



Food Security: Pg.13
 Sanwo-Olu Urges Agro, Food Processing Companies To Crash Prices

Pg.24
 Ejigbo Chairmanship: Idera Formally Declares interest



Pg.7
 I'm The Rightful Owner of Ilado -Odo/Inagbe Island



www.echoneews.ng

Echoneews

LAGOS COMMUNITIES EDITION

A publication of Echoneews Newspapers Limited

Monday 12th August - Sunday 18th August 2024

Hands Off, Supreme Court Strips Onilado of Land Title

Pgs.2,4&5



LASBCA Threatens To Seal Buildings Without Professional Supervision Pg.8

Peaceful Protest: Apatira Hails Sanwo-Olu Pg.25

Lagos DSVA Involves Men In Fight Against Sexual Violence Pg.17

Hands Off, Supreme Court Strips Onilado of Land Title

By Kunle Awosiyan

The Supreme Court has stripped Onilado of Ilado, Oba Mobadenle Oyekan of title to Ilado-Inagbe Island as it cancelled out claims made by the two parties fighting over the ownership of the land.

In December 15th, 2023, the Supreme Court upheld the Court of Appeal judgment of January 12, 2018 that invalidated the judgement of the trial court of June 5, 2012 for lacking proper Writ of Summons over the case.

In one of its 17 grounds, Esimikan family of Ilado-Odo/Inagbe Island had challenged Onilado of Ilado, Oba Mobadenle Oyekan to restrain his agents, servants from entering, trespassing upon or in any other manner interfering with all land known as Ilado-Odo and Inagbe Islands.

However, the 17 grounds were reduced to two, according to the legal counsel to Esimikan family, Mr. Rotimi Aladesanmi, challenging the writ of summons that commenced the case for it to be declared null and void because the name of the lawyer who signed was not stated.

He also challenged the competence of the counter claim filed by the Oyekan family on the ground that it is consequentially null and void because there was no claim in the first place.

Interpreting the judgment to Echonews, Aladesanmi said that both parties agreed at the Supreme Court that Esimikan family owns the land, even though Oyekan family asserted in their counterclaim that they are the real Esimikan family and that prince Waheed Aberuagba who is claiming to be an Esimikan is not one of them.

He said, "The land doesn't belong to the Onilado, but to the Esimikan family and that his client Prince Waheed Aberuagba and co are the authentic Esimikan family. They are also the ones on ground in Ilado as the Onilado doesn't live there at all. If Onilado feels otherwise, he can go to court."

Reacting, the legal counsel to



Onilado of Ilado, Mobadenle Oyekan

Onilado, Mr. Abumere Osara said that Waheed Aberuagba was never a member of Esimikan family and until he is able to establish that he is from the lineage of Esimikan that he can lay claim to any land in Ilado-Odo/Inagbe Island.

He explained that the land belonged to Esimikan family of which Onilado Oba Mobadenle Oyekan is a prominent member and inheritor but Aberuagba is not one of them as established by the judgment of the trial court in 2012.

He stated that Aberuagba and company had never challenged the verdict that he is not a member of Esimikan but had only nullified his erroneous writ of summons.

"Didn't their lawyer confirm that he reduced the grounds from 17 to two where the court declared that the land belonged to Esimikan but without any prove that Aberuagba is a member of Esimikan family," Osara queried.

As he put it, "Error in the writ of summon that knocked out the argument of Aberuagba and company was committed by their own legal counsel, which eventually spoilt their case.

Speaking on the family lineage of Oyekan and Esimikan, Mr. Osara said that two of the four children of Esimikan were female; Ekundayo and Ekunremi. He said that Ekunremi married Oba Akitoye of Eko who gave birth to Dosunmus, who gave birth to Oyekans as the grandchildren. According to him, Mobadenle Oyekan, having come from Ekunremi side was chosen to

daughter of Esimikan.

He said "Our forefather, Esimikan migrated from Ile-Ife to settle in Ilado-Odo and has nothing to do with the Idejo clans, the White Cap Chiefs of Lagos Island. It is unfair for Oyekan to be our king on our land."

According to him, Ilado-Odo/Inagbe had been existing for over 200 years and the traditional ruler was Esimikan but some land grabbers invaded the community in 1993 and pursued the earlier settlers away.

"We later discovered that these invaders were from Lagos Island. We wrote to the police and it took us about eight weeks to return to our homes. During our time in exile, no fewer than four of our people died," he said.

According to findings, in 1995, Oba Adeyinka Oyekan made his son, Prince Mobadenle the Baale of Ilado-Odo/Inagbe community, which according to Aberuagba was against the will of the people. "They came with policemen and thugs and machete, removed all what we had in the shrines, (pointing towards a tree) and imposed him on us right there," Aberuagba said.

"Since then, we have been in

this problem. They would come with police to arrest our children. I have slept in the police stations for so many times because I stand to protect what belongs to me and my forefathers. That was why we later charged them to court but it took them years to appear at the Lagos High Court. Even at that, Prince Mobadenle never showed up at the court instead we were always waylaid by thugs anytime we went to court."

Aberuagba said there was a time his family members left the court but could not get back home because operatives of the Department of State Service arrested him and others for allegedly involving in oil bunkering.

"As we were leaving the court at Ikeja, a vehicle followed us. The operatives led us to DSS office at Shangisha and detained us for five days without single evidence that we were involved in oil bunkering, he said.

He alleged that Onilado is still selling land in Ilado-Odo, adding, "They claim the money made from the land are used for building structures on the land. Their agents always roam the land,



Demolished Palace of Esimikan



TECH WHIZ? BUSINESS GURU?

Get access to training in fields like **Software Engineering, Digital Skills, & Product Design** with _____

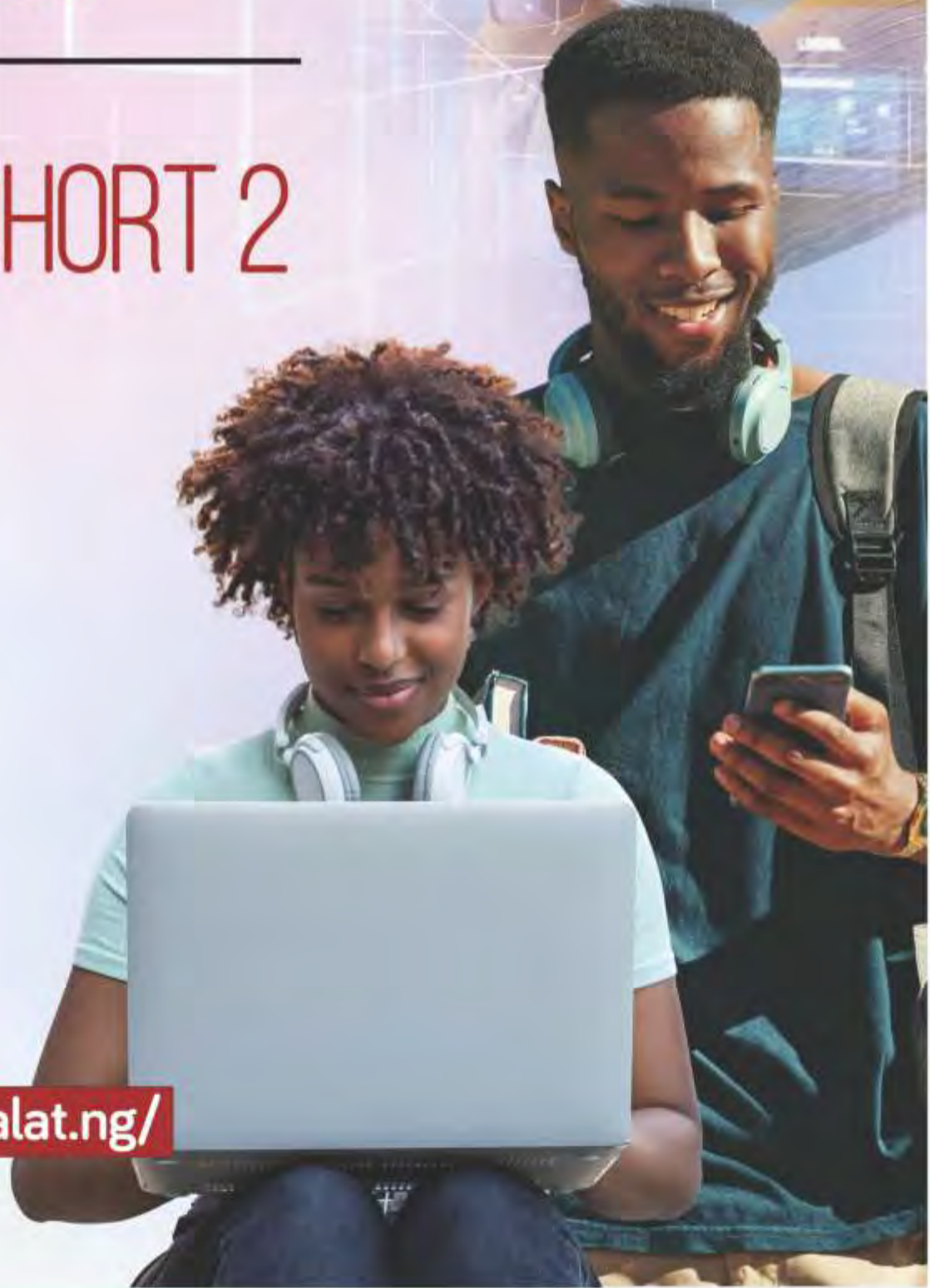


COHORT 2

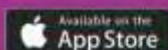


— OR —

Visit <https://fg-skillnovation.alat.ng/> to apply today



Are you an ALAT user? Download the app to join the ALAT Trybe



Dial *945*01#

Don't forget, payments are easier with

*945#

0-7000-PURPLE, 0803 900 3700

purpleconnect@wemabank.com

Customer help desk 09044411010

Get social with us at:



@wemabank | @alat_ng



alat.ng

wemabank.com | alat.ng

Hands Off, Supreme Court Strips Onilado of Land Title

Continued from page 2

selling them. But we have got judgment and the land seller has no right to sell our land but because we are a peaceful family, we always settle out of the police station on several occasions that they arrested me and our youths who usually stopped them whenever they invaded to grab land." It was during this period that they approached the Supreme Court to challenge our victory and they lost again," Aberuagba said.

When Echonews visited the Island, one Mr. Abdulsuraj Jinadu Falana gave his own account that there were four families that settled down in the community and that each of them has connection with Esimikan. According to him, the families were Jinadu Esimikan, Alabi Dosunmu, Mufutau Tadeyo, and Aasi family.

Falana whom himself is a descendant of Esimikan told Echonews that his grandfather, Jinadu Esimikan ruled as the Baale of Ilado-Odo/Inagbe

Island. He said that when his he died, another family, Yakubu Tadeyo became the Baale.

"Esimikan is our founding father, Waheed Aberuagba is also under Jinadu. Before Yakubu Tadeyo died, he made it known that our family members from Dosunmu Lagos will become King, I'm surprised that Waheed Aberuagba is claiming the kingship and ownership of the land.

"Dosunmu family is supposed to be king now,. The Dosunmu family are also claimant to the king and Oba Mobadenle Oyekan, the Onilado is from Dosunmu family,y."

He said that all the four families he mentioned had houses on Ilado-Odo/Inagbe Island, adding "Aasi house is in front of a police station, We're at Tadeyo's place, (pointing to a bungalow), Dosunmu are based in Lagos, they don't come regularly but they are also one family here. That's why Tadeyo said when he dies, they should crown people from Lagos, that's why Oyekan the current king was crowned.

He explained that Jinadu



Prince Waheed Aberuagba

Esimikan came from Idumota contrary to the position of Aberuagba who claimed that Esimikan

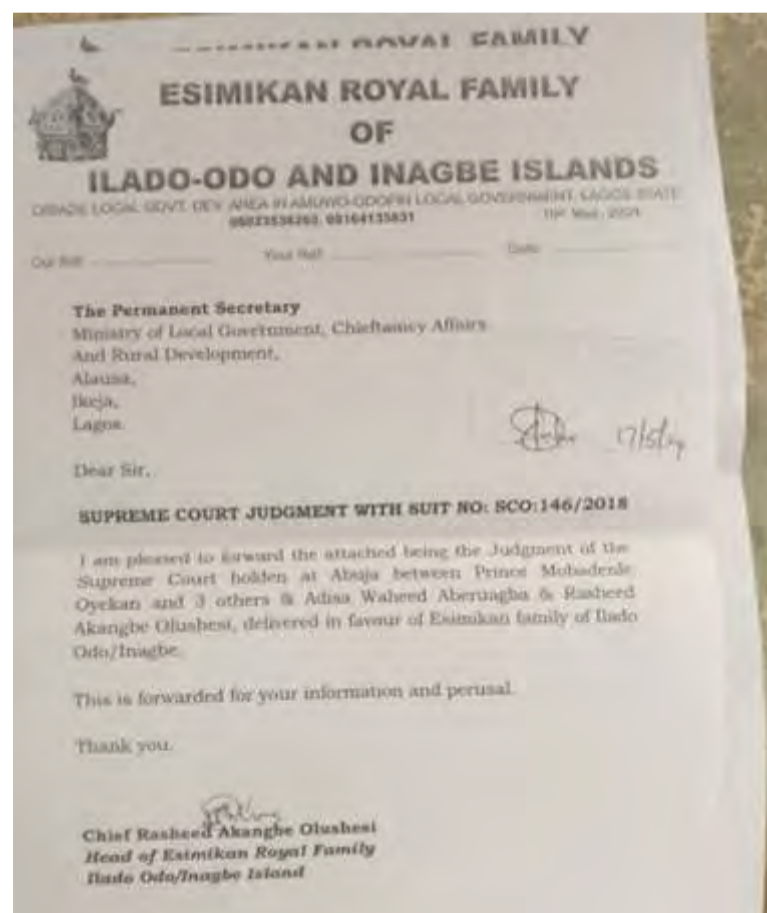
came from Ile-Ife. He said, "Jinadu is my great grandfather, they came from Idumota. It

was at Idumota that Tadeyo and Jinadu got related.

