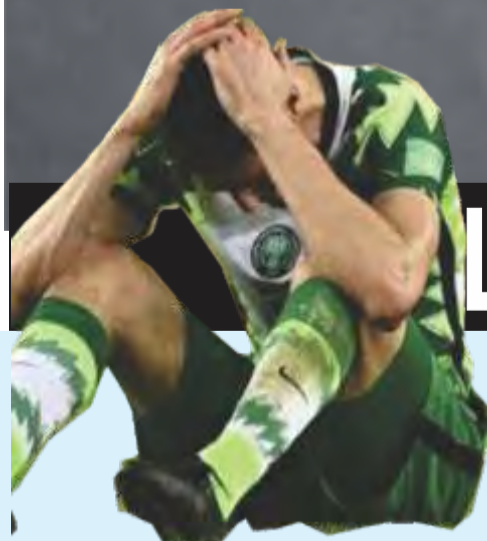


More Facts on Herbert Wigwe's Last Flight

Pg.2



Loud Silence After Eagles Loss

Pg.5

Tinubu's Govt: Mandate Movement Epe Appeals To Nigerians

Pg.19

Lagos Offers Rewarding Investment Opportunities-Sanwo-Olu

Pg.9

LASUSTECH Celebrates Second Anniversary

Pg.20

Faleke Empowers Hundreds of Ikeja Residents

Pg.21

More Facts on Herbert Wigwe's Last Flight

By Kunle Awosiyun

The United States Authorities have said that the windy weathers has contributed to the crashing Eurocopter EC130 helicopter that killed the Chief Executive of Access Holdings, Mr. Herbert Wigwe, his wife Chizoba, son and the former group chairman of Nigerian Exchange Group Plc (NGX Group) Abimbola Ogunbanjo. Echonews gathered that there was rain and snowstorm in the area at the time of the crash with gusty winds raging as high as 45 mph.

Investigation revealed that Wigwe's helicopter and another one were flying towards the same direction at the time of the incident.

Ogunbanjo, the former group chairman of Nigerian Exchange Group Plc (NGX Group), and two others (yet to be identified) were also onboard the helicopter when it crashed in California near the Nevada border.

The United States federal aviation administration (FAA) said the Eurocopter EC130 helicopter crashed around 10 p.m. California time (Saturday, 7 a.m. Nigerian time).

Some US local media, reported that the chopper took off from Palm Springs but it was not clear where it was headed.

While one had Wigwe and his family on board, Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, Wigwe's business partner and former Access bank CEO, and Tunde Folawiyi, business mogul, were reportedly aboard the second chopper. No survivors have been found so far.

FAA said the National Transportation Safety



Late Herbert Wigwe

Board (NTSB) will be in charge of the investigation and will provide any updates.

Meanwhile, report says Mr. Wigwe flew from London with the party into California but could not continue to Las Vegas apparently because of some schedule hitches.

Consequently, they landed in Los Angeles and hired a chopper to Las Vegas for the annual Super Bowl which he usually attended with his family and close associates.

The Super Bowl is the annual league championship game of the National Football League of the United States.

Meanwhile Access Bank Plc, has reacted to the reported death of its Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Herbert Wigwe in a helicopter crash.

The bank in a statement posted on its X handle on Sunday said it has received numerous inquiries concerning the crash and is working

with the US authorities for updates.

"We have received numerous inquiries concerning an airplane crash in the USA. Presently, we lack specific information; however, we are actively collaborating with US authorities who will furnish updates.

"Your understanding and support are valued, and we commit to keeping you informed promptly as we receive updates on the situation."

They are reported to have been en route to Boulder City, Nevada from Palm Springs, California, on Friday night when the helicopter conveying them crashed at about 10 pm, near a small town in California's Mojave Desert.

A total of six people were in the helicopter that crashed near the California-Nevada border. No one survived the crash.

According to a public information officer with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's

Department, Mara Rodriguez, officials were notified of the downed aircraft at 10:12 p.m. local time. She said that the crash site was located east of Interstate 15, near Halloran Springs Road.

Before His Death

Three weeks before the crash that claimed his life, the late Group Chief Executive Officer, Access Holdings Plc, Herbert Wigwe, had posted in January about appreciating life as a gift and valuing each day.

In a tweet posted on his official X handle on January 19, Wigwe wrote, "Today and always, let us remember that life is a precious gift – a chance to breathe, feel, love, experience and connect.

"Let's honour this gift by living with purpose, kindness, and gratitude, making every moment count. Let us number our days.

His Marriage

Herbert Wigwe met his wife, Chizoba during his National Youth Service year after he had

graduated from the University of Nigeria, Nsuka. The marriage was blessed with four children, Chizi, Tochi, Hannah and David.

His Life, Career and Philanthropy

Wigwe was born on August 15, 1966. He started his professional career with Coopers & Lybrand Associates, an international firm of Chartered Accountants. He spent over 10 years at Guaranty Trust Bank Plc where he managed several portfolios, including financial institutions, large corporates and multinationals.

He left Guaranty Trust Bank as an Executive Director to co-lead the transformation of Access Bank Plc in March 2002 as Deputy Managing Director. He was appointed Group Managing Director/CEO effective January 1, 2014 and served in that capacity till May 2022.

He was subsequently appointed a Non-Executive Director of the Bank effective May

2022.

Wigwe was an alumnus of the Harvard Business School Executive Management Programme. He held

master's degree in Banking and International Finance

from the University College of North Wales, a master's degree in Financial Economics from the University of London and a B.Sc. degree in Accounting from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN).

He was also a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN). He was the Chairman of Access Bank (UK) Ltd and a Non-Executive Director of Nigerian Mortgage Refinance Company Plc; FMDQ OTC Securities Exchange; Shared Agents Network Expansion Facilities Ltd and Agri-Business/ SME Enterprises Investment Scheme. He is also a member of the Governing Council of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria.

More Facts on Herbert Wigwe's Last Flight

continued from page 2

Wigwe was one of the most respected bankers on the continent, without a shadow of a doubt. He clearly understood that without embracing change and having foresights, banks would not be able to compete and would be left behind by their peers, which would definitely impact customer satisfaction, operational efficiency, and revenue growth negatively. This was why he continuously ensured that Access Holdings under his watch emerged as one of Africa's leading financial services groups. He showed relentless pursuit for growth, but in a measured and calculated manner. From a small bank in 2002, the late Wigwe who took over from his close friend and business partner,

Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, in 2014, completely transformed the bank which at some point was ranked 65th among 89 banks operating in the country. Access Bank under Wigwe, evolved from an obscure bank into a world-class African financial institution. Today, the financial institution, which is a subsidiary of the holding company, is one of the five largest banks in Nigeria in terms of assets, loans, deposits and branch network; a feat which was achieved through a robust long-term approach to client solutions – providing committed and innovative advice. Access Bank has built its strength and success in corporate banking and is now applying that expertise to personal and business banking platforms it acquired

from Nigeria's international commercial bank in 2012. Wigwe has helped to develop some of Africa's biggest companies in the construction, telecommunications, energy, oil and gas sectors through Access Bank. Today, Access Holdings has spread from Nigeria to Rwanda, Ghana, South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Zambia, Angola, France, United Kingdom, Botswana, Guinea, R.D. Congo, Gambia, Tanzania, Uganda, among several other countries. His latest aggressive expansionist drive was in Zambia, where Access Bank Zambia Limited last month announced the completion of its acquisition of African Banking Corporation Zambia Limited (also

known as Atlas Mara Zambia), after obtaining all requisite regulatory approvals. His philanthropic gesture saw him set up the HOW Foundation (Herbert Onyewumbu Wigwe), which is focused on education, health, youth empowerment and sustainability. The Foundation has over the years committed several billions of naira to upgrade and support 23 Primary Health Care Centres across Rivers State in five years, to train 75 doctors (in Israel and the USA) over the course of five years, among several interventions. Its achievements are evidenced in its commitment to change the future through the upliftment in education, health and youth empowerment. Also, the HOW Foundation supports the education

of 13 000 Almajiri children in Kaduna State. Wigwe University To Wigwe, education is expected to make one fearless. It should help students remain focused, unwavering, and fixed firmly on the exhilaration of victory rather than the fear of defeat. He said this at the inauguration of his university, Wigwe University in Rivers State. Wigwe University is focused on delivering education, cultivating Africa's bold and fearless generation of leaders, innovative thinkers and entrepreneurial sons and daughters. The University, which is presently admitting its first set of students is expected to play a pivotal role in bridging the skills' gaps in the continent and ensure that the right manpower is developed for African

businesses and for the rest of the world. The ivy-league institution is based on high-standard teaching quality, established to build a new generation of leaders, entrepreneurs and scientists. It is Africa's gateway to the world of entrepreneurship, technology, innovation, and impact. Wigwe's mission, through the Wigwe University, is to change the course of Nigeria's future through committed and world-class faculty and globally relevant and locally impactful curricula taught through novel methods to rival the globe's most respected universities. The Wigwe University is dedicated to fostering a global learning environment with a focus on excellence, innovation, and inclusivity.

To bridge the gap in manpower, Wigwe had planned to recruit 30 per cent of the teaching staff from the UK and the US. He was to play an active role in teaching and mentoring, engaging prominent entrepreneurs like his friend Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest man. The university aims to enroll 1,400 students in its inaugural year, with a projected increase to 10,000 within the next five years. "I cannot change the world overnight. But if I can empower even one youth today, tomorrow, they could join me in empowering others. With time, we could change the world. The truth is that the end to the good we can achieve is nowhere in sight. There's so much more to conquer. There are more lives to impact and generations to uplift to achieve their full potential," Wigwe said recently.



Wigwe with wife

More Facts on Herbert Wigwe's Last Flight



Wigwe University

His Last Hours and Condolences

He wanted to give back to the society and that was the reason for Wigwe University, a legacy he has now left behind following his tragic death, according to an online publisher, Jackson Ude who claimed he was with him a few hours to his death. He said, "We met in Miami. He offered to meet me at the hotel I was staying. He was that very simple. We chatted briefly in my room and decided to go have some drinks at the Bar.

While at the Bar, Wigwe told me about his University and how he wants me to do a lot to help him promote it. He was very passionate about it and talked so much about his plans to make it Africa's best. We talked for a long time over a bottle of

Cognac and I made him drink more than he would usually drink. We held hands as friends and I walked him to his car and he left.

Next day, we met again at the Restaurant near Collins Avenue with his daughter who was attending a University in New York. We had lunch and parted to meet again at night for dinner.

At night, we met again at another Restaurant in Collins Avenue with Sayyud Dantata who had flown down on his helicopter to meet us. Chairman of the Nigerian Exchange Group Plc, Abimbola Ogunbanjo, a close friend of Herbert who was also in the crashed chopper, joined us at the restaurant.

We all bantered and talked a lot about Nigeria, Politics and

businesses over drinks and food. Again, Wigwe would not stop talking about his university. It was his passion!

Wigwe had seen it all in the Banking industry. He had made his mark and left a big legacy with Access Bank being one of the biggest Banks in Africa.

To the Minister of Aviation, Mr. Festus Keyamo, Wigwe, actually left my office to fly out of the country and never came back. I am also shocked to learn his wife, son and other friends were involved in this tragedy..

We were on the verge of announcing something big for the aviation sector, the reason he actually came to the office with his entire team, both from Access and Wigwe University. This is surreal and I am lost for words.

May Almighty God comfort his aged parents and sibling (who were also my neighbours in Lagos for many years as a very young lawyer in Anthony Village), his immediate family members, his staff, friends across Nigeria and dependents.

To the Director General of the World Trade Organisation, Dr. Ngozi Okojo-Iweala, it is saddened to hear about the demise of Wigwe. She said, "I'm Terribly saddened by the news of the terrible loss of Herbert Wigwe, Group CEO Access Bank @HerbertOWigwe, his wife and son as well as Bimbo Ogunbanjo in a helicopter crash. My deepest sympathies and condolences to the Wigwe family, the Ogunbanjo family, Access Bank Group employees and

Management @myaccessbank and my younger Brother Herbert's partner Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede. May the souls of the departed rest in perfect peace. To Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Wigwe is my brother, my friend and my adviser.

I'm deeply saddened by the tragic loss of my dear brother and friend, Dr. Herbert Wigwe, his dear wife Doreen, and their beloved son Chizi in a helicopter crash.

Herbert was not just a brother and visionary leader but one of the brightest minds in Africa. His impact on our nation and beyond will be remembered forever. My heart mourns.

Herbert's contributions to Banking and the financial sector in Africa were

unparalleled. He was an unapologetic believer in the Nigerian solution. His dedication and passion for progress inspired us all. Today, we mourn not just a leader but a true friend and brother. Lagos and Nigeria have lost a remarkable soul. Rest in peace, my brother.

We also lost another great business leader and legal luminary, my egbon Abimbola Ogunbanjo, former Group Chairman of Nigerian Exchange Group Plc, who contributed significantly to the development of the Capital Markets and Corporate law in Nigeria. May his soul rest in peace.

In this difficult time, our thoughts are with the families of all the victims, and we pray for strength and grace.

Loud Silence After Eagles Loss

The Onikan Mega Viewing Centre suddenly went silent after the Elephants of Cote D'Ivoire equalised with a superb header from Franck Kessie. It was the tonic the West African country would need to stop the Super Eagles from winning its fourth African Cup of Nation, AFCON on the Sunday night. The second and the winning goal came from Sebastian Haller to seal the victory for the Elephants who had dominated the game from the blast of the whistle. The Super Eagles were lethargic all through except for the moment captain Williams Troost-Ekong nodded in the first goal of the encounter to raise the hope of Nigerians. The hailing and

shout of jubilation at the various viewing centres in Lagos were short-lived when Cote D'Ivoire beat Nigeria at the end of 97 minutes. The crowd left the centres disappointed even though some still commended the Super Eagles for getting to that stage when no one had given them any chance. Sunday's final was supposed to be easy for the Eagles who had defeated the elephants in the preliminaries by a lone goal but it turned out to be a different ball game as the Ivorians took over every department to win the cup for the third time. "I think the Ivorians deserved to win. It would have been unfair to football if Nigeria had won that maztch.



