Villa Sports, Joseph Isokpehi Oyediji Oluwaseun, Moses Matswamgbe, Iseoluwa Ugiagbe, Saheed Afolabi, Saidu Mundi, Damilola Oyebode, Hassan Abdulsalam and Emmanuel Ochoche.

What's the sustainability plan for the Soccer Queens award?

We are planning to establish partnerships with forward-thinking organizations, sponsorships, and individual donors who share our vision. We want to seek Grants and develop a self-sustaining business model to ensure the award's continuity and growth.

What advice do you have for corporate bodies?

I encourage corporate bodies to recognize the value of investing in women's sports, particularly football. By supporting initiatives like the Soccer Queens Award, they contribute to empowering women, promoting diversity, and fostering social change.



DISCOVER LAGOS - THE JOHN RANDLE CENTRE FOR YORUBA HISTORY AND CULTURE

By Preye Blessing ALBERT

The John Randle Centre for Yoruba History and Culture, rebuilt with the aim to regenerate Lagos as a major centre celebrating local history and culture, is set to be a top tourist destination for Lagosians, Nigerians, and tourists interested in culture, history, and heritage. The center forms part of the Lagos State Government's plan to transform Marina and the Onikan region of Lagos state into a hub for tourism and recreational activity where the John K Randle Arcade was re-modelled into a recreation/tourism centre. The concept for the design centers on the idea of liberation; the weave as an inconspicuous but visible facet of Yoruba existence and the South West, which is made up of forests and plains. It consists of an Exhibition Centre & Gallery (the museum), Library, Multi-Purpose Hall, Learning Spaces, Restaurant and Lounges, a Pavilion for stage performances while retaining its swimming pool and sport facilities. The centre is located at the

loop of the Onikan roundabout bordering the iconic MUSON Centre and Onikan Stadium on one side and opposite the historical National Museum and The City Mall and covers an area of approximately 18,000 sqm. The centre lies where the Memorial Hall previously existed. The visitors enter the complex from under the rising monolith, the beginning portion of which doubles as a gateway. The design of the rising, curving structure is full of architectural elements that communicate visual metaphors of concepts, adopted from the Yoruba culture. As Yoruba culture shares the belief that humans are connected to nature, the building rising from the ground as an extension of the landscape, ties the architecture to its cultural relevance. The building leans forward by nine degrees as a symbol of Yoruba progressiveness. The metal screen facade that wraps the structure is another visual metaphor for intricate weaves which speaks of the craftsmanship of the Yorubas - the various forms of which are exhibited through the

fabric, looming, hair weaving, basket weaving, metal forging etc. The centre is a celebration of Yoruba history, art, language and influence, commissioned by Lagos State Government and designed to uplift the image of Lagosians, Yorubas and Nigerians, and explore their pioneers and legacies, including many stories of achievement which have not been properly examined before. The primary audience for this is Lagosians, especially school children but it is also designed to attract tourists and lovers of African art, locally and internationally. Why it is different Some unique aspects about the centre at a glance:

- 1. Hybrid Architecture:** The centre's building is a unique blend of traditional Yoruba and modern architecture, making it a striking landmark.
- 2. Cultural Preservation:** The John Randle Centre is dedicated to preserving and promoting Nigerian culture, particularly the Yoruba heritage.
- 3. Museum and Gallery:** The centre features a museum and art gallery showcasing Yoruba art,

artifacts, and historical exhibits.

- 4. Performance Space:** It has a performance arena hosting cultural events, music, and theatre productions.
- 5. Educational Programs:** The centre offers workshops, lectures, and classes on Nigerian culture, language, and traditions.
- 6. Hosting of Legends:** The John Randle Centre hosts the iconic car driven by brave and courageous Pelumi Nubi, the first Nigerian woman to drive from Britain to Nigeria by car. The car was donated to the center in memory of the iconic feat she did and is on display by the entrance into the exhibition gallery. The Legacy of Dr John Randle The centre is named after John Randle, a prominent Lagosian, pioneering medical doctor, politician and cultural advocate, built a public swimming pool in 1928 in King George V Park, later to become the Love Garden - a much loved recreational area. During the 18th-19th century, boats were not very safe and caused many deaths. In 1928, Dr John Randle witnessed this and bought

a piece of land in King John V Park, to build a swimming pool for Lagosians to learn to swim. This gesture was inspired by the fact that the British colonial office refused to construct the facility upon his request. On completion of the pool and garden, Dr Randle handed over the facilities to the Lagos Town Council with a maintenance purse to ensure its upkeep. This space was later named John Randle Arcade before it fell into disrepair. The centre continues to actively collect a broad range of items that will make it far from a traditional museum. It is being assisted by the National Commission for Museums and Monuments, and the National Museum Lagos in building the collections, along with private collectors. Let me please add that in a bid to create content or take pictures you might get carried away so please, take your time to enjoy the exhibition gallery or museum. Put your phone aside and have a great tour and learn one or two things then you can take your pictures.





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Lawmaker Launches Events App In Ifako-Ijaiye

Kehinde Adeleye



A ground-breaking hybrid social media and events app, eSocialMint, was officially launched by Mr. Benjamin Adeyemi Olabinjo, the representative for Ifako-Ijaiye Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives.

The grand unveiling took place last week Saturday Nov 2nd, at CitiHeight Hotel in Ikeja, Lagos, attracting a diverse crowd of attendees from various parts of the region. eSocialMint is set to revolutionize event coverage not only in Africa but also globally.

Echonews reports that this innovative platform empowers users to broadcast key

moments, promote their services, and establish connections on a worldwide scale.

What truly sets eSocialMint apart is its capability to bridge the gap between event organizers and local service providers, ultimately simplifying the planning process for events of all sizes.