Also speaking for Oba Oyekan, one Mr. Ismail Salim said that he is representing the monarch and that he is from Isale Eko, from Olorogun family. He said olorogun is a chief in Ilado and that Oba Oyekan has the same right to the land just as the Aberuagba family.

However an aged woman, Mulikat Jinadu Falana refuted Abdulsuraj's story that the late Tadeyo said that the next king should come from Lagos Island.

The woman who was visibly angry said, "Mobadenle Oyekan is a foreigner, we didn't crown him as king, we don't know him and do not accept him. I was born here and I'm over 90 years, he came to the village to disrupt our peace, he has no connection and has no relationship with us."



Copy of the letter to the govt



Reply from Lagos Assembly

To her, anybody who is backing Mobadenle Oyekan must have collected money to rewrite history, adding “my father, Jinadu is from Ile-Ife and this land belongs to us.”

Following the judgement, Esimikan royal family of Aberuagba side has written letters to various authorities in the government to stop Onilado from trespassing on the land.

In a letter to the state Attorney General dated 17th May, 2024 with the title, “Supreme Court judgment with suit no. SCO: 146/2018 and signed by one Chief Rasheed Akangbe Oluseshe, the Esimikan Royal Family had requested the government to honour the supreme court judgement, urging the authorities to stop Onilado from selling the land.

Our correspondent also found that copies of the letter were sent to the Assistant Inspector General of Police, Lagos zone 2 and Oriade Local Council Development Area.

During the visit, Prince Aberuagba who is popularly called, “Olori Ilu”, (Head of the town) by the residents, confirmed that the Esimikan family truly sent copies of the judgment to Lagos State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Lawal Pedro (SAN), the Ministry of Local

Hands Off, Supreme Court Strips Onilado of Land Title

Continued from page 3

Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development and the Speaker of the state House of Assembly to affect the judgment, Mudashiru Obasa.

Asked what actions the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, had taken over the matter, the Assistant Director, Public Affairs, Mr. Kehinde Adebayo told Echonews that the ministry does not handle legal matters but only organises installation ceremony and presentation of staff of office to any Oba-elect.

The Director Public Affairs of the Ministry of Justice, Mrs. Grace Alo said that the letter had gone to the appropriate unit and that work would be done on it. At the state House of Assembly, the Chief Legislative Counsel to the Deputy Clerk of the house, Mrs. Teniade Fashola-Osoba confirmed that the speaker had got the letter, adding that a reply had since been sent to the family.

A copy of the reply by the assembly, made available to our correspondent read,



House of Tadeyo

“I am directed to inform you that your letter dated 10th May, 2024 was received and it is receiving necessary attention.”

However Echonews' visit showed that Onilado of Ilado, Oba Mobadenle Oyekan had no palace in the community.

However, he has some of his allies on ground and a house at Idi-Igba, a nearby community to Ilado-Odo-Inagbe Island. He was

installed as Baale before Lagos state Government promoted him to a substantive Oba with a gazette in 1996.

Ilado-Odo/Inagbe Island is about 200-year-old. A serene environment bounded in the east by the Onisiwo chieftaincy family land, in the west by Ilase Village, in the south by the Atlantic ocean and in the north by the lagoon, which creates the primary trade

for the inhabitants, mostly fishermen and coconut farmers.

The residents also enjoy abundant supply of Oysters from the ocean tide every season. Even though, there is no electricity infrastructure, the residents enjoy the natural habitation that gives the place its unique features.



Abulsuraj Falana and Ismail Salim



Mulikatu Falana

A new Lagos is in the works

The future is loading!








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



Lagos State Internal Revenue Service

Lagos Revenue House, Assbifi Road, Central Business District, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos State
Tel: 0700-CALL-LIRS (0700 2255 5477)



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



I'm The Rightful Owner of Ilado-Odo/Inagbe Island

The latest verdict by the Supreme Court over the ownership of Ilado-Odo/Inagbe Island has reopened a fresh contest between Prince Waheed Aberuagba and Onilado of Ilado, Oba Mobadenle Oyekan. In this interviews with Kunle Awosiyan and Kehinde Adeleye, Prince Aberuagba speaks on the steps he has taken so far after the judgment. Excerpts

Currently there is a traditional monarch, Oba Mobandele Oyekan from Dosunmu ruling house that is recognized by the government, are you saying he should be removed for you to be installed?

Yes, since we now have the supreme court judgment that has judged us as the authentic owner of Ilado-Odo/Inagbe Island, it is only a proper thing for government to install a member of Esimikan family as the rightful king on the Island. We are not fighting anybody, we are only following the law. Nobody knows Oyekan in our community. He is a stranger.

Who is supposed to the king from Esimikan's family?

Myself. Im the one that was supposed to be the king. I was chosen by "Ifa", long before now. The elders of the land consulted Ifa oracle, which found me as the king-elect before the invasion of a group of land grabbers in 1993 that chased all of us away. We stayed two months in exile before the police provided safety for us to come back. We petitioned the AIG Lagos zone 2 and the Inspector General of Police, Ehindero at the time over the invasion. The police investigated and discovered that the invaders were land grabbers. The police wrote letter to us to apologise and asked us to safely return to our ancestral homes. We started calling our people to return. Some of our people died in the process, about four of them.

What steps have you taken following the supreme court judgment?

We got the judgment last year December but the papers came later. We have sent copies of the judgment to the appropriate authorities. We sent to the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Ministry of Justice, and the state house of assembly. We also sent to the governor's Chief of Staff office. We copied the AIG of police in zone 2 and also sent a copy to Oriade Local Council Development Area. This is for them to see and correct what is presently on ground.

Have they responded?

Only state House of Assembly has replied our letter. We won't take laws into our hands. We are peaceful people but we won't allow intruders to enter our land again because despite the judgment, Oyekan still send his agents to sell land here. Recently they sold land worth about N50 million but



Prince Waheed Aberuagba

we are waiting for the developers to hit the ground before resisting them.

What other steps are you taking now to ensure proper enforcement of the court verdict?

We are going to sponsor a bill at the state house of assembly to review the law that impose Oyekan on us. I think we will also be writing a reminder to the appropriate authorities that I'm the rightful owner of the Ilado-Odo Obaship stool. Oyekan does not have a house here

not to talk of a palace. Though he has some people who are betrayers that do spy for him. He does not live here and he is not recognized. It was under that tree, the shrine of our forefathers that he was forcefully imposed on us. That day, their thugs and hired policemen carted away all our "Orishas". They carried everything to late Oba Adeyinka Oyekan's palace. It is this expanse of land that attracted them to this place and because they know we don't have anybody in higher offices, they invaded us but now the court has given us justice.

How many families can lay claim to this stool?

Esimikan family are five clans but Oyekan is not one of us. Esimikan is from Ile-Ife. He is not one of the Idejo, the white cap chiefs of Lagos Island. Esimikan only went to Idumota to trade and he would always come back home. The story by some people that this place belongs to Idejo is fabricated. Our former Baale who died was

only honoured as a ceremonial white cap chief by the late Oba Adeyinka Oyekan, he was not an Idejo, he was from Ile-Ife and the descendant of Esimikan not Dossunmu. Among the five groups of Esimikan, Aberuagba is one and is the next to produce the Esimikan of Ilado-Odo/Inagbe Island. There is nothing like Onilado of Ilado here.

But we learnt that Oba Mobadenle Oyekan has a palace here, where is the place?

He has no house here. He quickly renovated one of his supporters' houses when he got the first court judgment. The house is not even within Ilado-Odo/Inagbe but at a place we call Idi Igba. He rules from Lagos Island. We only read in the newspapers then that Mobadenle had been install as the king of Ilado and we petitioned the state government then. They have been installing him for three times and all what they did was done at Oyekan's palace.

We are going to sponsor a bill at the state house of assembly to review the law that impose Oyekan on us. I think we will also be writing a reminder to the appropriate authorities that I'm the rightful owner of the Ilado-Odo Obaship stool.

LASBCA Threatens To Seal Buildings Without Professional Supervision

The Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA) has stated that it will start sealing construction sites in the State that are not supervised by relevant professionals in the built environment.

The General Manager of the Agency, Arc. Gbolahan Oki made this known when setting up an Adhoc Task Force to enforce the directive in his Office in Ikeja.

Oki said the State has observed with dismay the non-involvement of relevant professionals in the built environment in building constructions in the State and has therefore directed that property owners and developers all over the State must ensure that all relevant professionals in the built environment such as Structural/Civil, Mechanical, Electrical Engineers, builders and Architects are fully

engaged in their building projects.

He averred that henceforth, LASBCA will be visiting building sites and any site that flouts the directive to engage building professionals who specialise in the design, construction,

maintenance and management in their building projects will have such site sealed and possibly removed.

Arc. Oki added that the directive becomes necessary to safeguard the building construction

industry and to ensure that buildings being constructed in the state are done only by professionals who can vouch for their safety and fitness for habilitation.

He advised that developers and

property owners must ensure that they engage only relevant professionals with the current practising license of their professional associations with sworn affidavit of attestation of supervising such

building.

The General Manager stressed the need for Lagosians to comply with Building Codes and Regulations to curb the menace of building collapse in the State and avoid unnecessary loss of lives.



CMC Resolves Long-Standing Family Dispute ... Secures MOU for Better Understanding

Lagos State Citizens Mediation Centre (CMC) at Ijaiye Ojokoro has successfully resolved a prolonged family dispute involving a 15-year-old girl, her guardian and her father. The mediation process culminated in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that commits both parties to fostering a more harmonious environment.

The dispute arose when the complainant, acting as the guardian to the respondent's daughter,

reported the girl's uncontrollable behaviour at home and school. Despite various efforts, the young girl remained unrepentant and continued her misconduct.

The situation was further strained by the respondent's lack of livelihood and his poor relationship with both his daughter and her guardian.

The CMC held several mediation sessions, including three adjournments, to address the issues.

The key participants

included the complainant, the respondent, the girl in question, a neighbour, and the guardian's wife. During these sessions, the respondent acknowledged that his negligence and strained relationship with the girl contributed to her behaviour.

Both the respondent and his daughter expressed deep remorse, shedding tears and offering unreserved apologies to the guardian and his wife.

The mediation resulted

in a signed MOU, in which the respondent agreed to visit his daughter frequently and maintain a positive relationship with her and her guardian.

He, however, committed to behaving respectfully towards the guardian and his wife.

The daughter was, however, warned by CMC to improve her behaviour as stated in the agreement, stressing that if she continued with her unruly behaviour and misconduct, she would be sent to a welfare

home.

The resolution exemplifies the effectiveness of mediation in addressing complex family issues and underscores the CMC's vital role in fostering peaceful resolutions within the community. The successful outcome provides a framework for the family to rebuild trust and work towards a better future.

In accordance with mediation principles and the Lagos State Citizens Mediation Centre (CMC)

guidelines, the names of the parties involved in the mediation process are not mentioned to protect their privacy and maintain confidentiality as the practice ensures that the details of the dispute and the identities of the parties remain private, allowing for a safe and neutral environment where participants can speak openly and work towards a resolution without fear of external judgement or repercussions.

Lagos First Family Hosts Fourth Annual Praise Event

... As State CAN Chairman Prays for Nation's Growth, Urges Non-Violence



New LASCOHET Provost Meets Academic Staff, Harps on Professionalism

The newly appointed Provost of Lagos State College of Health Technology (LASCOHET), Professor Olasupo Akewushola has met with the academic staff, imploring them to maintain professionalism and diligence in their interactions with students. During his inaugural meeting with the academic staff, Professor Akewushola emphasised the importance of the College's role in imparting knowledge and shaping future health care professionals.

He assured staff of his commitment to their welfare and that of the students, signalling the start of significant positive changes. Akewushola promised that all lecture rooms within the College would be renovated to make them more conducive to learning, with necessary amenities provided. Additionally, he expressed his desire to invest in a digital portal to make student results accessible within two weeks of examinations.