Loud Silence After Eagles Loss

The Super Eagles did not show that they needed the cup but the Elephants of Cote d'Ivoire. The Ivorians played their heart out and they won," Mr. Kehinde Kasali had said. To Mr. Njoku Boniface, the Ivorians showed that they needed the glory more than Nigeria. There was a sign of urgency from the Elephants side. "They host this tournament, they have the crowd and they used the opportunity to win it," he said. Boniface told our correspondent that he bought a keg of palm wine early Sunday morning, which he kept in the fridge to celebrate Super Eagles' victory but unfortunately he could not drink it after the match. "There was no electricity supply and I knew many of my friends would come to my house to see the match. I always put on generator. I have told them that this night would be special with palm wine but nobody asked me for the 'palmy' after the match," he said. Although, there is a solace for the Super Eagles with the captain Troost-Ekong winning player of the tournament, this does not erase the emotion for some of his team mates, including Ademola

Lookman and the goalkeeper, Stanley Nwabali who cried profusely on the pitch after the match. Just as they cried, some Nigerian supporters also cried publicly. A good example is one Azeez who watched the match at the same viewing centre with our correspondent. He could not control his emotion. Azeez shed tears over the Super Eagles' loss and would not want to return home after the match. Two of his friends had to escort him to his place with the instruction to stay around him until he is able to sleep. Meanwhile President Bola Tinubu has saluted the Super Eagles of Nigeria for their tenacious performance in the final of the 2024 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Côte d'Ivoire. President Tinubu commends the team, the coach, the crew, and the entire management team for their hard work, assiduity, and sacrifice to come this far in the tournament, acknowledging the hurdles they consistently surpassed with steadily improving performance as they pulled through to the finals. The President urges



Nigerians to be of good cheer, emphasizing that we won a great victory in the hearts of Africa and the world by our grit, rigour, and determination in the field of play. "Let this passing event not dispirit us, but bring us together to

work harder. We are a great nation bound as one by the green-white-green banner of resilience, joy, hope, duty, and untiring love. To those cherished Nigerian youths expressing their gifts in communities, drawing lines in the sand

as they play football in their humble rectangles of play, you can be our heroes tomorrow, do not relent in your pursuit. My administration is here to make dreams come true," the President says.



LASVO Begins Valuation of Govt Asset in State-Owned Health Facilities

Lagos State Valuation Office (LASVO) is set to commence the Site Visitation, Physical Inspection, and Valuation of all Lagos State Government Assets in all the State-owned Health Facilities Statewide, to determine the Fair Value in tandem with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) Implementation.

The exercise will also include the Creation and Management of a detailed and comprehensive Fixed Assets Register for the Moveable Assets (consisting of Furniture, Fittings, Office/Computer Equipment, Medical and Specialised Equipment etc.), in all the captured Health Facilities owned by the State in conjunction with Messrs. Adefila & Partners (Consultant Estate Surveyors and Valuers) having been recommended and selected by the Lagos State Public Procurement Agency (LASPPA).

In a statement issued on Friday by the Agency, the Director of LASVO, ESV. Adekunle Awolaja said the valuation exercise commenced on Monday 5th February 2024 and would end on Friday, 29th March 2024.

He explained that the exercise aims to enable the State to keep proper records of its Assets in alignment with International best practices for Public Organisations which ensures Consistency, Accountability and Transparency. Awolaja averred that the office carries out the valuation of government assets in compliance with global best practices, such as International Public

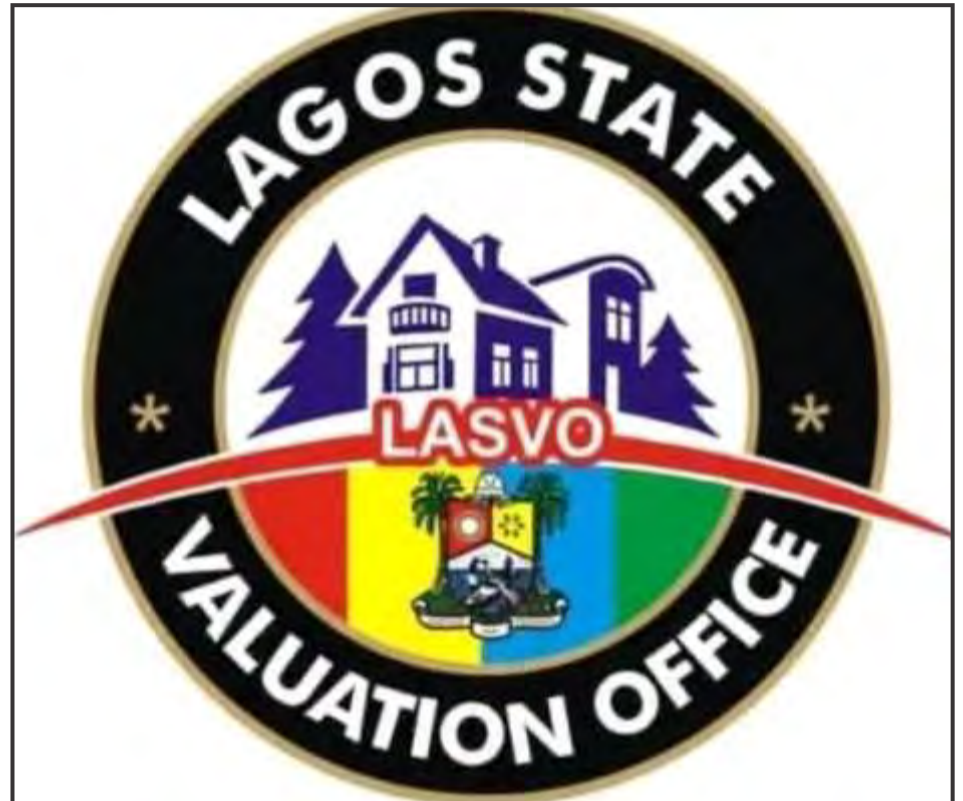
Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), International Valuation Standards (IVS) and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

According to him, all Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) of the State, must be identified to ascertain their condition, determine their economic worth in monetary terms and proffer recommendations for optimising the usage of such assets.

It will be recalled that

this is the 6th Phase of the IPSAS Compliance Project by the Office, hence virtually all sectors have been touched but there is still a long way to capture all other State-owned assets.

The Director, therefore, solicited the support of all Health and allied agencies in the State to provide the necessary information and assistance to the Consultants and staff of the Valuation Office.