During the launch event, Mr. Benjamin Adeyemi Olabinjo, shared his excitement about eSocialMint and its potential impact on the world of online interaction and connectivity. The Lawmaker took particular pride in the fact that the app's developer, Mr. Fisayo Olamigoke, hails from his Ifako-Ijaiye constituency, showcasing the talent and ingenuity present within the region.

Encouraging Nigerians to embrace eSocialMint, Olabinjo emphasized the app's groundbreaking

features and capabilities. He stressed that eSocialMint has the power to redefine online interaction and foster connections on a global scale.

Fisayo Olamigoke, the app's developer and CEO, also took the stage to showcase eSocialMint's unique offerings. Olamigoke highlighted the app's ability to host unlimited-time virtual meetings at no cost, a feature that sets it apart from competitors.

Beyond its social engagement aspects, eSocialMint is also geared toward driving job creation and skill development across Africa.

One notable initiative from eSocialMint involves training young tech professionals as "hologram engineers" to manage digital holographic presences at events. This program aims to empower African youth in the tech industry while revolutionizing event experiences.

IKEJA

RCCG To Feed 4,000 Persons in Ikeja

Kehinde Adeleye

College in Ikeja, Lagos.

The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Rose of Sharon Parish in Ikeja, is set to make a significant impact on the community by providing food items to over 4,000 individuals at its upcoming crusade.

Presiding Pastor Emeka Obiagwu announced the initiative at a press conference last week Tuesday, highlighting the church's commitment to serving those in need. Under the theme "Looking Back and Leaping Forward," the crusade is scheduled for November 23, 2024, and will take place at the Police

College in Ikeja, Lagos. With a focus on bringing together churches and individuals from Ikeja and its surroundings, the event aims to inspire hope and spiritual growth among attendees.

Mr Obiagwu said that people would be blessed with the word of God and food items such as rice packs, noodles, beverages and toiletries to cushion the effect of the economic challenges.

He said the crusade, formally known as "Ikeja for Christ Crusade," was first held in December 2021, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the parish.

He said, "The parish in 2021 renovated the



Ikeja High School Science laboratory, offered financial support to 20 small scale business owners within the church community, and the procurement of equipment worth two million naira for artisans. In line with the objectives of the RCCG General Overseer, Pastor Enoch Adeboye, this

parish is inclined to improve the lives of people within the community to make a better society and reduce crime. Our vocational school aims at empowering people with marketable skills is a subsidiary set up to train people free to make them financially independent. This year is not different from the good works but will focus on impacting the

general public spiritually and materially."

Mr Obiagwu described the initiative as part of the church's corporate social responsibility to its host community.

He said the annual interdenominational crusade and humanitarian service would feature renowned ministers such as the Pastor of the Living Faith Foundation, Kaduna, Joe Olaiya, Femi

Okunuga and Abimbola Praiseway.

Also speaking, an Associate Pastor of the church, Tunde Fowler, said the crusade would provide the church an opportunity to spread the message of hope embodied in Jesus Christ.

Mr Fowler, who observed that the present economic challenge was taking a toll on families, urged other churches to embrace the kind gesture of the parish.

He said through the provision of welfare packages for a minimum of 4,000 attendees, especially women, the church would help to ease the uncertainties people were contending with.

The Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, in October, tasked churches to materially impact their host communities, as part of evangelism.

Egongga s_x tapes split women on social media

The s-x tapes of the Director-General of the National Financial Investigation Agency of Equatorial Guinea, Baltasar Engonga has splitted women on the social media platforms.

On X, Facebook, Tiktok and Instagram, women who reacted to the issue gave divergent opinions with many of them condemning the act. However, a few comments from some women refused to blame Engonga escapades but the release of the visuals,, which they described as criminal.

Some of the comments on Facebook and X read;

"He has helped God to expose sinners. Every person will carry her/ his own cross", Lilly Kemuma said of FB.

"Engonga is a dream of any woman and to have 400 to himself is not even enough. King Solomon has 1000" said Mary Namyalo

To another woman, @Tosinic on X, "this sexmania of a man is a disgrace to humanity and a curse to womanhood, he should be prosecuted with his balls burnt.

To Adejumo Taiwo, More attention is on the female gender.

It's high time we focused our attention on the male gender too.

We need to focus on them and sensitize them on the need to live a decent life.

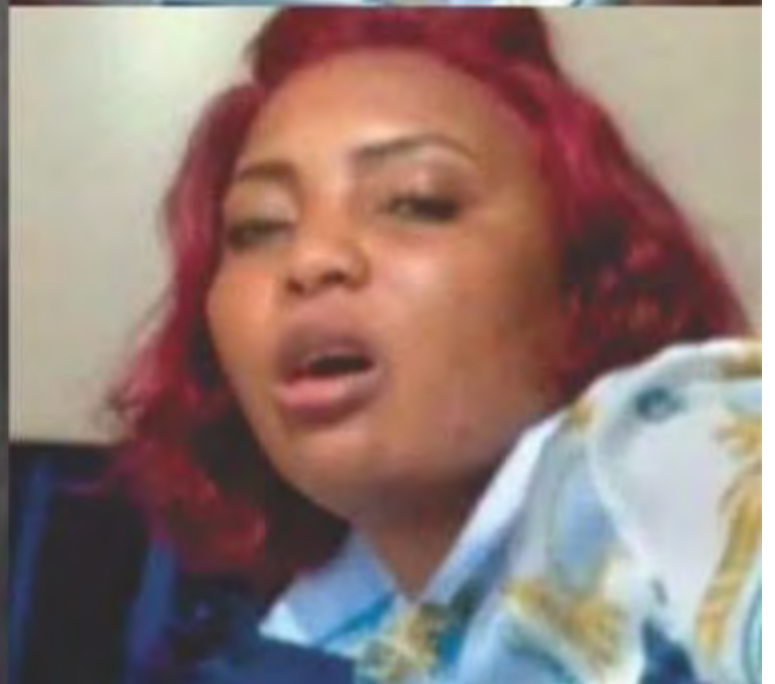
In the circle of boys! boys will bost and count the number of girls they slept with.