Responding to requests made earlier by the Student Union executive members, the Provost underscored the critical roles both students and lecturers play in elevating the

College.

He urged staff to treat students with respect and reminded students to always exhibit good conduct. Professor Akewushola reiterated that there is zero tolerance for misconduct among both staff and students, warning that disciplinary actions would be taken against those found guilty of extortion, harassment, exam malpractice, or any form of indecent behaviour.

Earlier, the Student Union President, Kolade Salami, who attended the meeting with other Union Executives, commended Professor Akewushola for giving students a platform to express their concerns.

Speaking on behalf of the students, the SUG President requested more conducive classrooms, transportation provisions, medical facilities for all students, and assistance in completing the Student Union building.

During the meeting, the academic staff also had the opportunity to present their challenges to the new Provost, expressing the belief that addressing these issues would significantly enhance their ability to deliver quality education.



The fourth edition of the Annual Lagos Praise programme, an initiative of the First Family of Lagos State, Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu and his wife, Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu took place at the Banquet Hall of Lagos House in Alausa, Ikeja.

The event, themed "Sing and Praise Him for His Victory", was attended by top government functionaries, religious leaders, members of COWLSO, Graceful Ladies, friends, and well-wishers, among others. In her address at the Lagos Praise event, the wife of the Lagos State Governor, Dr. Mrs. Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu expressed profound gratitude to God for His unwavering faithfulness and boundless mercies in the lives of Lagosians and the state's journey toward excellence.

She noted the remarkable evolution of the Monthly Praise and Prayer Sessions, initiated by the First Family in 2019 into the annual Lagos Praise event, which has become a significant statewide

celebration fostering unity and heartfelt worship among the body of Christ.

The First Lady recounted the origin of the initiative, highlighting its establishment as a collaborative platform for the First Family, Graceful Ladies, and the Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials (COWLSO), in conjunction with the five blocs of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Lagos State.

This platform, she said, has consistently served to unite Christians across the state in praise and intercession for divine intervention in governance, peace and development.

She quoted Psalms 67:3 and Psalms 22:3, underscoring the biblical assurance of God inhabiting the praises of His people and the transformative power of worship.

The First Lady also reminisced about the milestones of past editions of Lagos Praise, saying that this year's edition, themed "Sing and Praise Him for Victory," taken from 2 Chronicles 20:21-22, speaks to the assurance

of victory which Lagos has regardless of its numerous challenges.

Dr. Sanwo-Olu reiterated the inclusive nature of Lagos Praise, which draws participants from the five administrative divisions of Lagos State – Ikorodu, Badagry, Ikeja, Lagos Island, and Epe (IBILE).

In his contribution, the Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Lagos State Chapter, Rt. Rev. (Dr.) Stephen Adegbite seized the opportunity of the Lagos Praise event to plead with the residents, especially the youth, to shun any act of violent protest.

While leading the participants in a prayer session for the President, the Governor, his Deputy, Lawmakers, and Lagosians as a whole, the CAN Chairman prayed that Nigeria and Lagos State would continue to witness unprecedented growth and development, guided by the power of praise and unity.

Reflecting on the scriptural foundation of praise, Bishop Adegbite emphasised the significance of praising God as a catalyst for

divine presence and intervention.

The high point of the event was the special presentation made by students of Pacelli School for the Blind, Paul Tao-El-Shaddai, and the mass choir performance. Special performances by guest artistes included Funmi Sax-Olu Joshua.

Participants at the Lagos Praise event were thrilled by good gospel tunes and also led into a mood of inspirational worship by Funmi Olu-Joshua, popularly known as Funmi Sax, who set the atmosphere with her eulogical renditions of praise and worship.

The gathering, which saw the participation of the five blocs of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Lagos, was a testament to the power of unity and faith.

The event was attended by the wife of the Deputy Governor, Mrs. Oluremi Hamzat, some members of the State Executive Council, the Body of Permanent Secretaries, heads of parastatals, medical associations, members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, magistrates, and many others.

Hamzat Stresses Continuous Youth Engagement For Development

Lagos State Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat has said that the State Government would continue to engage, interact, and communicate with the youth believing that this would enable them to collaborate and partner with the government in achieving the set desired goals and programmes.

Speaking on a national television, Dr. Hamzat added that the Lagos State government has been engaging the youth across different sectors to get them involved in how things are done and run in the country.

He said Lagos is committed to providing the youth with 'cutting-edge' facilities and technology, thereby, empowering them to reach their full potential, including the desire to drive innovation and growth in the state.

The Deputy Governor highlighted some of the initiatives the current administration has put in place to ensure that the youth are engaged and unleash their potential for prosperity, noting that some of the youth in the state are being sponsored to different countries to see how things are done.

Speaking further, Hamzat stated that the Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu administration will be remembered for laudable projects that the administration has embarked upon which will be a legacy

of the administration. The Deputy Governor reeled some of them out including road infrastructure; agriculture and food security, and transportation comprising the three major means of transportation, namely: road, water, and rail, among other projects.

In addition, Hamzat stated that there is no local government in Lagos that the present administration is not doing tangible projects on a regular basis. He reiterated that Lagos is the only sub-sovereign in the world to build rail on its balance sheet, adding "We think that we cannot be a metropolitan state without a rail and finishing the blue and red line is our target. Let us be able to move our people conveniently".

He, therefore, encouraged the private sector to participate in the different projects the state government is doing, that are aimed at developing the state economy, adding that "Now we are moved from conveying 70,000 people per month to about 288,00 people. We are also building jetties among others".

Speaking further, he stressed the state's commitment to enhancing local agricultural production, which will foster economic growth, address food price inflation, and promote food security.

According to Dr. Hamzat, in Badagry the state is producing enough tomatoes



Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat

that will feed over 20 percent of Lagosian, and the government is keen to scale up the production further, aiming to make this essential commodity more widely available to consumers across the state.

While condemning the comment made by "Lagospedia" on X formerly known as Twitter, with the hashtag #Igbomustgo, Hamzat said there is no room for ethnic bigotry in Lagos State, adding that such a comment has

no place in the policy direction of the present administration in the state as Lagos is a place where people of divergent tribes coexist peacefully and the government will not allow faceless people to divide them.

The Deputy Governor said that though some people are trying to do whatever it takes to divide the state, but the government will never allow that to happen, noting that sometimes, some of

the people who put this type of thing out on social media are not even in the country.

According to him, the unwavering commitment of the present administration to protecting the lives and property of all Lagos residents, is not negotiable, emphasising that the government under the leadership of Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu is working with security agencies to fish out the people behind the

tweet and assured the citizens of their safety.

His words, "These faceless people just came up and said the Igbo must leave, this is absolute nonsense. which is why the Governor immediately denounced it. Lagos is accommodating and that is who we are. Even when we were young, we've all lived together peacefully and there is no need for people to become ethnic bigots".

Education Quality: Lagos Concludes Four-Day Training For Evaluators

The four-day capacity enhancement programme for education evaluators organised by the Lagos State Office of Education Quality (OEQA) which started on Monday, July 30 came to an end on Friday, August 2, 2024, with emphasis on the need to deepen the leadership skills and enhance the capabilities of Directors in OEQA, particularly in the area of Monitoring and Evaluation, Data Management, and New Trends in Education Quality Assurance.

Delivering his address at the training workshop on Friday at De Rembrandt Hotel, Alausa Ikeja, the Director of Planning, Research, and Statistics Department, OEQA, Mr. Remi Abdul underscored the significance of the training programme targeted at evaluators at directorate level.

He specifically acknowledged the importance that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu attaches to the training and retraining of staff, especially his interest in the capacity enhancement of education evaluators in line with the third pillar of his THEMES Plus Agenda which is Education and Technology. The Director mentioned that the training programme was meticulously designed to equip education leaders with the latest tools and knowledge necessary to excel in their roles.

Abdul said: "As leaders in the education sector, your role is crucial in shaping the future of our institutions and the students we serve. This training is designed to help you refine your leadership styles, stay updated on best practices, and leverage data-driven insights to drive improvement".

He encouraged participants to actively engage, ask questions,



and share their expertise, highlighting the value of collaboration and experience-sharing in elevating leadership standards within the sector.

In her insightful presentation, Mrs. Ronke Soyombo, former Director-General of OEQA and presently Special Adviser on Education, Ogun State, explored the intricate dynamics of leadership styles and their profound impacts on the educational landscape.

She highlighted the critical role leadership plays in shaping the educational environment and fostering a culture of excellence. Soyombo stressed that leaders must be deeply involved in the pedagogical aspects of their institutions and advocate strongly for both teachers and students.

Additionally, she addressed the challenges and strategies involved in leading change in educational settings, emphasising the

importance of developing long-term strategic plans and engaging in data-driven decision-making. Effective educational leaders, she noted, must navigate change adeptly and possess the foresight to anticipate future trends and challenges.

Dr. Oladele Oyatope, another facilitator, provided a thorough overview of developing an effective Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) model for the agency.

He explained the difference between monitoring and evaluation, saying monitoring involves the continuous assessment of programme activities to ensure they are on track, while evaluation focuses on assessing the overall impact and effectiveness of these programmes.

Dr. Oyatope emphasised that both processes are vital for accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement in education, underscoring the

importance of setting clear objectives and indicators. Dr. Oyatope also discussed the significance of policy analysis within the context of M&E, pointing out that analysing existing policies helps identify gaps and areas for improvement, ensuring that educational initiatives align with broader educational goals and objectives.

Mrs. Hameedat Mojisola Sanni, the immediate past Director of Quality Assurance Department (OEQA), provided a forward-looking perspective on future directions and innovation in education quality assurance. She explored the latest trends and innovations in this field, emphasising the potential of emerging technologies to revolutionise educational quality assurance.

Mrs. Sanni illustrated how successful quality assurance models from around the world can be

tailored to fit the local educational context, stressing the importance of learning from international best practices while considering local cultural, economic and social factors.

She provided examples of how innovative practices in countries with high educational standards can be adapted to improve educational quality in other regions. This approach enhances the relevance and effectiveness of quality assurance and fosters a more globally competitive educational system.

On behalf of all the evaluators trained by the State Government, Dr. Suleiman Ogunmuyiwa, a director in OEQA expressed gratitude for the training's genuine intention to improve education standards in the state. He assured the leadership of OEQA and the State Government that the knowledge and skills gained would undoubtedly

enhance participants' performance and contribute to the improvement of education quality in Lagos State.

"We thank you for creating an enabling environment for learning and growth, and for bringing together experts and stakeholders to share their experiences and expertise", Dr. Ogunmuyiwa said.

It should be noted that the Honorable Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Jamiu Tolani Alli Balogun, flagged off the opening ceremony held earlier on Monday at Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hall, Ikeja.

In attendance at the closing ceremony of the four-day training capacity enhancement were distinguished Coordinating Directors, Heads of Departments (HODs), esteemed Zonal Directors, Heads of Units (HOUs), and other Directors of OEQA.

Lagos To Ensure Skills Acquisition Through GIPP

Lagos State Government has reaffirmed its intention to ensure skills acquisition for post-NYSC graduates through the Graduate Internship Placement Programme (GIPP) as part of the strategies to address unemployment among the youth in the State.

Hon. Akinyemi Bankole Ajigbotafe, Commissioner, Wealth Creation and Employment, disclosed this at the Press Conference on the Graduate Internship Placement Programme (GIPP) held at the Ministry in Alausa.

Ajigbotafe stated that the programme is aimed at bridging the gap between academic knowledge and practical work skills thus enhancing the employability of young talents.

Ajigbotafe explained that the Graduate Internship Placement Programme (GIPP) is rebranded in the 'EMPOWER LAGOS' Initiative targeted at

uplifting the lives of 10,000 Lagosians from poverty.

He disclosed that, over three weeks, selected graduates will undergo rigorous training in employability skills which will cover essential areas such as the picture of success, understanding and making career choices, finding and securing dream jobs, basics of how to start a new business, professionalism and others towards equipping graduates with the tools needed to succeed in the modern workplace.

He continued by saying that, following the training, graduates will be placed on internship with partnering organisations for three months during which they can secure employment in the private sector.

He added that the internship will provide hands-on experience in real real-world setting allowing graduates to apply their skills and gain

valuable insights into their chosen fields. The Commissioner emphasised that the Lagos State Government in collaboration with our partners and donor agencies will provide

stipends to all beneficiaries graduates to enable them to focus on training and internships.

Ajigbotafe called on stakeholders to partner and support the State Government initiatives

under the THEMES Plus Agenda of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu so as to enhance the socio-economic development of Lagos State.

Present at the briefing

held recently were Mr. Innocent Osaghe, Managing Director, Human Capital Partners (HCP) and Mr. Adeyinka Adeyemi, Managing Director, InterMac Consulting, among others.



Financial Assistance: Govt Presents Cheques To Another Batch of Beneficiaries

... AS Governor's Aide Calls on Citizens to Maintain Civility, Order

The Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement, Dr. Afolabi Tajudeen has reaffirmed Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's commitment to addressing the needs of Lagosians amid the ongoing economic challenges.