The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) has commenced more enlightenment campaigns on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence as it begins Door-to-Door engagement activity in a bid for the residents of Lagos State to be aware of the support services they can access at the Agency.

The programme which commenced recently saw the Agency visiting Schools, Mosques, Churches, Markets and Motorparks in the Kosofe Local Government Area and it is billed to run for three months as part of efforts to encourage residents to speak up and also report cases of abuse in their various communities.

Speaking during the exercise, the Executive Secretary of DSVA, Mrs. Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi stressed the need to re-orientate residents continually by emphasising the importance of reporting cases of

DSVA Set To Engage One Million In Door-To-Door Engagements

domestic and sexual violence through the toll-free line – 08-000-333-333.

Vivour-Adeniyi, who was represented at the event by the Head of Community Engagement at the Agency, Mr. Damilare Adewusi, called on all to support the

efforts of the government by speaking up on domestic and gender-based issues to eradicate the menace from society. She emphasised that the Agency would be visiting various local government areas to propagate the SGBV message through the

key relevance of reporting the cases when they occur.

She noted that research and perception surveys would be carried out during the three months of the engagement to ascertain lasting and

enduring avenues to end the menace.

In the course of the campaign, souvenirs and educational materials were distributed to residents in the State. Almost 5000 residents were reached during the exercise.



LAWMA Facilitates LAG ID Cards For 2000 Sweepers



Kehinde Adeleye

The Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) and the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) have joined forces to provide LAG ID cards to more than 2,000 sweepers.

The cards were distributed during an event at the LAWMA headquarters following a successful data capturing exercise.

The Managing Director/CEO of LAWMA, Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin, expressed his excitement for the initiative, emphasizing how it can greatly improve the lives of the sweepers in their daily tasks and financial transactions.

“We are incredibly proud to collaborate with LASRRA to equip our hardworking sweepers with these invaluable ID cards. These cards transcend mere plastic; they represent a gateway to a multiple benefits that will empower them and elevate their social standing.”

Dr. Gbadegesin explained the various benefits of the LASRRA cards, highlighting their versatility. He stressed that these cards not only serve as a valid form of identification but also fill a vital gap in the lives of many sweepers.

The cards give them the confidence to navigate daily interactions and promote a feeling of inclusion within their community.

Expanding on this, the LAWMA director mentioned that the LASRRA cards provide a range of advantages that directly cater to the sweepers’

requirements and goals. These advantages include the ability to access healthcare services and apply for loans.

“The cards act as a key that opens doors to essential healthcare services, a fundamental right. This ensures their well-being and enables them to maintain optimal health, crucial for their demanding work. With these cards, they can also apply for business loans, fostering financial inclusion and opens doors to economic opportunities that were previously out of reach”, he concluded.

The General Manager of LASRRA, Mrs. Bilikis Abiola, noted that the initiative was a partnership with LAWMA, to help the Authority have a unique data base of sanitation workers and to enable them access free healthcare services with the cards.

“LAWMA has quite a large number of street sweepers working assiduously everyday and it is important for the Authority to know who they are. Therefore, we have come up with a system where we utilise their data base, using biometrics, pictures and other details to ensure that we have unique people, who will be issued the LAG ID card. This will help LAWMA handle their sweepers and they will know the genuine workers”, she stated.

She mentioned that the card would also include health insurance coverage for the sweepers, with LAWMA guaranteeing affordable and free

healthcare services for all of them.

Talking about the activity and rationale for collaborating with LASRRA, Mr. Seyi Olanrewaju, the Team Lead at Sterling Bank and Group Head of Payment Products, explained that the purpose of the initiative, called identity banking, was to offer financial services to a wide range of people.

This initiative aimed to provide easy and fast access to financial services and various other facilities such as loans for residents of Lagos.

He said “We have a concrete conjunction with the Lagos State Government particularly LASRRA for provision of cards layered with a lot of opportunities. For every LASRRA card owner, you have access to BRT, loans and other financial benefits and our aim is to reach out to about three million residents of Lagos State, irrespective of their status/strata in order to enrich and expand the LASRRA card activation scheme”.

“The card has the same functionality as the ATM card, the moment one is being given a card, a wallet account will be opened automatically, and after it has been loaded, one can have access and benefit from it. Each time a one uses the card, it generates points which one can cash it out later. As long as you have the card”, he stressed. High point of the event was the distribution and activation of the cards to the sanitation workers (sweepers).

LASRRA Commends LASU On Dedicated Registration Centre

The Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) has applauded the establishment of the dedicated Registration Centre at LASU, Ojo Campus in line with its efforts to scale up registration and provide demographic data for efficient planning and proper allocation of resources in the State.

Speaking at the commissioning on Tuesday, the General Manager of LASRRA, Mrs. Bilikiss Adebisi-Abiola commended the Vice-Chancellor of LASU, Professor Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, for her swift response in the setting up of the Centre and handing it over to the Agency.

Adebisi-Abiola, who was represented by the Head, Registration, LASRRA, Mrs. Bolanle Lawal, said that the project is an indication that all MDAs of the State Government are partners in progress. She added that the Agency is looking up

to other Lagos State Institutions to do the same.

The General Manager reiterated that the registration is free and that registrants should follow up with the card pick-up by checking with the short code *347*641#, saying “Send this to the number used while registering and the status of your LAG-ID card is revealed. Please make sure that you pick up this card as soon as it is ready so that you can enjoy the benefits that come with it”.

In her remarks, the Vice-Chancellor of LASU, Professor Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello admitted that the Ministries, Departments, and Agencies have to partner or collaborate to get results that will further enhance the development of the State.

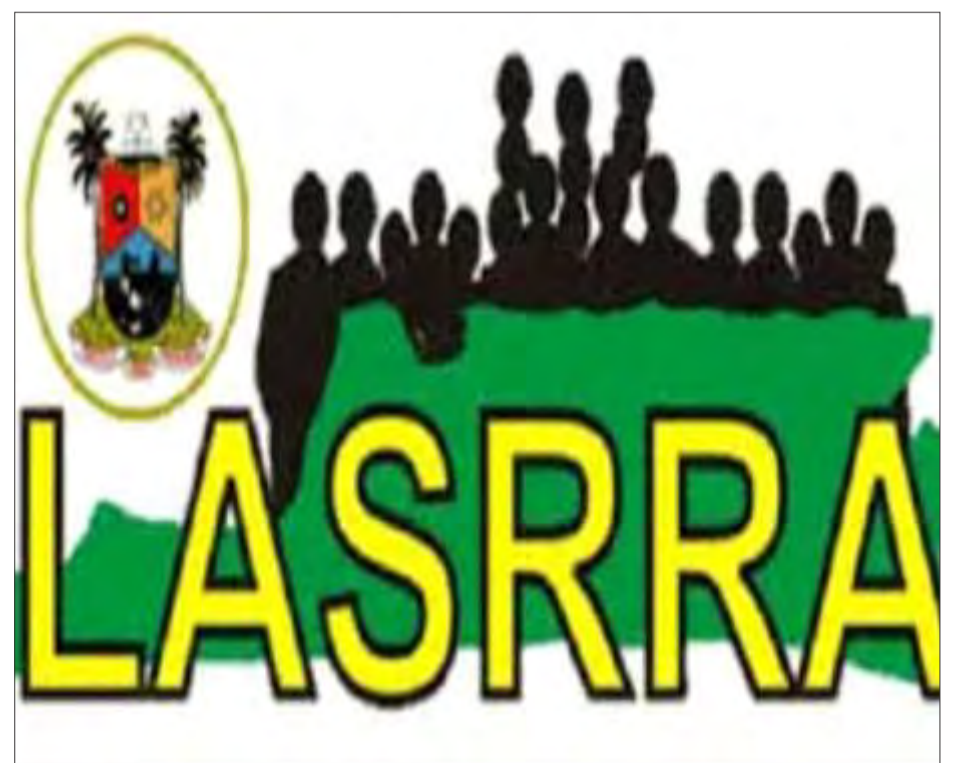
The Vice-Chancellor, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics), Professor Olufunso Omobitan, appealed to the students and