It takes a decent adult and matured man to enlighten them.

However, there are reports that one of the women seen in the sex videos has committed suicide.

The unknown lady committed suicide when the videos leaked.

Engonga was arrested for allegedly recording over 400 sextapes of the wives of



Egongga and one of the women

notable people in the country. The scandal emerged in the course of a fraud investigation against the 54-year-old Economist which resulted in the search of his house and office on impromptu notice by ANIF officials who came across several CDs that later revealed his sexcapades with different married women. The videos reportedly include encounters with high-profile individuals, such as his brother's wife, his cousin, the sister of the President of Equatorial Guinea, the Director General of Police's wife, and about 20 of the country's ministers' wives,

among others.

The footage, discovered in his personal office, was said to have been recorded with consent and has since been leaked online, causing a media uproar.

In a report by a local media platform, Ahora EG, since last October, Engonga has been involved in a sexual scandal unprecedented in the history of Equatorial Guinea.

The former ANIF DG better known as "Bello" had sexual relations with several women, some of them married, and filmed these intimate encounters.

The report read, "The most

striking thing is that some scenes took place in his work office, including moments in which he is seen sleeping with a woman next to the National Flag.

Based on this sexual scandal, the Executive has stated that the measure is a direct response to the acts that have affected the image of the country.

Reacting to the development on Monday, Equatorial Guinea has decided to take action by immediately suspending all officials who have had sexual relations in the offices of the country's ministries.

The government claimed that the decision was part of its "zero tolerance" policy towards behaviour that compromises the integrity of the public service.

The Vice President of the Republic, Nguema Mangué, has pointed out that these behaviours constitute a flagrant violation of the Code of Conduct and the Public Ethics Law.

In his publication on X, he emphasized that "ethics and respect are fundamental in our Administration," and that irresponsible attitudes that put citizen trust at risk will not be allowed.

Over 50 LASUSTECH Students Benefit from N7.8 Million NELFUND

By Nurudeen Adebayo



UPDATED STUDENT LOAN DISBURSEMENTS BY INSTITUTIONS

NAME OF INSTITUTION	APPROVED AMOUNT (N)	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
Oyo State College of Agric and Technology, Oyo State	N5,062,300.00	54
Prince Abubakar Abba University Argungu, Kebbi State	N13,615,730.00	127
Sule Lamido University Kofin Hausa, Jigawa State	N43,318,000.00	1,573
University of Maiduguri, Borno State	N138,123,475.00	3,020
University of Agriculture and Environmental Science Messengers, Imo State	N8,273,600.00	32
University of Cross River, Cross River State	N45,102,000.00	587
University of Nigeria Nsukka, Enugu State	N47,130,000.00	469
University of Oyo, Oyo State	N124,379,900.00	1,390
Yobe State University, Yobe State	N112,626,297.00	2,460
Yorubaland Delta University, Delta State	N475,952,750.00	6,173
Adamawa State University Muhi, Adamawa State	N62,876,500.00	1,665
Abia State University	N17,200,000.00	154
Ladoke Akintola University Ogbomoso, Oyo State	N83,916,000.00	666
Lagos State University of Science and Technology, Lagos State	N7,853,000.00	52
Niger Delta University Bayelsa State	N31,529,000.00	325
Yaba College of Technology, Lagos State	N3,395,000.00	75
Katsina State Institute of Technology, Katsina State	N838,600.00	14
Nigeria State University Katsina State	N292,905,000.00	2,275

Over 50 students at Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH) will benefit from a disbursement of N7,853,000, as part

of the National Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) student loan program. According to NELFUND's announcement on their X (formerly Twitter) platform, the funds will

be allocated to assist these students with their educational expenses. NELFUND announced that a total of 98 institutions across all six geo-political zones are now benefiting from the

student loan program. In total, 105,844 students are receiving financial assistance, with 11,047,793,949.80 disbursed to date. The statement reads: "98 Institutions across

all geo-political zones are now benefiting from student loans. "105,844 Students are receiving financial support, empowering them to achieve their educational dreams. 11,047,793,949.80

disbursed to date." As of the time of publication, the management of LASUSTECH has yet to make an official announcement regarding the disbursement.

In recognition of his steadfast support for peace and youth development initiatives, the Chairman of Kosofe Local Government Area, Barr. Moyosore Adedoyin Ogunlewe, has been appointed as the Patron of the Lagos State Scout Council, Kosofe Division. The investiture ceremony, held at the Chairman's office on last week Tuesday, was attended by representatives of the council who were unanimous in their support of this distinguished appointment. Ogunlewe's commitment to fostering peace and progress within the community, coupled with his strong advocacy for youth empowerment, made him a natural choice for

Ogunlewe Becomes Lagos Scout Patron

Kehinde Adeleye

this prestigious role. As Patron, he will play a crucial part in guiding and inspiring the Lagos State Scout Council, Kosofe Division. (The Chairman and members of the Lagos Scout Council during the investiture at his office) During the event, the council highlighted Barr Ogunlewe's exemplary contribution to empowering the youth within the local government area and fostering an

environment conducive to their growth and wellbeing. As the newly appointed Patron, Barr Ogunlewe will lend his expertise and influence to further strengthen the Scouts' mission of cultivating leadership, character, and service among the young people of Kosofe. Echonews reports that this prestigious appointment points at the Chairman's unwavering commitment to the holistic development of the local government area.