He said this at the presentation of cheques to another set of more than 100 beneficiaries of the present administration's Financial Assistance programme held on Wednesday at the Office

of Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement, Alausa, Ikeja.

The Special Adviser, while welcoming the beneficiaries, said that Sanwo-Olu's Administration is fully committed to ensuring that every resident feels supported and valued regardless of the difficulties they face.

Reiterating the role of each resident in maintaining peace and stability in the state, Dr. Afolabi appeals to all Lagosians to uphold law and order in the face of the planned protest.

"The distribution of

cheques taking place is one of the various ongoing social intervention programmes of this Administration. It has been planned before the issue of the protest, and it is out of the Governor's kind heart. He feels your plight and he will never be tired of putting smiles on the faces of Lagosians. We all have a part to play in ensuring our state remains safe for us all. Therefore I urge you all to play your part by maintaining law and order while going about your normal activities as usual". he added.

Showering encomium on the Lagos State Governor, one of the beneficiaries, Mr. Adeyemi Hassan said that the initiative is a step in the right direction, especially at this time of economic hardship, adding that the fund received will be judiciously used to solve his prevailing health issues.

Also present at the cheque presentation ceremony is the Permanent Secretary, Office of Political, Legislative & Civic Engagement, Engr. (Ms.) Sholabomi Shasore.



Food Security: Sanwo-Olu Urges Agro, Food Processing Companies To Crash Prices

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has urged agro and food processing companies to work toward reducing their prices during this time of economic hardship as a way of giving back to the society and ensuring food security in Nigeria.

He said Nigerians are currently going through tough times; therefore, private organisations, particularly agro and food processing companies, should think about people's survival and sustainability above profitability at this crucial period in Nigeria.

Governor Sanwo-Olu spoke during a courtesy visit by the Senior Management Team of Olam Agric Nigeria, led by its Managing Director/CEO, Mr. Anil Nasir, at Lagos House, Marina, on Thursday.

Sanwo-Olu, who stressed the need for food security and support from every well-meaning individuals and organisations, said his administration has done a lot through several intervention programmes to cushion the effects of economic hardship on the residents of Lagos State, adding that he would do more to continue to provide succour for the people.

He said, "Agro and food processing is a critical industry because food security and food systems are as critical as people trying to safeguard either medical security or even sovereign security in

times of war. There is no better security these days than food. "Today, being the first day of August, you can see agitation in some streets in Nigeria as a result of hunger. You (Olam Agric) are in a strategic position, and you have that structure and that capacity. At a difficult time like this, it shouldn't be only the government reducing costs and providing avenues for people to buy things at a reduced price.

"You must be able to tell your shareholders that you have been in this environment for such a long time, and today it should not be

about profit-making. Let us go into this market and just cover our costs and let us pass on. Let the people feel the critical support.

"I want you to take this message back. The private sector needs to know that there are times when it does not have to be about value to the shareholders because of food security and the logistics nightmare that is happening everywhere due to the economic challenge. We are all joint stakeholders, and we need to slow down on shareholder returns. We need to be alive today to be able to make a profit

tomorrow."

Speaking earlier, the Managing Director/CEO of Olam Agric Nigeria, Mr. Anil Nair, commended Governor Sanwo-Olu for his leadership in Lagos State in the last five years, especially in the areas of security and making the state safe for foreign and local investments.

He sought more partnerships with the Lagos State Government in the agriculture and food sectors, saying his company is ready to invest more in the state.

Governor Sanwo-Olu on Thursday also received the District

Governor of Lions Club International District 404B2 Nigeria, Lion Tolulope Ayodeji Senbanjo, as well as the District Governor of Rotary International District 9112, Rotarian Olufemi Adenekan, and District Governor of Rotary International District 9111, Rotarian Oluwole Kukoyi, who paid him courtesy visits at Lagos House, Marina, respectively.

Speaking during the two courtesy visits, Governor Sanwo-Olu commended Lions Club International and Rotary International for their humanitarian

services in key sectors of the State, particularly in the provision of infrastructure in the areas of health, education, and transportation, among others.

He said administration will continue to partner with Rotary International and Lions Club International for humanitarian services to make life comfortable for Lagos residents in line with the T H E M E S + developmental agenda, which aligns with the core values of the humanitarian groups.



Lagos Serves Contravention Notices on Illegal Dredgers In Ikorodu

In its continued efforts to protect the Lagos State waterfronts from environmental degradation, its investments, life and properties along the coastal areas of the State, the Lagos State Government on has issued a STOP WORK Order to illegal dredgers and owners of illegal containerised cargo terminals along the Ikorodu Waterfront areas of the State. The illegal operators which included 13 companies comprising four containerised cargo terminal points, one dredging machine fabricating company and eight illegal dredging/ sand

stockpiling operators at Majidun, Itowolo, Ibeshe, Alogba and Ipakodo were warned by the Monitoring and Enforcement team of the Ministry of Waterfront Infrastructure Development and given 48 hours to respond to the notice. The Commissioner said that the Ministry will not hesitate to close down the companies if they do not adhere to the rules and regulations governing Waterfront Infrastructure Development in the state which include coordination of dredging and reclamation activities. He sounded a note of warning to all

companies and individuals in the business of sand dredging/stockpiling/reclamation and shoreline extension and development on Lagos Waterways without valid approval or permit of the Lagos State Government through the Ministry of Waterfront Infrastructure Development to do so immediately or face the wrath of the State Government. The Commissioner, speaking through the leader of the enforcement team, Mr. James Iranola, said that the Ministry will not relent in its efforts to sanitise the waterfront corridors of



all illegalities and unorthodox practices. Recall that the Ministry recently served Mopo waterfront contravention notices on schemes in Eti-Osa LGA over 200 property owners over encroachment on in Okun Ajah and Okun government properties.

Lagos Hosts Inaugural Retreat For Senior Nurses

... Tasks Participants on Fostering Positive Work Environment

In a historic move to strengthen healthcare leadership, the Lagos State Government, through the Ministry of Health, today, officially inaugurated the first-ever retreat for nurse leaders in Lagos State. The three-day retreat held at the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) in Alausa-Ikeja, aimed at equipping nurse leaders with the skills and knowledge necessary to mentor the next generation of nurses and enhance healthcare service delivery across the state. Declaring the retreat open, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Health, Dr. (Mrs.) Kemi Ogunyemi emphasised the critical role of nurse leaders in the state's healthcare system. She explained that the retreat, themed: "The Role of Nurse Leaders in Actualising the THEMES Plus Agenda in Lagos State", is designed to equip nurse leaders with essential leadership skills to mentor younger nurses and improve healthcare delivery. Dr. (Mrs.) Ogunyemi highlighted the necessity of nurse leadership in mentoring and guiding

the next generation. She said, "This retreat is a testament to the importance we place on the role of nurses and their leadership potential. Nurse leaders must foster a positive work environment, encourage professional development, and support work-life balance". She added that the retreat aims to provide a platform for nurse leaders to learn from experienced healthcare leaders, exchange ideas, and adopt best practices. Dr. Ogunyemi urged nurse leaders to recognise and reward hard work and dedication, encourage professional development opportunities, provide training, manage workloads effectively, support nurse welfare and well-being, build trust, be approachable, and support work-life balance. She further encouraged nurse leaders to stay updated with modern trends in healthcare by investing in their personal and

professional development. "Continual learning and adaptation are crucial for effective healthcare delivery", she added. In her remarks, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Establishment and Training, Mrs. Olubusola Abidakun praised the remarkable contributions of nurses in the state. She acknowledged their role as frontline workers responsible for the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of citizens. "Nurses are the beautiful hands that care and document. They work long hours, sacrificing their personal lives to save others. Their contributions to our society are invaluable", she said. The keynote lecture, delivered by Professor Funmilayo Okanlawon, focused on the evolving role of nurse leaders in setting standards, influencing policies and implementing best practices to achieve high-quality healthcare. "Nurse leaders are pivotal in setting standards, influencing policies, and implementing best practices that contribute



to improved health outcomes. Continuous development is essential for effective health service delivery", he remarked. Earlier in her welcome address, the Director of Nursing Services at the Lagos State Ministry of Health, Mrs. Dorcas Shonibare expressed her delight at the inauguration of the retreat. She traced the origins of the Nurse Leaders Forum, which began in 2015 and was re-inaugurated in 2019 by the current Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi. She acknowledged the instrumental support of Dr. Ogunyemi and Permanent Secretary, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye in making the retreat a

reality. Mrs. Shonibare highlighted the forum's role in updating nurse leaders with professional global updates and facilitating discussions on issues affecting the nursing profession. She emphasised the need for emotional intelligence in handling patient reactions to the escalating costs of healthcare services and the importance of addressing challenges such as healthcare worker attrition and work overload. She further explained that the retreat aims to address these issues by fostering a collaborative environment where nurse leaders can share experiences and develop strategies to enhance

nursing care. "This retreat is an opportunity for us to come together, learn from one another, and find effective solutions to the challenges we face", Mrs. Shonibare noted. Participants at the retreat will engage in various interactive sessions, including workshops, panel discussions, and networking opportunities. These sessions are designed to provide practical insights and tools that nurse leaders can apply in their respective healthcare facilities. The retreat will cover topics such as leadership styles, effective communication, and strategic planning. The retreat marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to enhance the quality of healthcare delivery in Lagos State. By empowering nurse leaders with the necessary skills and knowledge, the state aims to create a robust healthcare system capable of meeting the needs of its growing population.

Lagos Trains Young Parliamentarians



To prepare tomorrow's leaders for effective and efficient performance, Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development has organised a two-day capacity-building workshop for the Fifth Legislative Assembly of the Lagos State Youth Parliament. In her welcome address at the programme held at STO Resource Centre, Alausa, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth and

Social Development, Pharm (Mrs.) Toyin Oke-Osanyintolu said the workshop marks the beginning of a journey towards empowering the next generation of Youth parliamentarians and leaders who will shape the future of the state and country. According to her, the Lagos State Youth Parliament was established as a learning structure to create a robust representation of young people, allowing

them to lend their voices and express their opinions on issues through a legislative platform. In her words: "The Parliament serves as a critical platform for young people to engage in the democratic process, develop leadership skills and contribute meaningfully to policy discussions. Your role as a youth Parliamentarian is not only to represent the voices of your peers but also to act as

catalysts for positive change in your communities". Pharm (Mrs.) Oke-Osanyintolu urged the young Parliamentarians to embrace the opportunities presented by the workshop to acquire knowledge and skills as valuable tools that would help them navigate the complexities of governance, advocacy and leadership in engaging with experienced

professionals and thought leaders.

The two-day capacity-building brought together 40 members representing the 20 LGAs of Lagos State who were inaugurated in February 2024 with a tenure of two years.

The Young Parliamentarians were lectured by Mr. Kolapo Wasiu, Deputy Director, LAHA; Prince Ademola Ademola, Publicity Secretary, Parliamentary Staff Association of Nigeria (Lagos Chapter) and Mr. Boboye Adeniji Oluwafemi, Executive

Director, Pelse Consult on topics like "Introduction to Law Making and Parliamentary Process", "Governance and Organs of Government" and "Leadership and Effective Communication Skills" to expose them to legislative processes, effective communication strategies and the principles of good governance, among others.

Police Arraign Driver For Stealing Employer's N22m

By Felix Kuyinu

The police in Lagos have arraigned a driver in court for allegedly stealing N22,280,000 from his employer.

The suspect, 33-year-old Oluwatosin Eko, was arraigned before the Igboere Magistrate Court on two counts bordering on conspiracy, and stealing.

According to the Police Prosecutor, Inspector Cyriacus Osuji, the defendant and others now at large committed the offence at his employer's residence, 9, Ogun Street, Osborne Foreshore, Ikoyi, Lagos sometime in June 2024.

the defendant stole the sum of \$3,200, which is an equivalent to N5,184,000, 400 Euro, equivalent to N686,000, and 200 pounds equivalent to N410,000.

In addition, the prosecutor told the court that Eko also stole two sets of gold jewelry valued at N16,000,000 all amounting to N22,280,000, all belonging to his employer, one Aderonke Sodeke.

The offences committed contravened Sections 411, and 287 (7) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State 2015.

The defendant



pleaded not guilty.

Magistrate Oluwatosin Erinle granted him bail in the sum of N1m, with two sureties in like sum. Erinle ordered that one

of the sureties must be a blood relation, also must show evidence of livelihood and show proof of six-month bank statement and

evidence of tax payment to the Lagos State Government.

Furthermore, the Magistrate also ordered that the sureties must be

residents in Lagos State, adding that their addresses should be verified.

The case was adjourned till September 3, 2024.

“Court Has Jailed Saboteurs Who Damaged Ikeja Electric Transformers”



The Ikeja Electric, IE, has disclosed that two offenders have been jailed by a court in Lagos for vandalizing electric transformer at Egbeda, Lagos.

The statement was made by the IE Spokesperson, Kingsley Okotie.

Okotie mentioned that the convicts, Abubakar Alido and Ishola Olatunji, were arraigned at the Magistrate Court in Ejigbo where they were sentenced to six months Imprisonment

respectively.