members of staff to make sure that they seize the opportunity to register and validate as the Agency has deemed it necessary to bring the exercise to their doorstep.

She said that there would be no excuse for not registering by students and all members of staff including residents that have come to transact one business or the other on the Campus.

While maintaining that students and members of staff on the Epe Campus will soon enjoy the same privilege as a space will be created for them too, she promised that the institution will continue to sensitise the students on the importance and benefits of the registration.

Other dignitaries present at the commissioning and handover ceremony include the Deputy Registrar, Dr. Lateef Sekoni and other senior management staff of the Institution.



Lagos Offers Rewarding Investment Opportunities-Sanwo-Olu

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has assured investors that Lagos State offers highly rewarding opportunities for investments as it is home to the majority of European companies operating and contributing to the economic prosperity of Nigeria.

Sanwo-Olu stated this at the stakeholders' conference organised by the European Business Chamber Nigeria, Eurocham, in Lagos recently, themed: Sustainable Business Growth 2024.

Represented by the Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade & Investment, Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem, the Governor described the theme as apt because it speaks to the need for a concerted effort on the part of all stakeholders, particularly policymakers and the business communities in Europe and Nigeria to take advantage of our



economic potentials given the increasing changes in the global ecosystem.

His words: "The unfolding events in Europe as we speak has brought to the fore the need for realignment of economic and trade ties, especially with Africa of which Nigeria stands out as the largest economy. As a government, and in the realisation of the position of Lagos State as the economic hub of Nigeria and the 5th largest economy in Africa, we are

not oblivious of the role we must play to ensure that the goal of harnessing our potential for sustainable growth is achieved.

"Our focus as a government committed to making Lagos the most attractive destination for investment in Africa is to continue to design and implement policies that will promote the ease of doing business and provide a conducive environment for business to thrive", he added.

According to Sanwo-Olu,

his administration launched its Land Administration e-GIS portal which has not only effectively aligned Lagos with modern cities with the most advanced system in land documentation and acquisition but will also sanitise the system towards attaining higher levels of transparency and accountability which are major factors that promote ease of doing business.

"Lagos is open for business and we are committed to addressing

challenges hindering the growth and smooth operations of businesses in the State, which is why we are investing massively in critical infrastructures, especially those that have a direct impact on businesses including MSMEs. Lagos offers highly rewarding investment opportunities in areas such as tourism, agriculture, real estate, healthcare, technology, transportation etc, and we look forward to strengthening existing economic ties that will be mutually beneficial to European and Nigerian investors.

The European Union, EU, Ambassador to Nigeria and Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, Her Excellency, Mrs. Samuela Isopi described the EU as an important business partner with Nigeria because four out of 10 European companies come to do business here. "European businesses, comprising about 300

companies that provide a decent 160,000 direct and indirect jobs, continue to demonstrate their resilience operating here despite the challenges. The European Union is ready to work with Nigeria to overcome its challenges", she said.

She expressed commitment to the EU's participation in executing the Lagos-Abidjan Green Transport Project as part of its strategic support to Lagos and Nigeria's development.

Chairman, Lagos Internal Revenue Service, LIRS, Mr. Ayodele Subair expressed the commitment of the State to continuously improve tax administration processes through the deployment of technologies that will enable ease of compliance, provide quality and transparent customer services as well as ensure continuous engagement with stakeholders for mutually beneficial relationships.

The Lagos State Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mr. Mobolaji Ogunlende has assured Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) of equal opportunities under the THEMES Plus Agenda of the present administration in the State.

Speaking on Saturday at the International Disability Day celebration and recognition of PWD Caregivers organised by the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs, LASODA, held at Ikeja, the Commissioner informed that the THEMES Plus Agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu emphasises Youth Engagement, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion.

He reiterated the government's pledge to ensure that PWDs are active participants in the THEMES Plus Agenda with a particular focus on

THEMES Plus Agenda: LASG Assures PWDs of Equal Opportunities

... As LASODA Rewards Caregivers at International Disability Day celebration

providing equal opportunities for all citizens.

In her goodwill message at the event, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Pharm. Oluwatoyin Oke-Osanyintolu said that the celebration of International Disability Day by LASODA is one of the ways of creating awareness about the plight of PWDs.

She added that the recognition and presentation of awards to some caregivers who have devoted their time and resources to the needs of PWDs shows the state government's acknowledgement of their significant contributions to

improving the standard of living of PWDs.

Oke-Osanyintolu also seized the opportunity to encourage other caregivers who are yet to register with the state to do so, imploring other members of the society to join hands with the present administration to ensure PWDs are fully integrated into society.

On her part, the General Manager of LASODA, Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal said that the event also marks World Braille Day as a way of giving credence to the policy of inclusiveness by the Lagos State Government

Speaking on the theme of the International Disability

Day celebration: "United in Action to Rescue and Achieve the SDGs For, With and By Persons with Disabilities", Oyetunde-Lawal stated that there is a need for joint efforts by all relevant stakeholders to make life more liveable for PWDs.

She reiterated the mission of the Agency to provide a platform of transformative solutions for inclusive development, opportunities, accessibility, and social justice that will integrate PWDs into society.

The General Manager revealed that LASODA will be distributing Guide Canes/Slates and Stylus to students with visual impairment in addition to

recognising and appreciating Homes, Teachers, Coaches, Sign Language Interpreters, Parents, and Caregivers who have set exceptional standards in catering to the needs of persons with disabilities.

She noted that individuals like Dr. Lekan Muhammad, who is a PhD holder and the first deaf lecturer at the Lagos State University, and other PWDs doing great in their chosen fields and excelling against all barriers in society have proven that disabilities should not limit the height which anyone can attain.