SOMOLU

Keep To Environmental Regulations, Somolu LG Chairman Urges Residents

By Saheed Afolabi

In a decisive move to restore environmental sanity to the Somolu Local Government Area, Chairman Abdulhamed Salawu has announced a comprehensive campaign to address pressing environmental issues. This initiative comes in response to the alarming rate of environmental degradation, including indiscriminate waste disposal, blocked waterways, and the proliferation of unauthorized mechanic workshops and car washes. The council's proactive approach has already seen the fumigation of primary schools across the LGA, ensuring a safe and healthy learning

environment for young students. However, Salawu has expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of Community Development Associations' (CDAs) environmental task force teams, deeming their efforts insufficient. To bolster the fight against environmental negligence, the Somolu Local Government has empowered its own task force team to take the lead. This dedicated team, under the supervision of Oluwaseyi Ogunbadejo and Sanitarian HO Ogunbekun, will intensify sanitation efforts across all eight wards of the LGA. The



team's primary focus will be on monitoring and enforcement, ensuring strict adherence to environmental regulations.

Salawu has emphasized the council's commitment to aligning with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's zero-tolerance policy for environmental offenders. By taking a firm stance, the council aims to create a cleaner, healthier, and

more organized environment for all residents of Somolu. The council chairman has appealed to residents to support these efforts by adhering to environmental regulations. He stressed that a clean and safe Somolu is a collective responsibility, requiring the cooperation of every individual. By working together, the community can create a sustainable future for generations to come. As the council intensifies its efforts, residents are urged to report any environmental violations to the appropriate authorities. By working together, Somolu can emerge as a model of environmental excellence.

Women's Group Hails Bamigboye On Infrastructural Drive

By Saheed Afolabi

The National Council of Women's Society of Nigeria (NCWS) has praised chairman of Mushin LG, Emmanuel Bamigboye for his developmental strides in the community. Bamigboye, recently hosted a delegation from the NCWS in his office. The visit was led by Reverend-Mother Olufunmilayo Abdul, Chairperson of the NCWS Mushin Local Government and Odi-Olowo LCDA chapter.

During the visit, the NCWS members expressed their admiration for Bamigboye's achievements and congratulated him on receiving the Local Government Merit Award. They also commended his commitment to serving the community. The council boss appreciated the NCWS members for their visit and reaffirmed his dedication to the people of Mushin. He

assured them of his continued efforts to improve the lives of the residents. The NCWS members offered prayers for the Chairman's continued success and good health, as well as for the overall progress of Mushin Local Government. The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Alhaja S. Surakat, former Women Leader of the All Progressives Congress in Mushin Local Government.



(Chairman of Mushin LG, Emmanuel Bamigboye in a group photograph with NCWS members)

Mushin LG Chairman Pledges Support for Skills Acquisition Center

By Saheed Afolabi

Mushin Local Government Chairman, Emmanuel Bamigboye, has pledged his full support to the Skills Acquisition Center of the Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, located in Mushin. The Chairman made this pledge during a recent visit by the Center's Principal, Mrs. Peluola Folashade, and her team. The visit was aimed at inviting the Chairman to the upcoming exhibition of crafts and other items produced by graduating students. Bamigboye emphasized the importance of

collaboration between the Center and the local government's Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation department. He encouraged the Center to engage with the council in organizing skill acquisition programs for Mushin youths, aiming to keep them off the streets and equip them with valuable skills. The Chairman also extended an offer of free monthly medical missions to the Center's staff and students, to be conducted by the Mushin Local Government Health



Emmanuel Bamigboye with the leaders of the Mushin Skills Acquisition Center in a photograph)

and Medical Department. This initiative aims to

promote preventive healthcare and early detection of health

issues. To express their gratitude, the Center presented the

Chairman with a throw pillow designed by their students.

Lekki LCDA Holds 2025 Stakeholders Budget Consultation Forum

By Mohammed Adekola

Lekki LCDA, held her Stakeholders Consultation Forum on the 2025 Budget appropriation. Members of LG Excos, Management Staff, Traditional Rulers, the League of Imams, CAN, APEX Leaders, Community Leaders, Farmers, Security Agencies, Artisans, Youth Leaders, NULASS.

The Chairman, Engr. Rasaki Bamidele Kasali, in his opening remark, encouraged community engagement in the budgeting process, emphasizing that new project requests should be submitted through each community's



councillor. Specifically, youth leaders were tasked with compiling and conveying their community's requests via these representatives.

The Chairman address

currently, the growing concerns about the recent report in cholera cases in the community. He implored the people to be cautious and to report any case of suspicion. He stated that

construction of 25 solar powered boreholes are underway and almost completed to ensure people are getting access to good and quality water.

The Chairman added that about introducing a local by-law aimed at reducing theft and vandalization of properties, which has become a growing concern as well. This law will serve to protect

communal resources and infrastructure.

The Chairman urged youths to consider enrolling in the military, seeing this as a viable path for members of the community.

The forum included a review of the 2024 budget, while communities seeking additional projects were encouraged to communicate these needs through the forum and later through their ward councillors.