According to Okotie, the first accused vandalised a 500KVA transformer on Michael Aladesuyi Street, Egbeda, under the Omo Osho 11KV Feeder, while Ishola attempted to vandalise a transformer on Karimu Laka Street, Egbeda, under the Orelope 11KV Feeder.

He said after a detailed investigation, Alido, on June 14, 2024, was on trial at the court. Okotie said that Alido was charged with wilful damage of transformer cables, contrary to Section 339 and

punishable under Section 350 of the Lagos State Criminal Law of 2015.

The duo pleaded guilty when the charges were read to them, hence, the case was adjourned to July 2, 2024, and were sentenced.

Reacting to the judgment, the Business Manager of IE branch in Akowonjo, Abayomi Bolorunde, said that the sentences would serve as a strong deterrent to other potential vandals.

Lagos DSVA Involves Men In Fight Against Sexual Violence

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, DSVA, has further taken the fight against domestic and sexual violence to Oke-Odo Local Council Development Area, LCDA. The DSVA held a meeting with male residents at Amikanle market in the community and called for a positive behavioural mindset in eradicating gender-based violence. The DSVA stated that the event became necessary to initiate a training forum through strategic and behavioural mindset programs for residents and stakeholders in the area.



The agency's Coordinator, Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi, who was represented by Damilare Adewusi,

stated at the Agency's awareness programme tagged: "Man Wey Sabi" said that the initiative was

channeled to address gender stereotypes in the community and other areas of the state. Adeniyi also told the

attendees that the program also aim to spread the message of men's involvement in childcare and the

essence of partnership which brokers peace in marriage. In addition, the body's director also hinted on collective responsibility

for women empowerment, urging the residents on gender equality. The men were put through on ideas to curb sexual violence in marriages and advised to always watch the behavioural attitude out up by of their children so as to ensure they are not either victims of sexual violence of perpetrators when they grow up. In an entertaining session, a shortlist of men when tasked in a cooking competition which was sponsored by Power Oil Nigeria Limited to showcase the culinary expertise of men in the kitchen. The winner of the cooking competition, Ajewole Busayo appreciated the agency for bringing the initiative to the community and called on men to be a good supporter to their spouses at home

Court Prosecutes Quartet Over Assault On Couple

By Felix Kuyinu



Four men have been charged with assault and felony over a physical attack on a couple in Badagry, Lagos. The accused: Chika Onyebuchi, 34, Ikenna Okoye, 35, Austine Ukwuihwe, 37, and Chukwunkwedu Somtochukwu, 30, are standing trial on two counts of felony and assault.

They pleaded not guilty to the charges. However, the Prosecutor, Inspector Edet Ekpo, told the court that the gang

committed the offences on July 18 at at Cross River Cluster BBA, Trade Fair Complex, Ojo, Lagos.

Ekpo said that the defendants conspired among themselves to commit felony to wit: assault.

"The defendants assaulted one Udoka Ajaegbo, the complainant, by beating him with fist blow, which caused him harm on his lower lip," Ekpo said.

"The defendants also assaulted the wife, Mrs Joy Ajaegbo, by beating her and forcefully removing the weave-on

on her head.

"The offences contravene Sections 411 and 173 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2015."

The Magistrate, Nurudeen Layeni, granted the defendant bail in the sum of N500,000 each, with two sureties each in like sum.

Layeni ordered that the sureties must be a company owner who should provide two years of tax clearance.

He adjourned the case till October 3 for mention

Lagos Assembly Holds Hijrah Lecture, 2024

Lawmakers at the Lagos State House of Assembly have held the 2024 edition of Hijrah Lecture - an annual event held to embrace the teachings of Islamic religious practice. The program - its 15th edition, was held at the Complex of the Assembly, Ikeja. The Assembly noted that the program was staged to reiterate the importance of maintaining good morals and upholding honest practices of a devoted Muslim. The legislators had the presence of two guests speakers in Sheikh Sulaiman Al-miskinubilahi, General Overseer of Al-Amani Islamic

Organisation, and Sheikh Ridwanullah Jamiu, Chief Imam of the Central Mosque, Lekki Phase 1 at the event with the theme: 'The Increasing Wave Of Moral Decadence In The Society'. Sheikh Ridwanu Jamiu condemned the negative upsurge of moral decadence in the society. He mentioned that a high number of youths are indulging in the practice of homosexuality, gambling, fornication and corruption, to mention few. "People should run away from three things: indecency, aggression and wickedness. For a society to progress and develop, it must

move away from what Allah kicks against. "Justice means giving people their rights. As a boss, you have duties to your employees. Treat others the way you expect to be treated. Allah commands kindness and generosity.

"Parents, guardians and leaders of the society should act as role models to our young ones as such will put them on a right path to a fulfilling future." He added, "Allah blesses those who are kind, just and are morally upright. The society needs to embrace the act of kindness and generosity."

Reacting to the high level of corruption in the society, Sheikh Al-miskinubilahi while urging the leaders to the transparent said, "At this stage of our existence, we all know that almost everyone is corrupt.

"See the way the government stopped the abuse of naira with necessary legislation. The same should be done for other forms of moral decadence in the society.

"There is no religion if we don't have morals. If you observe all the five pillars of the Islam and you are morally corrupt, then you are deceiving yourself.

"If you pray regularly

and you don't have morals, then it is a waste of time. Indecent dressing should be condemned in all places," he said.

"Religious leaders and citizens in the country to dedicate a day for fasting and prayer instead of embarking on a protest, which has a tendency to escalate into destruction of properties."

Speaker at the Lagos Assembly, Mudashiru Obasa, told the attendees to key themselves into the teachings of the clerics and also impart to fellow citizens.

He said, "Everyone has a role to play in realizing an upright society. The

messages of the speakers today should be held highly and spread over to others as we leave this gathering."

Obasa, who said that Hijrah is meant to celebrate the clerics, further added: "You would be proud of the group you belong to when people feel your impact. We should ensure that we change our immediate environment and make things better in our time.

"We must all join hands to make our society better so that we can all have a morally upright place. It is not enough to make laws, people must exhibit good qualities



Rema Addresses Rumours of \$3m Performance Fee

By Nurudeen Adebayo



Nigerian Afrobeats sensation Rema has responded to swirling rumours regarding his reportedly \$3 million performance fee at the extravagant wedding of Anant Ambani, son of Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani, and Radhika Merchant, daughter of prominent pharma tycoons Viren and Shaila Merchant. The high-profile event took place on July 12 at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai, drawing significant media attention worldwide. According to the

Hindustan Times, Rema was allegedly paid \$3 million to perform his global hit "Calm Down" at the grand celebration. The report sparked widespread speculation and curiosity about the star's compensation for the performance. In a recent interview with GRM, Rema was asked directly about the rumored fee. When questioned, "Is it true you got paid \$3 million for Ambani's wedding in India?", Rema responded with a laugh, saying, "Hehehe. That's what I

can say, to be honest. Money-wise, but overall, it was a great treatment. It was beautiful."

The singer went on to express his deep appreciation for the warm reception he has received in India. "I love India. India loves me, too. And it's just beautiful to see something that people trolled me for, criticized me for. And now, I'm benefiting from that," Rema stated.

Reflecting on his journey, Rema emphasized the significance of his success in India, a market that has embraced him with open arms. "Imagine if I stopped. Imagine if I actually listened to the trolls online and switched up my sound. Four years later, it paid off and still paying, and more to come. India is a huge territory," he said.

Rema also highlighted his groundbreaking achievement as the first Afrobeats artist to tour India, adding, "I'm even probably the first African if I'm not wrong, but if I'm mistaken, please, forgive me. But it's a huge deal."

The artist fondly recalled his experiences

while touring India, where he was met with an overwhelming reception. "It's not just about the wedding. It's about the reception everywhere I go. I remember when I was

touring India, I didn't even know how they knew. When I go anywhere just to eat, it's just paparazzi. It's crazier than the love in Nigeria." Rema's comments have further fueled the

conversation surrounding his success and the global appeal of Afrobeats, solidifying his status as one of the genre's leading figures on the international stage.

Inside the Rift: Denilson Igwe's Departure From Mark Angel Comedy

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Tensions within Nigeria's beloved Mark Angel Comedy team reached a boiling point in 2019, resulting in the departure of co-founder and key actor Denilson Igwe.

Known for his memorable performances alongside Mark Angel and child star Emmanuella, Denilson's exit signaled the end of a highly successful creative partnership that had captivated millions of viewers across Africa and beyond.

Mark Angel Comedy emerged as one of the most popular online comedy platforms in Nigeria, garnering millions of views on YouTube and social media.

The platform, co-founded by Mark Angel and Denilson Igwe, became a sensation due to its humorous skits, which were not only entertaining but also deeply relatable to everyday Nigerians. Emmanuella, a young girl with exceptional acting skills and comedic timing, quickly became the face of the brand, contributing to its massive success.

Denilson Igwe played a vital role in this success. As one of the core actors and a creative force behind the scenes, he was instrumental in developing the content that kept audiences coming back for more. His characters, often naive or bumbling,



brought a unique flavor to the skits that fans loved. However, as the platform's popularity and financial success grew, underlying tensions within the team began to surface.

By 2019, fans noticed that Denilson Igwe was no longer appearing in the skits, leading to widespread speculation about what had caused his sudden disappearance.

Rumors swirled about a fallout between him and Mark Angel, and the absence of any official explanation only fueled these speculations.

The tension reportedly stemmed from multiple issues, including disagreements over creative control, financial compensation, and recognition.

Denilson felt that despite his significant contributions, he was not being adequately rewarded or appreciated. These feelings were compounded by the visible disparity in how the success of the platform was benefiting its members.

In a revealing interview on The Honest Bunch podcast, Denilson Igwe provided a rare glimpse into the issues that led to

his departure. He candidly discussed the financial and emotional struggles he faced while working with the Mark Angel Comedy team.

"I was putting in a lot of work, but it didn't feel like it was being valued," Denilson explained.

He went on to reveal that despite the platform's massive success, his financial compensation was meager. "I was earning as little as 15,000 to 30,000 per month," he stated, a figure that shocked many, given the millions of views their skits were generating online.

Denilson also shed light on the stark contrast between his living conditions and the lifestyle of Mark Angel. "I was still living in a rented apartment, struggling to make ends meet, while Mark had multiple cars and was living comfortably," he said.

This disparity in wealth and the apparent lack of financial equity within the team became a significant point of contention.

Young Jonn Shares Unexpected Journey from Producer to Artiste

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Nigerian singer and producer John Savours Udombos, widely known as Young Jonn, has opened up about the surprising turn of events that led him to a career as a performing artiste.

The 29-year-old, celebrated for hit songs like "Bahamas" and "Aquafina," revealed that his transition from behind the scenes as a producer to the spotlight as a singer was far from planned.

"I never really planned to be an artiste, but life played out," Young Jonn shared, highlighting that his move into performing was more a result of unforeseen circumstances than a conscious career decision.

Reflecting on the shift from producing to performing, Young Jonn described the experience as a significant learning

curve. "It's a whole different ball game. It's a whole different hustle, grind, and business. It took me time, but I think I'm getting hold of it," he said.

Young Jonn's candid remarks shed light on the challenges and adjustments he faced in navigating the music industry from a new perspective, underscoring the unpredictable nature of creative careers.

World Breastfeeding Week: Bada Restates Commitment To Women and Children

Kehinde Adeleye

In a momentous display of her commitment to women, children, and adolescents' health and welfare, Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada, the Chairman of Ikosi Isheri LCDA, led an inspiring celebration of Maternal, Newborn, Children, and Adolescent Health, in conjunction with the World Breastfeeding Week observance.

The event, which took place at the Senator Bayo Osinowo Hall in the Council Secretariat, was a vibrant demonstration of the Council's dedication to the health and well-being of mothers, newborns, children, and adolescents.

Standing in for Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada, the Council Chairwoman of the LCDA, Mrs. Muyibat Balogun, conveyed a poignant message of empowerment, education, and unwavering support to the women, children, and adolescents of the community.

Her words echoed a commitment to fostering the well-being of future generations and creating a thriving environment where mothers, newborns, children, and adolescents can flourish.



Delivered by the Supervisor for Health, Mr. Yemi Ogunbadejo, on behalf of the Chairperson, Mrs. Muyibat Balogun, the welcome address emphasized the critical significance of prioritizing maternal health, supporting newborns, nurturing children, and empowering adolescents in creating a healthy and thriving community. Mrs. Balogun's message, relayed through Mr.

Ogunbadejo, underscored the vital role that investing in women and children's well-being plays in fostering sustainable development and prosperity for any society. She emphasized that investing in the health and well-being of women and children is a cornerstone of sustainable development and prosperity for any society. She further stated that ensuring access to good

nutrition and promoting breastfeeding practices are essential components of a holistic approach to improving maternal and child health," noting, "By creating a supportive environment that encourages breastfeeding and provides adequate nutrition for mothers and children, we are investing in a healthier and more prosperous future for Ikosi Isheri LCDA." The Permanent

Secretary, Ministry of Health, District 2, Dr. Dayo Lajide encouraged the mothers to embrace the exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, and continued breastfeeding up to one or two years or thereabouts. Dr. Lajide further applauded the dynamism and vision of her Excellency, Dr. (Mrs) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu on Maternal and child health care in Lagos State while commending the supportive and tireless

efforts of the Chairman of Ikosi-Isheri, Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada, particularly, the on-going construction of Modern Primary Health Care Centre at the Council Secretariat to serve the good people of the area.