In her words: "It is pertinent to note that these groups of people that

would be recognized today are groups that are passion-driven towards ensuring the promotion and improvement of PWDs. They provide adequate education, healthcare, and assistance to them, thereby improving their societal self-worth.

Guest Speaker at the event, Mrs. Crystal Chigbu called on the State Government to initiate and promote inclusive policy that takes into cognizance the needs of PWDs.

She harped on the need for improved and accessible transportation, adaptable technology as well as education for all PWDs regardless of the nature of their disabilities.

Sexual, Gender-Based Violence: Lagos Calls for Proactive Security Response

... Honours Outstanding Officers of Domestic Violence Contact Centre



The Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA) has charged the Nigeria Police and other security corps to continuously work towards curbing all forms of abuses, especially as relates to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence among women, girls and other members of the society. Speaking during a combined training session to commemorate the annual conference on Women's Peace and security themed: "Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for Global Goal and Domestic Violence", held recently at LCCI, Centre, Ikeja, the Commissioner for WAPA, Mrs. Bolaji Dada stated that the training is necessary to intimate stakeholders on the need

to synergize in curbing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence among women in Lagos State. Dada reiterated the periodic sensitisation and enlightenment campaign ongoing in the Ministry to raise the consciousness of women to immediately seek redress anytime violence or dehumanising treatment is meted out on them by their male counterparts. She said, "As a Ministry, we had made concerted efforts to curb all forms of abuses among women by establishing a call toll-free line 767, also known as the Purple project, to enable victims of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence reach out to the Ministry immediately this act is perpetrated for quick responses. Referrals are made by the Ministry to

other MDAs – the Ministry of Health, Justice – to ensure that victims get fair justice all the time". She noted that the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, themed "Action for Peace; Our Ambition for Global Goal", is a clarion call for everyone to come together and actively work towards a more peaceful and equitable world, adding that all over the world there is an urgent call for peace and this can only be achieved by the collaborative efforts of Men, Women, Youth and everyone

The Commissioner admonished security agencies and paramilitary organisations such as the Nigeria Army, Navy, Air force, Police, Customs

and Immigration among others at the session to share ideas with representatives from all the Local Governments and Local Council Development Areas on the need, and how to involve women and youths in the process of building and sustaining peace in the society. Similarly, Mrs. Saheed Adebambo, Deputy Director, Social welfare and Head of Adoption, Ministry of Youth and Social Development called on all stakeholders to be proactive in responding to cases of gender violence, just as she charged stakeholders to collaborate in the fight to reduce abuses in the society. While speaking on best practices in nabbing perpetrators of SGBV, Mrs. Olawumi

Oluwatoyin Evans-Emmanuel, Assistant Commandant of Corps, National Security, Civil Defense Corps, said that Gender-Based Violence is a criminal act and prosecutors of such act should be punished not as civil offenders. She intimated participants to cascade the information shared at the event to other officers, even as she requested that victims of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence should be encouraged to speak out to get their issues addressed immediately by the security officials in the State. In his address, Mr. Idris Ibrahim, Head of WAPA Contact Centre, LASEMA, stated that Domestic Violence call centres are the first point of call for survivors and as such Head of

Departments in the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation situated in 57 Local Governments and Local Council Development Areas should support the initiative to ensure that callers get the appropriate respond to their complaints. The highlight of the event was the presentation by the Commissioner for WAPA, Hon. Cecilia Bolaji Dada to the outstanding officers from the Domestic Violence contact centre, namely Mr. Solomon Famolu, Family Social Services, Alimosho and Mrs. Olatoun Akingboye, Surulere as well as Mrs. Shukurat Arigbabu, Head of Department, Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Oshodi/Isolo Local Government.

Tomorrow is looking good for Lagos.

Better living in a smarter city.
This is the Lagos your tax is building.

Play your part. Pay your tax!



Lagos State Internal Revenue Service

The Good Shepherd Building, Block H, Plot H1, Central Business District, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos State.

Email: etaxinfo@lirs.net, info@lirs.gov.ng Tel: 0700-CALL-LIRS (0700 2255 5477)

www.lirs.gov.ng [@lirsgovng](https://twitter.com/lirsgovng) [lirsgovng](https://www.facebook.com/lirsgovng) [lirsgovng](https://www.instagram.com/lirsgovng) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/lirsgovng) [lirsgovng](https://www.youtube.com/lirsgovng)



Lagos Govt Trains Over 250 Residents On Skills Acquisition

The Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA) has launched 250 residents into the entrepreneurial sector through its four weeks short-term Skills Acquisition programme as a strategic initiative to alleviate poverty and improve the standard of living amongst women, girls and youths.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony for participants, the Commissioner for WAPA, Mrs. Cecilia Dada stated that the programme, which was held at Ojo Square Somolu Local Government and a collaborative effort with the Lagos State Health Management Authority, was meant to incorporate people living with disability and had registered in the Ilera Eko Scheme with livelihood support to become financially independent. She said, "The programme aims to uplift the lives of indigents, vulnerable and internally displaced persons, as well as people with disabilities, across various communities of Lagos State with ready-to-go skills in meeting their various economic demands and challenges".

Dada explained that the first phase of the year 2024 training ran simultaneously across five Centres, namely Ojo Square, Somolu; LASEMA IDP Camp, Igando; Bonny Camp, Victoria Island; Foursquare Church Omole Phase I, Iru-Victoria Island and Muri - Okunola, Eti-osa Local Government Area.

While applauding participants for exhibiting good conduct as well as remarkable resilience, determination, and commitment towards achieving self-sufficiency, the MWAPA Commissioner enjoined

them on establishing sustainable businesses through discipline and accountability.

She said, "The State Government is ready to address factors militating against women and youths from attaining their full potentials, like illiteracy, joblessness, teenage pregnancies and cultural issues, among others and give the necessary support to residents irrespective of their positions in the State through various skills, including Events Decoration, Flower Arrangement, Fabric Stoning, Tie and Dye, Catering, Soap, Pomade and Insecticide Production, Hair Braiding and Wig Making, Throw Pillows and Duvet Making, among others".

In her goodwill message, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health Management Authority (LASHMA), Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, who was represented by Mr. Olatunji Rotimi, the Head, Business Unit of the Agency, commended Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu for his unflinching support at ensuring that no one is left behind in this T. H. E. M. ES Plus Agenda.

He urged beneficiaries to cultivate the habit of discipline and dedication to work so that they can succeed.

Mr. Kayode Oludare, the Vice Chairman, Ifako Community Development Association, commended the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation for enhancing the development of human capacities for self-sustainability.

The highlight of the occasion was the presentation of Certificates of Competency and Start-Up kits to all the participants to enhance their trade proficiencies.