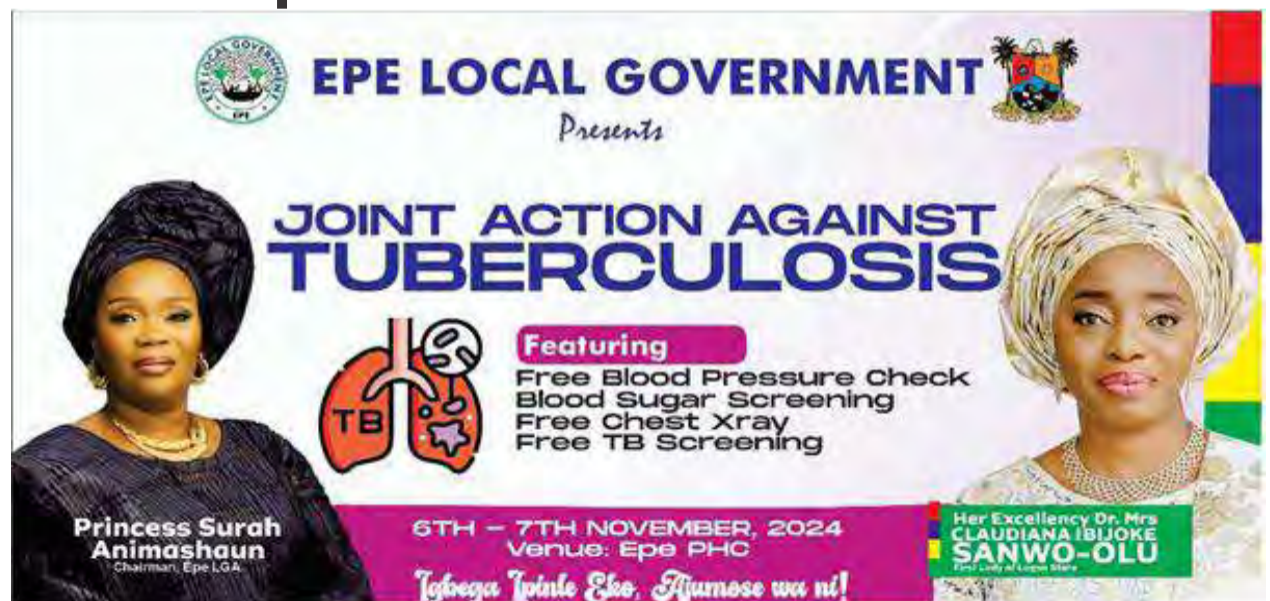
The Chairman's general approach to the forum, was aimed at stressing the need for transparency and responsiveness in addressing community needs for the upcoming year.

Animashaun Organises Free TB Screening For Epe Residents

By Saheed Afolabi

Epe Local Government Chairman (Princess) Surah Animashaun, organized a free health screening for Epe residents to curb the spread of tuberculosis (TB). The event is scheduled at the Epe Local Government Secretariat. Residents will receive free services, including blood pressure checks, blood sugar tests, chest X-rays, and TB screenings. These health checks aim to aid early TB detection and educate the public on prevention. Recently, Lagos State First Lady Dr. (Mrs.)

Claudiana Ibiyoke Sanwo-Olu appointed Animashaun as a TB Ambassador, recognizing her efforts in combating TB. Dr. Sanwo-Olu remarked, "Local leaders like Hon. Animashaun play a vital role in our fight against TB. Screening and awareness are powerful tools in preventing the spread of this disease," Animashaun speaking on the initiative, "Tuberculosis is a disease we can prevent and cure, yet it still harms many people in Africa. By providing these free health checks, we're



taking a bold step toward protecting our community while spreading awareness among the public." TB remains a significant global health issue,

particularly in Africa, where more than a third of TB deaths occur. Some cases are challenging to treat due to drug resistance. Epe Local Government's

screening exercise aims to facilitate early detection and control of TB. Health workers at the event encouraged all residents to participate. "This is a great opportunity for people to learn about

TB and check their health for free," one health worker said. "The sooner we detect TB, the easier it is to treat and prevent its spread.

Anomo Partners Eko Club For Free Medical Services

By Mohammed Adekola



Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA Chairman, Otunba-Akogun Wale Raji Anomo, partners with

Eko Club International to offer free medical services to more than 1,000 residents.

The event provided adults and children in the area with access to free healthcare. Services

included dental care, free medicated eyeglasses, and treatments for common illnesses like hypertension, malaria, typhoid, and diabetes. Residents were also screened for diabetes, prostate cancer, cervical cancer, and other health conditions. In addition, they received teeth cleaning and extractions all at no cost.

The medical outreach is part of Eko Club International's 2024 program to bring healthcare services to communities in Lagos State. The group had previously visited Ayobo-Ipaja and Lagos Island before arriving

at Ejinrin.

Mr. Saheed Olusi, President of Eko Club International, stated that their goal is to improve health services for those who need it most. "We are committed to providing healthcare to people who don't have easy access to it. By doing this, we are making a real difference in their lives," Olusi explained.

Eko Club International comprises Lagosians living abroad who aim to give back to their home communities. This partnership with Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA is part of the mission to support the health and well-being of Lagos residents.

Chairman of Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA, Akogun Wale Anomo, expressed gratitude to Eko Club

International for the support. "This is the second time they have worked with us to bring healthcare to our people. Their commitment to our community's welfare is clear, and we are deeply grateful. We will keep working on ways to improve the lives of our residents," Anomo said.

The traditional ruler of the area, Oba Rafiu Ishola Babatunde Balogun, the Elejinrin of Ejinrin Kingdom, also expressed his appreciation. "It's wonderful to see our people receiving this level of care.

I appreciate the efforts of both the LCDA and Eko Club International. May these good works continue," he said.

Stolen Laptop Found in Epe Church

By Mohammed Adekola

Police officers from the Noforija Police Division, Epe successfully has traced a stolen laptop to an unsuspecting church, wrapping up a week-long search that began in Iraye-Oke, Epe.

The HP laptop belonging to a Lagos State University (LASU) student in the Faculty of Engineering, had been reported missing from a residence on James Okesanya Road two weeks prior.

The student's uncle who declined to share his nephew's name, the theft occurred right in their apartment, leading to weeks of tension and questions.