The celebrations included series of engaging and informative sessions, workshops, and interactive activities aimed at educating community members on the benefits of good nutrition and breastfeeding. Health experts and advocates led discussions on best practices, dispelled myths, and provided practical tips to support breastfeeding mothers and promote healthy eating habits among families.

Participants also had the opportunity to engage with healthcare professionals, receive counseling, and access vital information on maternal and child health services available within the community. The event served as a platform to raise awareness, foster dialogue, and encourage collective action towards building accessible healthcare services for all.

SmartCash PSB introduces Cowry Top-Up solutions for customers

SmartCash Payment Service Bank, a subsidiary of Airtel Nigeria, has announced the newly added convenient method for customers to top up their Cowry cards using the SmartCash mobile app.

This announcement follows an integration with Touch and Pay, a provider of automated payment solutions and the owner of Cowry.

According to the firm, the new SmartCash feature aims to meet the social needs of the masses, enhancing the ease of transportation, while promoting the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) cashless initiative.

Commenting on the integration, Chief Executive Officer,

SmartCash PSB, Ayotunde Kuponiyi, restated the company's commitment to continuing innovation as a pathway towards advancing digital payment solutions.

"At SmartCash PSB, we firmly believe in enhancing convenience and accessibility for everyone, regardless of where they live. By integrating Cowry card top-ups in our mobile app and USSD channel, we aim to advance commuter convenience, aligning with our mission to empower customers with seamless and efficient payment

service. This initiative also supports Nigeria's cashless vision," Kuponiyi said. He added that the new integration with Cowry Card on the SmartCash app is yet another expression of efficient and convenient payment systems in line with the national goal of a more digitized economy.

According to SmartCash, this seamless top-up process is available to all SmartCash Customers and can be accessed via the SmartCash mobile app or the USSD code *939#.



IHS Towers renews partnership with MTN on Tower Master Lease Agreements

IHS in Nigeria, a subsidiary of IHS Holding Limited (NYSE:IHS) ("IHS Towers"), one of the largest independent owners, operators, and developers of shared communications infrastructure in the world by tower count, and MTN Nigeria (NGX:MTNN), a subsidiary of Africa's largest mobile network operator MTN Group (JSE:MTN) have announced an agreement to renew and extend all Nigerian tower Master Lease Agreements until December 2032, covering approximately 13,500 tenancy contracts.

With regards to the approximately 2,500 MTN Nigeria tenancies that had been due to expire at the end of 2024 and in 2025, the new terms IHS Towers will

renew 1,430 tenancies (including new colocations).

The renewed and extended contracts include new financial terms that provide what the parties believe to be a more sustainable split between local and foreign currency, as well as a new diesel-linked component.

The arrangement is testament to the criticality of IHS Towers' infrastructure and the strong operational links between IHS Towers and MTN, Nigeria's largest mobile network operator, with approximately 79 million subscribers.

Under the new terms, there is a USD component that will continue to benefit from annual escalators linked to US Consumer Price Index, a NGN component that will benefit from escalators linked to Nigerian Consumer Price

Index, and a new component indexed to the cost of providing diesel power, introduced to act as a hedge against diesel prices and FX fluctuations.

This marks a significant milestone for IHS Towers as it has now completed the renewal of all tower

MLA's in Nigeria, a testament to the deepened relationship between the two companies.

Sam Darwish, Chairman & CEO, IHS Towers, said: "We are delighted to announce the renewal and extension of our agreement with our

largest customer, MTN Nigeria. This marks a significant milestone for IHS Towers as it has completed the renewal of all tower MLA's in Nigeria, a testament to the deepened relationship between the two companies. We are cognizant of the

challenges faced in emerging markets and are proud to extend our relationship into the next decade, working together to navigate global and local macro conditions while broadening mobile connectivity in Nigeria through our critical infrastructure."



Credit Direct Announces Upgrade in Credit Rating

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)



Credit Direct Finance Company Limited (Credit Direct), the consumer finance arm of FCMB Group Plc and one of Nigeria's leading digital-first non-bank financial services providers, has recently received an upgrade to its credit rating from Augusto & Co. to BBB+. According to Augusto & Co., "The upgrade reflects Credit Direct's dominant position in the industry and its good and consistent profitability, which compares better than most peers in the consumer lending segment." Chukwuma Nwanze, Managing Director/CEO of Credit Direct, commented on the upgrade of the Company's credit rating by Augusto & Co, saying,

We are honored and proud to announce that Augusto & Co. has upgraded Credit Direct's rating to BBB+, a remarkable achievement considering the high inflationary and turbulent macroeconomic environment we are navigating. This upgrade which puts us among the highest rated FinTech lenders in the country is not only a testament to our robust financial health and strategic agility but also reflects our resilient business model focused on expanding financial inclusion for Nigerians, our sound risk management practices, and the trust we have built with our customers and stakeholders".

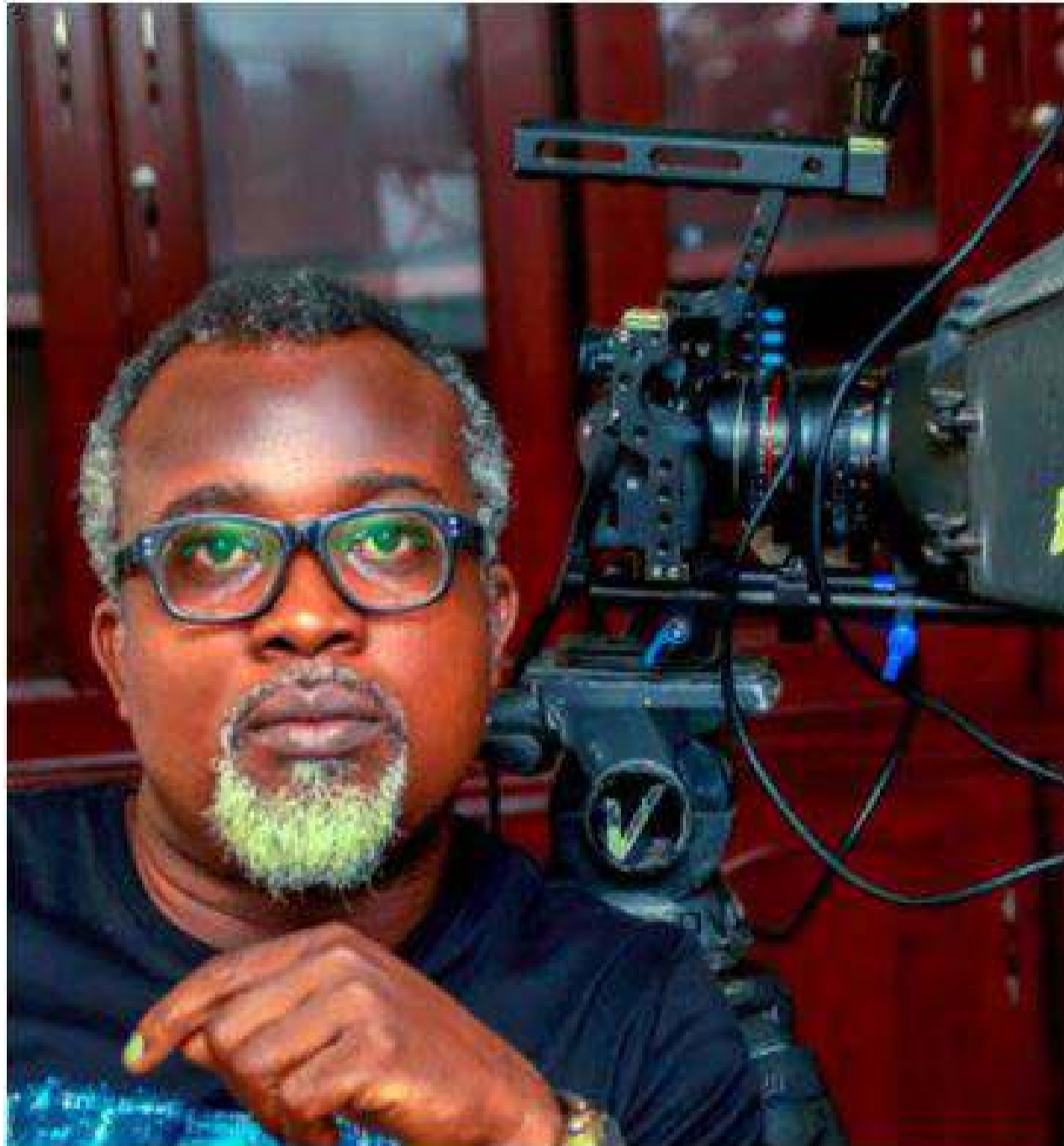
Furthermore, Credit Direct announced the successful payout of its N6.9 billion Series I and II commercial paper issued in November 2023 on the FMDQ SAcurities Exchange. Nwanze thanked the investor community for participating in the series I and II commercial papers saying "The strong investor confidence demonstrated through their participation and support underscores our position as one of Nigeria's leading digital-first non-bank financial services providers. We extend our deepest gratitude to our investors for their trust, and we remain dedicated to delivering exceptional value and fostering long-term partnerships that is

critical in achieving our ambition to expand financial inclusion for all Nigerians." Commenting on the financial performance of the business in the first half of 2024, Kolawole Omoniyi, the Chief Financial Officer at Credit Direct explained that the company is continuing its growth trajectory despite a tough business climate. Omoniyi stated "we delivered a strong financial performance in 2023 and have continued the momentum in the first half of 2024. In our H1 2024 unaudited financial performance, we achieved a 105% YoY growth in interest income. This helped to raise our profitability by 154% in the first six months

of the year compared with the corresponding period last year. We also continued to see significant improvements in our cost efficiency and asset quality ratios as our cost to income ratio declined by 370bps while our NPL ratio had also declined 221bps as at end of H1 2024. Our return on average equity improved to 65.6% while our return on average assets also improved to 10.5% wrapping up a strong H1 2024 financial period." Beyond the strong financial performance, the company reported that it had also made significant progress in its digital transformation implementation to ensure that the company is ready for the future. Nwanze explained that "our strong performance

in the first half of 2024 is a clear indication of the transformative power of our digital initiatives. Our commitment to digital transformation has significantly enhanced our operational efficiency, improved customer experience, and boosted employee productivity. About 95% of our loan book at the end of June 2024 were originated through our digital channels, a significant improvement from the 62% reported as of June 2023. We introduced four new digital channels and upgraded our existing digital channels, enabling our customers have 24/7 access to our services". Nwanze emphasized that digital transformation initiatives such as the deployment of self-service loan origination channels, automated customer profiling and credit decisioning have contributed to improved asset quality and a reduced cost-to-income ratio, even in the face of high inflation. Credit Direct expects to build on this momentum in H2 2024 and deliver even greater value to its customers, and stakeholders. Its focus remains driving financial inclusion and providing innovative financial solutions to meet the evolving needs of its customers.

LASUSTECH Appoints Dr. Adesemoye as Acting Head of Mass Comm



By Nurudeen Adebayo

directing popular reality TV shows such as Next Movie Star and Supermom in Nigeria and Ghana.

Additionally, he has directed distance learning dramas for the Nigeria Urban Health Reproductive Initiative (NUHRI) under the John Hopkins Centre for Communication Programme and various documentaries for ARDA DCI.

A Fellow of the Business Journalism Professors at the Donald W. Reynolds National Centre for Business Journalism at Arizona State University, and the Knight Centre for International Media Workshop at the University of Miami, Dr. Adesemoye is well-recognized for his academic contributions. His research interests include neurocinematics, film tourism, glocalised pop cultures, and the depiction of the paranormal in films.

Reflecting on his tenure, the outgoing Head of Department, Dr. Prosper Zannu, shared his experiences and expectations for the new leadership. "It's been two years of hard work, teamwork, and learning. The head of department must be present almost every day and collaborate with all lecturers because the success of the department is a shared effort," said Dr. Zannu. He expressed confidence in Dr. Adesemoye's capabilities, describing him as a "hardworking, intelligent scholar" who will build on the existing foundation and drive the department to new

heights.

Students and faculty members have also expressed optimism about Dr. Adesemoye's appointment. Kayode Oluwabukola Joy, a 200-level student and Head of Class, remarked, "I believe he will do better because he always has." Lecturer Ibrahim Fatoyinbo added, "Experience counts, and Dr. Adesemoye has it in abundance. His leadership will springboard the department, enabling us to compete with other institutions."

Dr. Adesemoye emphasized his practical approach to teaching and his plans for the department. "I'm not a talkboard teacher; I prefer practical teaching and balancing town and gown. This enriches my lectures and benefits my students and myself."