MCCTI Gets New Permanent Secretary



Honourable Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment (MCCTI), Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem and members of the MCCTI Family formally welcomed the new Permanent Secretary, Dr. Olugbemiga Ayoola Aina, to the Ministry on Monday. While welcoming the new Permanent Secretary at a brief reception organised for him at the Conference Room of the MCCTI, the Commissioner expressed delight at the coming of Dr. Aina and assured of her readiness to work with him to deliver on the mandate given to the Ministry by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

Her words: "We are a team of very hardworking individuals dedicated to delivering on the Governor's expectations as

expressed in our tagline: "Take Part, Take Pride, and Deliver Excellence", and the coming of the new Permanent Secretary will be a value addition in our quest to achieve the given mandate.

The Commissioner reflected on the Ministry's readiness to embrace Dr. Aina's leadership and vision for a transformative journey ahead, saying the MCCTI team is ready to ensure he makes a success of his tenure.

In his response, the new Permanent Secretary outlined his vision for the future, emphasising on collaboration, innovation, and staff welfare, stressing the importance of managing expectations across the board - from the Political Heads to Public Servants to achieve seamless working relationships.

Dr. Aina emphasised the need for the Ministry to embrace automation and

strategic planning, including setting Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to achieve targets. Innovation, he noted, might bring disruption, but it is a necessary step towards progress that requires an open mindset from all members of the staff.

"Let me underscore the fact that we require a collective effort to script the success story of MCCTI, and I want to emphasise unity and shared responsibility in achieving the Ministry's goals. We are all on this journey and I want to encourage everyone to stop working in silos and foster a collective and harmonious working environment devoid of animosity or division.

"I also want to highlight the importance of social marketing to enhance the Ministry's public image and advocate a dynamic, non-toxic work environment

that focuses on positive attitudes to meet deliverables", he stated.

He said he always aspires to leave a lasting legacy everywhere he works because he is a process person and he aims to implement systems that will continue to benefit the Ministry long after his tenure.

"I believe very strongly in welfare, which does not necessarily have to be monetary all the time but I pledge to prioritise the entitlements and benefits of staff, guided by the understanding of the critical role it plays in the overall satisfaction and productivity of the workforce.

"We are embarking on a new beginning, necessitating a change from all of us. Micromanagement is not my method but rather, empowering everyone to contribute their best to achieve the mandate of the Ministry", he added.

The Lagos State Ministry of Waterfront Infrastructural Development on Thursday held a training programme for members of staff on digital and online safety.

Speaking at the training, organised in collaboration with Co-Creation Hub, a Social Innovation Centre dedicated to the application of social capital and technology for economic prosperity, the Permanent Secretary, Mr.

Digital Literacy: Ministry of Waterfront Trains Staff

Kehinde Gbajumo charged participants to be attentive and ready to optimise what they learned less they fall victim of cybercrime and online fraud.

The Permanent Secretary, who was represented by the Director, Finance and Administration, Mrs. Kehinde

Fasuyi, noted that a lot of people have lost their life investments due to ignorance, adding that knowledge earned from the exercise will go a long way in protecting personal data, work files and Government records.

The Chief Facilitator, Miss

Shalom Arturigo urged participants to pay attention to the training as it will protect them and their families from online crimes. She highlighted areas of concentration such as browsing, searching, filtering data, protection of data and password, phishing, cyber security, data

verification and how to identify fake news which can protect users from online bullying, identity theft, misinformation, harmful content, inappropriate contact and breaches of privacy. Responding on behalf of the participants, Mr. Murtala Kassim

Ajadi, Director of Procurement commended the efforts of the organisers as well as the management of the Ministry, describing the training as timely while maintaining that the knowledge gained would be put to good use by participants.

Omotoso Advocates Bridging Generational Gap Between Old and Young Nigerian Politicians

How do we bridge the gap between the youth and elders in politics? That was the question this at the 13th convocation of Caleb University, Imota, Lagos State where Commissioner for Information and Strategy Gbenga Omotoso advocated bridging the generational gap, saying it is not merely a goal but an objective that is imperative for Nigeria's progress.

Omotoso, a journalist and writer, was the Convocation lecturer. In the audience were the Chairman and Visitor of the University, Dr. Ola Adebogun; Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nosa Owens-Ibie; Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi; Rev. Mother Esther Ajayi; Member House of Representatives for Kosofe Federal Constituency, Mrs. Kafilat Ogbara; former Minister for Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed; Police Commissioner Adegoke Fayoadé, who represented Police Inspector-General Kayode Egbetokun; Benue State Commissioner for Education and Knowledge Management, Rev. Frederick Ikyaan, who



represented Governor Hyacinth Alia, and the MD/CEO, Tumpy Estate Development, Mr. Akintayo Adaralegbe.

To Omotoso, there is a need for the youth to become more involved in political parties, parliaments, political appointments, elections, and civic spaces as a matter of right (rather than of benevolence as it is sometimes suggested) and as part of the solution rather than a problem to be resolved by others.

Omotoso's lecture was titled: "Closing The Generational Gap between The Old and Young In Nigerian Politics". He

noted that through legislative actions, youth empowerment programmes, and inclusive governance structures, Nigerians will witness a gradual but significant transformation in the country.

He said that as the nation grapples with the dynamics between the old and the young, it becomes imperative for both generations to collaborate and learn from each other's experiences, forging a path that combines the wisdom of the past with the innovation and energy of the present to tackle the challenges of the future.

His words, "The common cliché that youths are leaders of tomorrow is no longer in tune with present-day reality. The truth is that what becomes of tomorrow is determined by what happens today. So, the more everyone grasps the fact that the youth are actually the leaders of today and not tomorrow, the better for all".

The Commissioner pointed out that with the younger members of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's cabinet in Lagos State, one is bound to reaffirm that the future is now. "Fortunately, they have not disappointed the people as

they cover themselves in glory through trail-blazing performances."

Omotoso went on: "To further harness the peculiar talent of youth in the State, Governor Sanwo-Olu has prioritised youth empowerment in all its budgets. All the budgets of the current administration since 2019 have been carefully designed to meet the aspirations of the teeming youth by focusing on sectors with job-creating potential like Agriculture, Construction, Technology and Security.

"The aim is to improve the economic conditions and social safety needed for the youth and ensure all hardworking Lagosians flourish. Resources have been committed to sectors that need to grow for the youth to become self-reliant and economically empowered.

"A pivotal crux of all the budgets has been the promotion of an entrepreneurial culture among the youth. In the light of this, micro, small, and medium enterprises will be strengthened because their activities help to facilitate socio-economic advancement".

Omotoso averred that a lot had been done to support the entrepreneurial aspirations of young people through the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund, LSETF.

The Commissioner assured the audience that this year, more will be done in the provision of technical and financial support to generate employment that will stimulate equitable economic prosperity.

It, however, according to him, needs to be stressed that youths who will be relevant in nation-building must be those ready to take responsibility and live responsibly. "The present trend where some youths act irresponsibly will not augur well for the nation", he said.

While emphasising that the nation must draw useful inspiration from its bustling strength and vigour, the Lagos spokesman maintained that young people must reposition themselves as agents of positive change. The lecture drew huge applause from the audience of graduands, academics, royal fathers, government officials and other guests.