"When we realized it had been traced to

someone in a church, it felt like something out of a crime novel. I can't believe how daring such a teenager can be when he was caught," he stated.

The alleged culprit, Pio Emaikwu shockingly, is the son of a retired police officer and a tenant's child, whom the Uncle describes as having a history of problematic behavior.

The Uncle narrated that after the culprit's arrest, he attested to several moments of counseling by the former which yielded no positive changes while being questioned at the police station.

The police investigation revealed the boy's method of entry a first-floor window that granted



access to not only the laptop but also a valuable wristwatch. "It's

concerning to think he might've been watching for an

petty theft in the area.

"We're thankful to the Noforija Police and

opportunity like this," the Uncle added, visibly shaken by the betrayal.

Police credited the resolution of this case to methodical sleuthing, with officers noting that the alleged thief had previously been linked to other incidents of

MUWON local security outfit of Eredo LCDA for their dedication to tracking this down," the Uncle averred. "Hopefully, this serves as a wake-up call for others in the community to stay vigilant."

Pio's struggles serve as a stark reminder to parents and guardians of the essential role they play in shaping their children's lives. His journey highlights the urgent need for them to actively embrace their responsibilities, ensuring a supportive and nurturing environment.

Despite repeated attempts by authorities, his parents' reluctance to respond speaks volumes, perhaps suggesting that Pio's behavior has long been a source of strain at home.

NYD: Epe Youths Unite For Change

By Mohammed Adekola

The streets of Epe came alive with youthful energy as the National Youth Council of Nigeria, Epe Branch, led by Comrade Ibrahim Moibi, hosted an Awareness Walk under the banner Walk for Life "From Awareness to Action – Youth for Change." The event marked a significant part of the National Youth Day celebrations, igniting hope for a future free of social vices.

Participants from various youth organizations streamed into the town's main roads, rallying against issues plaguing their community, particularly drug abuse. The scene was electrified with determination, banners waving high, and the steady march of hundreds demanding

change. Comrade Ibrahim underscored the importance of continuous education and action in guiding the youth away from dangerous behaviors. "This walk isn't just a gesture, it's a call to arms for the youth of Epe to rise against the tide of drug abuse and social decay. We must not only talk about change, we must lead it," Moibi declared passionately.

He noted the wider impact of their initiative. "Beyond the issue of drug abuse, today is a reminder that young people hold the future of our society in their hands. It is our collective duty to stand as examples and push for a safer, vice-free community," he added. A respected community leader, Pastor Nelson Albert, echoed the

sentiments while highlighting the urgent need for awareness in the current climate. "Our environment and nation are facing troubling times," Pastor Albert remarked. "When you look around, you see 13 and 14-year-olds already pregnant or boys at the same age chain-smoking. This is why initiatives like this walk are crucial to pull our young ones from the brink."

Lagos State Treasurer of the National Youth Council, Comrade Ogunsanwo Ibrahim, address the long-term effects of harmful habits. "My message to our youth is simple the harmful substances you indulge in may not show their effects now, but in the future, they will. And when that time comes, many will look for someone to blame be it a stepmother or some imagined enemy. It's best



to quit while you can," he advised solemnly. Senior Special Assistant to Epe Local Government Chairman on Special Duties, Comrade Ladele Ismail, echoes the sentiments of Comrade

Yemisi Alonge, the NYCN Deputy Coordinator highlighting the destructive outcomes of other societal issues like cultism and prostitution. "We need our young women to stay clear of the traps of prostitution

because the consequences are dire. As for cultism, it's a road that only leads to pain and chaos in our community," a youth leader pointed out, urging collective vigilance.

AGEGE

Agege LG Vice Chairman Drums Support For Oopon and Draught Festival

Kehinde Adeleye

The Vice Chairman of Agege Local Government, Mr. Oluwagbenga Abiola, has expressed his unwavering support for the upcoming 6th edition of the annual Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa Ojude Oba Ayo Olopon Draught and Drum Festival.

As the convener of the largest youth convergence in Lagos State, known as the Obasa Youth Crusade, Abiola praised the organizers for their consistent efforts in producing this highly

anticipated event despite encountering various challenges.

Abiola, who has been actively engaged in promoting youth empowerment and development in Agege, recognizes the significance of the festival in celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the region. His support for the event highlights his commitment to fostering unity and preserving traditional values among the community's young people.

"The Ojude Oba festival is a celebration of our rich cultural



heritage, and I'm proud to support its continuation," Abiola stated. "Rt. Hon.

Mudashiru Obasa's dedication to promoting our traditions is

commendable, and I urge the organizers to keep up the excellent work."

The Vice Chairman demonstrated his

dedication to the cause by participating in the Signature Magazine Nigeria campaign against drug addiction and abuse. His symbolic gesture of placing a branded sticker emphasizes the festival's commitment to promoting a positive and healthy lifestyle among the community members.

Echonews reports that as the Ojude Oba Ayo Olopon Draught and Drum Festival enters its sixth season, it has become a beloved tradition in Agege, showcasing the community's unity and cultural pride.

Whingan Highlights Importance Of Tech Talents

By Saheed Afolabi

Federal House Of Representative member, representing Badagry constituency, Honorable Sesi Whingan has disclosed the benefits of the inaugural Badagry 1000 Tech Talents Project for youths in Badagry.

He has taken a significant step towards empowering the youth of Badagry by launching the "Badagry 1000 Tech Talents Project" (Badagry 1000TTP). This ambitious initiative aims to train 1,000 young individuals in essential digital skills. The first cohort of 200 enthusiastic young people has commenced a rigorous four-week

training program at KemmySam School in Aradagun, Olorunda LCDA.

This intensive course is designed to equip participants with in-demand skills in Web Development, Product Management, Data Analysis, and Project Management.