He also highlighted his focus on rebranding and repositioning the department, with plans to integrate technology into the curriculum and collaborate closely with industry professionals and alumni. "We will run the department like a business and care for our students like our children," he said. With his extensive experience and forward-thinking approach, Dr. Steven Anu' Adesemoye is poised to lead LASUSTECH's Department of Mass Communication into a new era of innovation and excellence.

Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH) has appointed Dr. Steven Anu' Adesemoye as the new Acting Head of the Department of Mass Communication.

Dr. Adesemoye, a Senior Lecturer with extensive experience in screen and culture, public relations, and narrative media production, steps into the role with a clear vision for the department's future. In his previous roles, Dr. Adesemoye served as the Acting Public Relations Officer and Assistant Dean for

Student Affairs at the former Lagos State Polytechnic.

His appointment is expected to bring a dynamic and innovative approach to the department, aligning it more closely with industry demands and technological advancements.

"I am honored to lead the Department of Mass Communication at LASUSTECH," Dr. Adesemoye said. "My vision is to position the department as a hub for innovation and excellence in media education, research, and industry collaboration."

Dr. Adesemoye's strategic plans include forging partnerships with media organizations, introducing technology-driven teaching methods, and implementing curriculum reforms aimed at enhancing students' employability. His focus will also be on promoting research in emerging fields such as digital communication, algorithmic consumer culture, data mining and visualization, neurocinematics, and film tourism.

"My goal is to create a department that is responsive to the needs of the industry and

society," he added.

"We will work closely with media professionals, alumni from the legacy institution, and stakeholders to ensure our students are equipped with the skills and knowledge required to succeed in the rapidly changing media landscape."

Dr. Adesemoye brings a wealth of industry experience to his new role. He previously served as Chief Operating Officer and TV Content Director at Digital Interactive Media (DIM) and Origin 8 Format,

Ikorodu LG Launches Fashion Designing Training Program

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Ikorodu Local Government today inaugurated its Fashion Designing Training Program, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at empowering 100 local youths.

The event, held at the Council's Secretariat Hall, marks a significant step in equipping the region's young talents with the skills needed to succeed in the fashion industry.

The ceremony was attended by several prominent figures,

including the Vice-Chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Aarebirin Hon. Dr. Princess Folashade Olabanji-Oba, Leader of the House, Hon. Adebowale Adebola, and the Secretary to the Local Government, Alhaji Lateef Afinni. Local supervisors, council management team members, and the eager trainees who stand to benefit from this initiative were also present.

The Fashion Designing Training Program is designed to provide

participants with hands-on training from industry experts, offering valuable insights into fashion design and business practices.

This initiative seeks to nurture a new generation of skilled professionals who will contribute significantly to both the local and national fashion industries.

In his keynote address, the Executive Chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Hon. Wasiu Adesina, highlighted the transformative power of fashion beyond its aesthetic value. "Fashion is a medium of self-expression,

confidence, and cultural identity," Adesina stated.

He emphasized that fashion has the potential to transform individual lives, communities, and even entire economies.

Adesina encouraged the trainees to engage with the program passionately and promised that the top-performing participant would receive fashion equipment at no cost, further incentivizing excellence.

Adesina also discussed the broader economic implications of the program, noting that the

skills acquired through this initiative would create job opportunities and support the growth of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Nigeria.

He announced plans for an upcoming economic booster program, which will include loans for small and medium enterprises and farmers to enhance local economic development.

Mrs. Adetoun Awofeso, one of the program's facilitators, emphasized the goal of reducing Nigeria's dependency on imported fashion items. She stressed the importance of

transitioning from a consumption-based economy to one centered on production, praising the creativity and energy of Nigeria's youth.

Awofeso expressed confidence that, with the right support and technical expertise, Nigeria could become a significant player in the global fashion industry.

Alhaji Musiliu Lawal-Animashaun, known as De-Cubano, inspired participants by referencing the success of Mrs. Folorunsho Alakija, an Ikorodu native who began her career as a fashion designer. He urged the trainees to remain focused and committed, assuring them that dedication would enable them to achieve their dreams.

Chief Adebayo Olomo, Baale Ojogbe, also commended the initiative, calling it a crucial step towards youth employment and self-sufficiency.

Mrs. Yetunde Akande, a facilitator and beauty director at Yetroselane Fashion Hub, expressed her gratitude to the Ikorodu local government for this unique opportunity.

She highlighted that the program would not only provide practical training but also impart essential business skills, ensuring participants' success as fashion designers. Akande encouraged the youths to fully engage with the program, which includes a month-long combination of practical and technical training, followed by internships and further empowerment opportunities.

Participants Aanu Oluwadarasimi and Sophiat Folahanmi expressed their gratitude to the council and facilitators, vowing to make the most of the training opportunity. They assured that all trainees would fully utilize their time and efforts, striving to justify the council's support.

Ejigbo Chairmanship: Idera Formally Declares interest

Lagos All Progressives Congress (APC) stalwart and the CEO of Sul Idera Hotel and Suite Limited, Comrade (Hon.) Sulaimon Gani Akintunde (Idera) has declared his interest to run for the post of Chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area.

The declaration which took place last Thursday and was made at the Apex leader resident Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan.

Addressing party faithful who were at that unique gathering, Idera said "After several months of consultations with stakeholders across the L.C.D.A., as a technocrat, I am officially throwing in my hat into the ring to contest and serve as Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) Chairman in 2025.



"Like our great leader, the President of the Federal Republic, His Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu who we follow and continue to learn a lot from, my desire is to serve the people of Ejigbo and Lagos, delivering to them the

dividends of democracy.

"If I am elected, I will continue from where our amiable and visionary leader, Hon. Monsuru Oloyede (Obe) stopped, proffering solutions and delivering projects that will benefit the

good people of our L.C.D.A and propel it into one of the best Councils in Nigeria." Idera added that "I will like to use this opportunity to thank you and further crave your usual support so as to be able to make this collective dream

of ours a reality."

His official declaration kickstarts the astute businessman's participation in the race for the APC ticket ahead of the forthcoming Chairmanship and Councillorship elections."

Peaceful Protest: Apatira Hails Sanwo-Olu

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Itire-Ikate LCDA, Dr Ahmed Apatira, has commended the Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, for his exceptional leadership during the nationwide protests. Apatira praised Gov. Sanwo-Olu's proactive measures in maintaining peace and ensuring public safety in Lagos State. Apatira noted that Gov. Sanwo-Olu's commitment to protecting the citizens and preventing violence is truly commendable. His leadership has been outstanding, and his

efforts have ensured the safety and well-being of Lagosians during this challenging period.

The council chairman praised the residents of the council area for their peaceful conduct during the recent protests.

Apatira commended the youths and other groups in the council area for keeping their word not to participate in the protest, demonstrating their belief in the APC-led administration's policies.

The council boss noted that the decision to shelve the protest indicates the people's willingness to give the



government more time to improve their welfare. He praised the peaceful conduct of

Lagosians during the protest, acknowledging the slowdown of business in some parts of the state due to fear

of violence.

Apatira reiterated that the opening of the National Grains Reserve and taking steps to address the suspending import of food shortage and high

prices, including the National Grains Reserve and suspending import of food shortage and high

Free GCE Forms: Apatira Charges Students To Prioritize Academic

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Itire-Ikate LCDA, Dr Ahmed Apatira has urged students to prioritize their educational excellence as he distributed 250 free GCE forms to indigent students in the council. This gesture is part of his administration's priority in education, aimed at making youths more productive and responsible individuals. While addressing the

students, Apatira recalled the distribution of free JAMB forms to students earlier in the year, which has enabled many to gain admission into higher institutions.

He emphasized the importance of education in empowering youths and making them self-sufficient.

Apatira also announced plans for a vocational training program to commence soon, aimed at

alleviating poverty and promoting self-dependence.

The council boss congratulated the beneficiaries of the free GCE forms and urged them to seize the opportunity to excel in their academic pursuits.

He encouraged the students to maintain their hard work and strive for excellent performance in the upcoming GCE examinations and other academic activities.

Apatira believes that the students will become

better individuals in the future, equipped to make

positive contributions to society.



Muibi Embarks On Reconstruction Of Dilapidated Roads

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Lagos Island East LCDA, Muibi Folawiyo has embarked on the reconstruction of major road in the community. Muibi said the major roads in the LCDA will undergo rehabilitation with interlocked stones and other road worthy materials in order to ensure accessible road networks in the community. "In the coming weeks, many roads within



LIELCDA will be re-surfaced, interlocked and reconstructed. The need to make all roads in the LCDA accessible is a priority to my administration. "My LIELCDA administration have embarked on the rehabilitation of dilapidated Oil Mill Street with interlocking paving stones. "This is one of the many road projects to be reconstructed and rehabilitated within our LIELCDA.

"I am always ready and committed to complete the ongoing rehabilitation of Upper Campos Tokunboh Street stretched to Tokunboh Freeman Street Junction, Atiko Street, Koilo Street, Cow Lane, Hawley Street and will embark on many more." The council boss appealed to the residents to adhere strictly to traffic diversion and exercise patience to hasten the completion of the road projects. "I kindly appeal for

patience, understanding and caution from road users, residents and business owners within this area. "As the reconstruction begins, I emphasize the importance of motorists, residents and business owners exercising caution, patience, and adherence to traffic diversions and rules to minimize traffic disruptions caused by the road rehabilitation."

Education: Muibi Charges Students To Take Advantage Of Bursary

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Lagos Island East LCDA, Muibi Folawiyo has urged students to take advantage of the Bursary programme enacted to cater for educational needs, Muibi said the purpose of the Bursary is to ensure indigent students are given educational support and to enhance their welfare in school. He charges the bursary committee to be diligent and process students' data with immediate effect. The council boss gave his assurance that the bursary scheme will be transparent while promising that disabled students also stand a chance to benefit from the program. "In fulfilment of my

campaign promises and to enhance education and student welfare, I inaugurated the LIELCDA Students Bursary Committee to work out how best to support indigent students of my LCDA in the pursuit of their educational endeavours by awarding bursary to deserving students. "I presented the terms of reference to the committee members and charged them to expedite the process of collating students' data. "Qualified candidates must be children or wards of people from Lagos Island East Local Council Development Area and they must be in public tertiary institutions, they must show evidence of residency within the

LCDA. "The bursary award is to encourage the use of education as a tool for development in our LIELCDA. "I encouraged LIELCDA students to take full advantage of the program and follow the provided directives.. "I assured that the scheme would be transparent, while special consideration would be given to students with disabilities. "The committee members would be given all the support needed to execute the task before them. I advised them to be objective and sincere in the selection of the candidates. "I urged the committee to carry out their duties diligently."



Lagos LG Elections: APC Chief Urges Aspirants To Follow Party Guidelines

By Saheed Afolabi

All Progressives Congress (APC) Lagos State Ex-officio, Abu Oriyemi from Badagry, has advised both the Chairmanship and Councillorship aspirants in Badagry West to take things easy and believe in God for a win.

This statement was made at Boglo Arena while addressing seventeen (17) chairmanship aspirants and twenty-eight (28) councillorship aspirants from Badagry West in attendance.

"I didn't spend 5k to become APC party Ex-Officio. It was divine.

"Spend less and moderate your mobilisation strategy for now pending the release

of the party guidelines as we prepare for the 2025 local government elections.

"Let your campaign be cordial, embrace each other, you are first brothers before party politics."

Abu also notified the aspirants that the party has directed that all aspirants contesting for the position of Chairman and Councillor should go on a low-key consultation pending the release of the party guideline

"Presently, we do not want any activity that could cause disorderliness in our party, you are advised to go about your consultation softly without noise which might be misunderstood as campaign.

"The party leadership is watching you all, especially the councillors, and at the appropriate time their will be proper screening.

"We want to know your worth, capacity, and what you want to offer the people.

"One thing is sure, none of you will do it in vain, to some of you who wish to be Chairman, you might be building yourself for other bigger opportunities in the party unknowingly to you."

Responding to speculations about the price of form for the upcoming elections, Abu said no amount has been specified for purchase of party form for LG elections.

Speaking, Peter Metome, the LGA Party

chairman said that the party logo has been restricted on souvenirs for now to avoid misconceptions

"No party logo must be seen on your souvenirs for now. You have been advised to remove them until proper party guidelines are out."

Metome further expressed that APC

party registration will commence soon for mobilisation of more members into the party.

"Party registration will be coming up. This exercise is important to re-examine our strength as a party.

"The number of registered members we have and how best we can increase the number

of our members, especially as the ruling party, will go a long way to boost our party in the coming elections.

"As aspirants, let's stand up and mobilise people into the party during the registration," Metome appeals.

He advised that all aspirants should ensure their documents are in tact.



IJAIYE

Group Empowers Youths With Digital Skills in Ojokoro

Kehinde Adeleye



In a concerted effort to enhance the digital competency of the youth in Ojokoro LCDA, the "Likeminds 4 BAT BOS" Ojokoro Chapter, a prominent political group, has launched an initiative aimed at

providing essential computer skills and vocational training to students and pupils during this extended school vacation.