Hon. Whingan, represented by Mrs. Bukola Agemo, emphasized the critical role of digital skills in today's rapidly evolving economy.

"By investing in the future of our youth, we are not only empowering individuals but also propelling Badagry towards a brighter future.

"This initiative will enable our young people



(Cross section of youths undergoing the tech talents project training)

to secure competitive roles in the tech industry and contribute to the socioeconomic development of our community."

The program, delivered in partnership with Codeverse Africa, a renowned tech training organization, ensures a

high-quality learning experience. Participants from Badagry Local Government, Olorunda LCDA, and Badagry West LCDA are receiving a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical application, preparing them for real-world

challenges.

As the training progresses, it is anticipated that these young talents will be equipped with the necessary skills to pursue rewarding careers in the technology sector.

The Badagry 1000TTP is a testament to Hon.

Whingan's commitment to fostering innovation and digital literacy within the constituency. By nurturing a tech-savvy generation, he aims to position Badagry as a thriving hub for technology and entrepreneurship in Lagos State.

Badagry to Host Inaugural "Badagry to the World" Concert

By Saheed Afolabi

Renowned Nigerian hip-hop artist, Scope-The-Entertainer, is set to captivate audiences with the inaugural "Badagry to the World" Concert 2024.

This highly anticipated event, scheduled for Sunday, December 22nd, 2024, aims to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Badagry Kingdom while showcasing the immense talent of local artists.

The concert will take place at Eddies Event Centre, Along Agric Road, By Gbenopo Primary School, Ajara

Topa-Badagry, Lagos State.

Attendees can expect a dazzling array of performances from top-tier artists across various genres, captivating cultural displays, traditional performances, and a vibrant marketplace featuring local cuisine and artistry.

"Badagry is a kingdom with a profound history and a vibrant culture," he said.

"The 'Badagry to the World' Concert is our platform to share our heritage with the world and inspire future generations."

The organizers invite



(Scope-The-Entertainer performing on the international scene)

businesses and organizations to partner with them in making this event a resounding success. Various sponsorship packages are available to cater to diverse needs.

Scope-The-Entertainer, fresh from an international music tour alongside renowned artists like D'banj and Qdot, is poised to bring his global experience and energy to the stage.

This inaugural concert promises to be a memorable experience, showcasing the best of Badagry's music, culture, and talent.

Bobrisky Flaunts Lavish Lifestyle Amidst EFCC Controversy

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Nigerian socialite, Bobrisky, has taken to social media to flaunt his luxurious lifestyle. Recently, he shared that he has purchased first-class tickets three times, totaling over N30 million. This boastful declaration comes on the heels of his release from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) custody. Bobrisky had been under investigation regarding his jail term and alleged money laundering charges. Amidst the controversy



surrounding his EFCC ordeal, Bobrisky is also facing accusations of bribing officials to clear

his name. Nevertheless, the Lagos socialite seems unfazed, indulging in his lavish

travels.

On his social media, Bobrisky proudly proclaimed, "Dis girl

bought first class tickets 3 times, that's over 30 million! Raise the bar for dis girl!" His post is a

testament to his unwavering confidence and unapologetic display of wealth.

Paul Okoye , Wife Welcome First Child

By: Nurudeen Adebayo

Nigerian music star Paul Okoye, also known as Rude Boy of the legendary P-square duo, has welcomed his first child with his new wife, Ivy Ifeoma, a baby girl named Imari Ugoma Okoye. Taking to Instagram on November 1, 2024, the singer posted an intimate and heartwarming video showing the moment he introduced baby Imari to his children from his first marriage. The big sisters and brothers were seen happily

carrying their newborn sibling with care and showering her with kisses. The video also showed Ivy bathing the baby and taking her on a stroll with Paul's kids. In his caption, he wrote, "This past month and few days have been the most joyous and overwhelming sweetest ever period of our lives." Ivy Ifeoma had been in the United States towards the end of her pregnancy until when she gave birth.



In July 2024, Paul gifted her a brand new Range Rover as a push

present, which she took pictures with and posted on social media

with the caption, "New baby from my baby." The singer also posted her pictures to social media

with the humorous caption, "My baby use this baby to push the other baby very well."

Isolo LCDA Announces Car As Grand Prize for Staff of the Year

In a generous move aimed at boosting staff morale and recognizing outstanding performance, the Chairman of Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mr. Olasoju Adebayo, has announced that the Staff of the Year will be awarded a car as a grand prize. Speaking at the monthly staff forum, Adebayo revealed that the First and Second Runner-up will also receive various cash

Kehinde Adeleye prizes during the upcoming End-of-the-year party. This announcement has been met with excitement and anticipation by the council's workforce. By acknowledging the hard work and dedication of his staff, Adebayo demonstrates a commitment to fostering a positive work environment and promoting excellence within the LCDA.

Echonews reports that Isolo LCDA has gained a reputation for its innovative and people-oriented approach under Adebayo's leadership. The council's efforts to enhance the well-being and welfare of its employees are testament to its dedication to creating a thriving community. Speaking to an assembly of workers representing various Area Offices and duty posts, Isolo Local Council Development Area Chairman Olasoju

Adebayo recognized the significant contributions made by the staff in advancing the council's objectives throughout the year. In appreciation of their hard work and dedication, Olasoju announced plans for well-deserved relaxation and leisure activities, including the highly-anticipated 'Isolo Lawa' carnival. The 'Isolo Lawa' event, slated for December 21, will showcase an impressive lineup of

top artists from the music industry and Nollywood, promising an unforgettable experience for attendees. Furthermore, Olasoju commended the Council Manager, Mrs. Mojisola Ogabi, and the Human Resource Officer, Mr. Ogunfunwa Olufemi, for their efforts in maintaining discipline among their team members. He particularly emphasized the importance of holding revenue officers

accountable and enforcing strict penalties for any misconduct. Highpoint of the meeting which featured inter-religious praise songs was the cake-cutting session in honour of all October-Born among the present staff who mounted the podium flanking the Council Boss, Exco Members, Councillors, and Management Staff led by the Council Manager - Mojisola



(The Chairman of Isolo LCDA, Mr. Adebayo Olasoju and members staff during the monthly staff forum at the secretariat)

Residents Praise Council Boss On Road Reconstruction

By Saheed Afolabi

Residents of Itire Ikate LCDA has lauded their council chairman, Dr Ahmed Apatira for reconstructing Bethel Street.