Chairman Adebawale Yusuff, in her remarks, highlighted the critical

need for young people to acquire digital skills in order to remain competitive in today's rapidly changing global environment.

She further emphasized that the group is determined to

support this initiative and assist young individuals in developing the digital literacy and vocational skills that will enable them to meet the increasingly high standards demanded by today's global landscape.

In her words, "in today's rapidly advancing world, proficiency in ICT is indispensable for personal growth and socio-economic development. As a club, we aim to ensure that every student has the opportunity to acquire these vital skills including vocational skills such

as Cosmetology, Cakes and Confectionaries, Hair Making, Soap Making and more to enable them to thrive in the new age", Adebawale said.

"Our initiative shows the importance of digital literacy in fostering the development of our youth by providing comprehensive computer and vocational training, we want to empower our students and pupils to compete globally and contribute meaningfully to our community", Adebawale continued.

The Chairman, Adebawale Yusuff, implored the parents and guardians of the

participating students to take advantage of this transformative opportunity and enroll their children in the free training program. This, he asserted, will equip them with the necessary skills to confront the challenges and capitalize on the opportunities that the future holds.

Furthermore, Yusuff appealed to the parents and guardians to lend their support and guidance to their children during the training to facilitate a conducive and conducive learning environment.

Somolu LG Set To Commission Multiple Projects

By Saheed Afolabi

Somolu LG Chairman, Abdulhamed Salawu is on the verge of completing major projects in the community.

A cornerstone of this transformation is the imminent commissioning of the Somolu Local Government Administrative Complex. This state-of-the-art edifice, strategically located in the heart of Somolu, is set to redefine governance in the area. Its modern facilities will optimize service delivery and enhance the overall administrative efficiency, bringing government closer to the people.

Complementary to this is the nearing completion of the Somolu Legislative Complex. This facility will serve as the bedrock for effective lawmaking, ensuring that the voices of Somolu residents are amplified in the corridors of power.

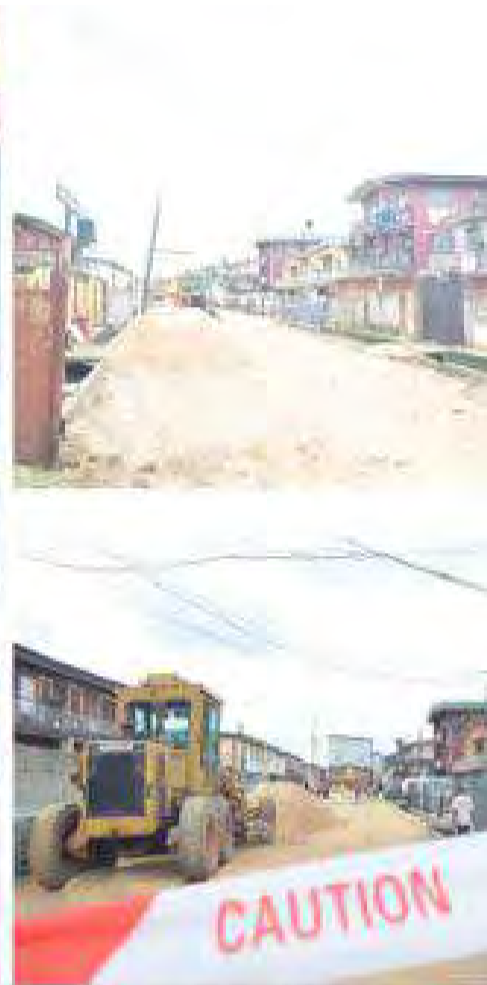
Recognizing the critical

role of emergency services, the administration has fast-tracked the construction of a High-Tech Somolu Emergency Service Station. Equipped with modern technology and trained personnel, this facility will significantly reduce response time to emergencies, saving lives and property.

To bolster security in the community, the Bashua Police Station is nearing completion. This strategic investment in law enforcement underscores the administration's commitment to creating a safe and secure environment for residents and businesses alike.

The face of Somolu's roadscape is also undergoing a radical overhaul. The recent completion of Kalejaiye and Upper Isaac John Streets in Fadeyi has already brought immense relief to commuters and residents.

The ongoing



transformation of Oyebajo and Lower Isaac John Streets, coupled with the introduction of solar-powered street lights, will further enhance the area's aesthetics and safety. The Bajulaiye-Fola Agoro axis is also benefiting

from these infrastructural upgrades, with the paving of Owolabi Balogun Street and the upcoming transformation of Fatai Kadir Street.

In the Ijebutedo-Palmgrove area, the construction of the

expansive Dabira-Emmanuel-Albert Road is progressing steadily. This critical road network will not only improve traffic flow but also alleviate the perennial flooding challenges that have plagued the area for years.

The parallel construction of

Adeola and Awofeso Phase 1 roads is another strategic move to enhance drainage and overall infrastructure in the region.

Salawu's vision for Somolu extends beyond physical infrastructure. His administration is committed to transforming the area into a global business hub. The strides being made in terms of roads, security, and public facilities are laying the groundwork for this ambitious goal.

The synergy between the local government and the state government, under the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and Dr. Kadir Obafemi Hamzat, is undoubtedly propelling Somolu to greater heights.

As the commissioning of these projects draws near, residents of Somolu can look forward to a brighter future characterized by improved quality of life, economic prosperity, and a sense of community pride.

IKEJA

NBA Ikeja Branch Announces Death Of Former Chairman

Kehinde Adeleye

The legal community is in mourning after the untimely passing of Adesina Ogunlana, Esq, former Chairman of the NBA Ikeja Branch, Lagos State, who unexpectedly breathed his last on Tuesday, August 8th, 2023, without any prior indications of illness.

His demise was officially confirmed in a statement released by

the NBA Ikeja Branch Secretary, Issa Adedokun, on Wednesday morning. The announcement included the news that the bereaved family would communicate the burial arrangement at a later date.

The NBA's statement reads: "The Executive Committee regrets to announce the sudden passage of our beloved Leader, Adesina Ogunlana, Esq. (Past

Chairman (2016 - 2018), who passed on yesterday the 6th of AUGUST 2024.

"We are deeply saddened by this transition but comforted by the fact that, our dear Leader lived an exemplary life worthy of emulation by all.

"His contributions to our branch in particular, the legal profession and the entire country in general will forever remain indelible.

"Burial arrangements will be announced

upon confirmation from his immediate family.

"As we condole with his family, kindly remember them in prayers at this critical time."

One of the close associates of the deceased said he died in his course of fighting for injustice.

He said, "It is a very sad day. Words alone can't express how sad I felt hearing of the demise of this doggedly relentless man, Adesina Ogunlana. He died at his desk doing what he loved most, fighting for justice for all. May his soul rest in eternal power."



Olowa To Kick Start Garbage Collection Scheme

By Mohammed Adekola



The ongoing indiscriminate refuse waste disposal by residents of Ibeju-Lekki local government has led to the chairman, Engr. Abdullah Sesan Olowa

to introduce Keke Jaja Garbage Collection Scheme urging to mitigate or eradicate the impact of disposing waste in Ibeju Lekki

environment and it's axis. Abdullah Sesan Olowa assured residents that he is actively working to address the issue by engaging Ibeju Lekki and Higeneplus with

Keke Jaja as a permanent solution. Olowa added that the lingering imbroglio between the residents and waste collectors in the local government,

he urged the people to remain calm and have designed a resolute and civil in the people's demand, and I commend their civility and maturity. The Chairman said, "In

coming days, Keke Jaja shall commence operation fully for an amicable resolution to illegal dumping of waste for the sake of the people and the community.

FMC Epe To Establish Nursing School

By Mohammed Adekola

Federal Ministry of Health has instructed Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Epe, Lagos State to establish its

own nursing school next year. The Minister of State for Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Tunji Alausa disclosed this in a post he made on his

personal X handle. He noted that the directive was given to the Center on Monday, while handing over the letter of appointment to Dr.

Adeleke Adesola Kaka, who was appointed as the first acting Medical Director for the FMC Epe. He stated that the establishment of the

school will help to improve educational and career opportunities for young Nigerians and address the brain drain crisis.

Alausa added that the establishment of medical center in Epe, has helped bring comprehensive healthcare closer to the people.

Ikosi-Ejinrin Resumes Second Phase Grading Of Roads

Ikosi-Ejinrin Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has resumed the second phase of grading roads across various communities within the council area. The project was temporarily halted due to the rainy season. With the resumption of work, grading has commenced in the Ketu community, with Ododugba Road and several other streets already completed. The LCDA has initiated the opening of a new road that will connect Timberville Agbowa/Owu (Okobaba relocation site) with

By Mohammed Adekola

Agbowa community. This new road will provide direct access between Agbowa and the Agbowa/Owu Timberville relocation site, thereby easing transportation and facilitating commerce for residents and businesses in the area. Anomoso's administration has consistently demonstrates its commitment to improve infrastructure in Ikosi-Ejinrin, with the project being a significant testament to his efforts. Residents expressed

their appreciation for the ongoing developments, citing improved accessibility and reduced travel times as key benefits. The completion of these projects is expected to have a positive impact on the community, making Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA a more attractive place to live, work, and do business. Anomoso assured residents that more projects are in the pipeline, with a continued focus on sustainable development and community engagement



Adeleke Appointed As Acting Medical Director FMC Epe

By Mohammed Adekola

The Minister of State for Health and Social Welfare, Dr Tunji Alausa has presented letter of appointment to the acting medical director, Dr Adeleke Kaka of FMC Epe. Alausa said the establishment of the two institutions was crucial for national development, he explained that the centres were designed to alleviate the strain on existing healthcare facilities by providing tertiary care to over one million residents in Epe region. Previously citizens had to travel hundreds of

miles to Lagos for such services," he noted. He commended the Lagos State Government for cooperating and transferring the Lagos General Hospital to the Federal Government, facilitating the establishment of FMC Epe. The approval further demonstrates the president's passion and commitment to ensure that Nigerians receive the best healthcare at an affordable cost while also aims to increase the much-needed human resources for health in the country



Synthetic Pitches: A Double-Edged Sword for Athletes - Dr Kolade

By Saheed Afolabi

Dr. Kolade Kolapo, a medical expert from Codic Specialist Medical Centre, has weighed in on the contentious issue of synthetic pitches, offering a balanced perspective on their benefits and drawbacks.

The Lagos based medical practitioner acknowledged the allure of synthetic turf – low maintenance, year-round usability, and enhanced performance – Dr. Kolapo cautioned against a one-sided view.

He emphasized the



complexities involved in both installation and the potential impact on player health.

Creating a suitable base for synthetic turf is crucial. Poor drainage can lead to waterlogging, odors, and turf degradation.

Dr. Kolapo stressed the importance of professional installation, warning against the risks of DIY attempts. Furthermore, the initial costs of high-quality synthetic turf, including accessories, can be substantial.

The medical expert highlighted the reduced shock absorption of synthetic turf compared to natural grass, leading to increased foot pain.

Over time, the turf hardens, exacerbating the risk of injuries. Additionally, the friction between players' shoes and the synthetic surface can cause excessive torque, potentially leading to ligament injuries in the knees and ankles.

Dr. Kolapo's insights underscore the need for careful consideration when opting for synthetic pitches.

While they offer certain advantages, their installation and maintenance require expertise, and their impact on player health cannot be ignored.

Olympics: D'Tigress Defy Odds Despite Quarter Final Loss To USA

By Saheed Afolabi



Against the towering figure of Team USA, the Nigerian women's basketball team, D'Tigress, faced a seemingly insurmountable challenge. Yet, under the guidance of Coach Rena Wakama, they transformed adversity into a platform for

greatness.

Their quarter-final clash at the Paris 2024 Olympics was a testament to their unwavering spirit. Though the final score favored the Americans, D'Tigress etched their names in the annals of sports history with a performance that

transcended mere results.

Coach Rena's belief in her players was the cornerstone of their resilience. She instilled in them a mantra that echoed through every possession: "Impossibility is nothing." This philosophy propelled D'Tigress to heights

previously deemed unreachable.

From the outset, the Nigerian squad matched their American counterparts blow-for-blow. Rena's strategic brilliance and motivational prowess ignited a fire within her players, fueling their determination to defy expectations.

As the game unfolded, Team USA's experience began to assert itself, but D'Tigress refused to yield. Rena's unwavering support and tactical adjustments kept her team in contention. Her belief in their capabilities was infectious, inspiring them to push beyond their perceived limits.

The final buzzer sounded

with D'Tigress on the losing end, but their performance was a victory in itself. They had showcased the heart of a champion, proving that with courage, determination, and a coach who believes in them, anything is possible.


Coach Rena's post-game reflections encapsulated the essence of their journey: "We may not have won the game, but we won the hearts of millions. My girls fought like lions, and that's a victory in itself."

D'Tigress' battle against Team USA was more than just a basketball game; it was a statement.

It was a declaration that with the right mindset, even the most formidable opponents can be challenged. Coach Rena and her team had not only played a game but inspired a nation.



For News Round Lagos Read Echoneews

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