Apatira has embarked on reconstructing and interlinking Bethel Street. This move is aimed at improving the quality of life for residents and enhancing the overall aesthetic appeal of the community.

The reconstruction of Bethel Street will provide a smoother and safer commuting experience for residents. The use of interlocking paving stones ensures durability and resilience, making the road less susceptible to



(Bethel Street ongoing reconstruction at Itire Ikate LCDA)

wear and tear, especially during the rainy season.

This proactive approach to infrastructure development reflects the council's commitment to long-term solutions.

Dr. Apatira's administration has been actively working to modernize the road network within the LCDA. By investing in such projects, the council is not only improving transportation but also boosting local businesses and the overall economy of the area.

Residents have expressed their appreciation for the council's efforts, noting that these infrastructure improvements have a positive impact on their daily lives.

They believe that the reconstructed Bethel

Street will enhance the value of their properties and create a more pleasant living environment.

The council remains committed to transparency and accountability, keeping residents informed about the progress of the project. By engaging with the community, the administration ensures that the project aligns with the needs and aspirations of the people.

Dr. Apatira's dedication to delivering quality infrastructure and public services has positioned Itire-Ikate LCDA as a model for good governance and community development.

Itire -Ikate LCDA Empowers Community Leaders, Security Personnel

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Itire-Ikate Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Dr. Ahmed Apatira, has taken a significant step towards enhancing community safety and efficiency by donating utility vehicles to the Nigeria Police Force, Area 'C' Command, and key community leaders. This generous gesture underscores the council's commitment to empowering local authorities and fostering a secure environment for residents.

The vehicles, which

were presented to community leaders such as the CDC Chairman, the Iyalode of Surulere, and the Baba Oja of Oba Onikate Market, are expected to significantly improve response times and facilitate effective community engagement.

Providing these essential tools, the council aims to strengthen the capacity of these leaders to address local challenges and promote the overall well-being of the community.

In addition to the



(Set of vehicles presented to the Police and community leaders)

vehicle donations, Dr. Apatira also provided state-of-the-art computer equipment to cabinet members, councilors, and the management team. This initiative is part of the council's broader vision to leverage technology to improve service delivery and enhance administrative efficiency.

By equipping officials with modern tools, the council aims to streamline processes, improve decision-making, and ultimately enhance the quality of life for residents.

The 2024 edition of the Lagos Supremacy Cup is just around the corner (November 27-30), Chief Convener Hajji Gafar Liameed is urging participants to view the tournament as more than just a competition but as a life-changing opportunity.

This year's event will be held at the iconic Mobolaji Johnson Arena in Lagos and will showcase Nigeria's top talent to an elite lineup of international scouts from Europe and Brazil. Ten influential sporting directors and scouts from countries like Belgium, Germany, and the UK are expected to attend. "This tournament is a crucial stepping stone for Nigerian talent," Liameed said. "Decision-makers from European clubs will be watching, and players must make the most of every

second on the field." The Lagos Supremacy Cup features a unique rule set of no offside rule, which promotes faster-paced games and constant vigilance among defenders.

Veteran referee, Dele Atoun will provide a refresher on the laws of the game, reinforcing fair play and tactical awareness.

Liameed stressed the importance of discipline and focus, particularly with the January transfer window approaching. "Only the most disciplined players will stand out," he

warned. For many Nigerian players, representing the country at the U-17, U-20, or U-23 levels

is a dream. Liameed encouraged participants to use the tournament as a platform to achieve

this goal. "Preparation and understanding turn talent into opportunity. Let's

educate our players and coaches. This tournament can be the launchpad they need."

Lagos Supremacy Cup: A Launchpad For Grassroots Talent



36 Lions FC players jubilating after winning the previous edition of the Lagos Supremacy Cup

Broad City Ready to Roar at Lagos Supremacy Cup

By Saheed Afolabi



Broad City players observing the club's ritual before a game

Broad City FC, a promising NLO side, is gearing up to make waves at the upcoming Lagos Supremacy Cup. Team Manager Paul Nelson has declared that his team is fearless and ready to take on any opponent, regardless of their reputation.

The tournament, set to kick off on November 27th at the iconic Mobolaji Johnson Arena (Onikan Stadium), will feature a thrilling four-day football extravaganza.

Broad City finds itself in Group A alongside 36 Lion FC, Dino FC, Ikorodu City FC, and Real Sapphire FC. Group B consists of Beyond Limits FC, Seamoriow FC, Bethel FC, MS Success FC, and Charlesann FC. Nelson expressed his team's determination and confidence as a team to be reckoned with in the Lagos Supremacy Cup. "We respect our opponents, but we're not afraid of them. We've faced some of

these teams before, and they know that Broad City is a force to be reckoned with.



"We're fully prepared and eager to surprise the so-called big teams in our group."

As the tournament approaches, Broad City is focused on training hard and fine-tuning their tactics to ensure a strong performance.

Fans can expect exciting matches and potentially some upsets as the team aims to make a significant impact on the Lagos football scene.



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