Lagos Empowers Refugees, Residents

... Gives Out Assistive Tools At LASEMA IDP Camp, Igando

In a bid to ensure financial stability and independence amongst all active residents of Lagos State, the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA) has empowered 250 refugees, vulnerable and indigents of the Ikotun-Igando Community at a Short-Term Training Programme on Nine Entrepreneurship Skills.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the training programme held on Monday, at the LASEMA IDP Camp, Igando, Mrs. Cecilia Bolaji Dada, Commissioner for WAPA, represented by the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Oluyemi Kalesanwo, said the programme is an intervention initiative tailored to specifically uplift the lives of residents for social inclusion and viable means of survival.

She said, "With the Lagos State being recognised as the 19th global human capacity building city by 'Time Out Group' ratings, we are proud to be one of the key factors that has enhanced this accomplishment, possibly because one of the key factors contributing to this recognition is our commitment to providing free skills acquisition training



and empowerment programmes for the indigent, vulnerable, people with disabilities, and internally displaced persons from some African Nations".

While commending the efforts of the 1,250 participants towards financial independence across the five centres of the State, the Commissioner applauded the participants for their resilience in acquiring different skills, such as Tie & Dye, Catering and Confectioneries, Gele Tying and Make-Up application, Hair Dressing and Wig Making, Fabrics Stoning and embellishments,

Production of Soap and Pomade/Healthy Insecticide Production, Barbering Techniques and lots more, during the four weeks duration of the training programme.

She reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to provide start-up packs to enable participants commence their businesses immediately upon completion of the training, reiterating that the Social Inclusion in the T. H. E. M. E. S Plus agenda of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's administration has afforded these recipients the

opportunities of training and empowerment programmes for their developmental progress.

In the same vein, she implored participants to adopt the entrepreneurship skills they were taught during the training and practise proper bookkeeping, in order to access loans through the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF).

According to Mrs. Onyime Obioma, the Associate Protection Officer, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Lagos State, who represented Ms. Bernadette Mutashi, the

representative of UNHCR in Nigeria, recalled that the four weeks short-term Skills Acquisition programme for refugees is a response to WAPA's capability to train and empower refugees following UNHCR's courtesy call to the Ministry in the year 2023.

In his remark the Chairman of CDC Ayedade Community, Mr. Ogbagbolabo Orefuyi said, "I am very impressed by what WAPA has done for my people and I will ensure that the beneficiaries share their wealth of knowledge with others, thereby creating a chain of empowerment.

Also, I encourage you all to maximise your knowledge and skills, so that you can bring glory to our community".

The highlight of the programme was the presentation of Certificates of Competency and Start-Up Packs for various ventures, including Wig-Making and Hair-Braiding, Barbing Sets, Make-Up and Gele Tying, Tie and Dye, Catering and Confectionery, Garments Stoning, Pomade Making Insecticide and Stove Wick, Ankara Craft and Interior Decoration, which were presented to all participants of the four weeks, short-term training programme.

Man Sentenced To 100-hour Community Service For Drug Trafficking

A 27-year-old man, Joseph David has been sentenced to 100-hour community service for getting involved in drug peddling.

The Federal High Court in Ikoyi Lagos made the verdict following the arraignment of the lawbreaker by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, on one-count charge of drug trafficking.

In the charge, David was said to have committed the offence on Oct. 14, 2023, at Viju milk company, Oba Akran, Ikeja. He unlawfully dealt in 197g of cannabis sativa, a drug similar to cocaine and other psychotropic substances, all restricted by law, thus,

contravening the provision of Section 11(c) of the NDLEA Act Cap N20 Law of the Federation 2004. He pleaded guilty. Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke, presiding over the case, reviewed facts of the case with tendered several documents as evidence by the NDLEA.

However, the defence counsel urged the court to show mercy on the defendant for being a first offender, adding that he will turn a new leaf.

The court, consequently, sentenced the convict to a term of six months imprisonment, with an option of N150,000 fine.

The court also ordered that the convict is to engage in community service for 100 hours.



Court Sentences Internet Fraudster To Jail

The Federal High Court in Lagos has sent an internet scammer, Victor Oniyiku to jail for committing internet fraud crime.

Having been arraigned by the Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday, Oniyiku was pronounced guilty on the one-count charge brought against him by the EFCC for impersonating one Hartford Sarah Jane to perpetrate online fraud.

The convict, who was initially arraigned in December 2023, pleaded guilty to the

offence. The trial judge then adjourned the matter till Wednesday, February 7, 2024 for the review of facts and judgment.

The charge against the convict reads: "That you, VICTOR ADEDEJI ONIYIKU, sometime in 2021 in Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court fraudulently impersonated one Hartford Sarah Jane by holding yourself out as such on an Illinois Drivers' license, with intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 22(2)(b) of the

Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc) Act, 2015."

The prosecution counsel, Chinenye Okezie reviewed the facts, and urged the court to convict and sentence him accordingly.

Justice Aneke thereafter convicted and sentenced him to 12 months imprisonment, with an option of fine of N500,000, and 100 hours community service.

The Judge also ordered the forfeiture of the devices recovered from him to the Federal Government.



Bankole Urges Govt Agencies To Support Poverty Eradication

The Convener of Alimosho Youth Empowerment Forum Comrade Moshood Olatunde Bankole has urged government agencies to help in curtailing poverty in the society. The 7th edition which is sponsored by Sifax group witnessed large turnout by residents of Alimosho community.

This year women and youth vocational employment scheme tagged: 'Vision Eradication of Unemployment 2040 agenda' has begun as the Convener promised a more rebranded programme in the 2024 Skill Acquisition program. During the unveiling of the mega-training and

vocational empowerment in Alimosho, the organizer emphasized that the program, which was started seven years ago, has successfully lifted thousands of unemployed youth and women out of poverty by providing them with skills to become self-sufficient.

Bankole expressed

concern about the large number of unemployed people wandering the streets, despite the potential to engage them in profitable skills that could support them and their families. He proudly spoke of a well-structured training program, which included experienced trainers from both government and private institutions. So, those who attended the training will be well groomed.

This program has made me a fulfilled man, am always the happiest man to see the level of support and encouragement from both the trainee and the populace: he narrated.

During a visit to the Egbe Idimu LCDA annexe, where the first batch of training for over 500 participants in the Alimosho state constituency II is taking place, there was a high level of training activities, Echonews report.

The training started on February 5th and will run until the last week of April.

One of the instructors at the centre praised the organizers and the convener for their thoughtful project.

He mentioned how the program has positively impacted the lives of previous participants and requested that the State Government, particularly the Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment, provide certification and support in terms of post-training equipment.

Some of the Vocational Training are on.



Fashion designing, catering, hairdressing, make up, barbing, Soap Making, shoe and bag making, bleach and insecticide.

Bankole was asked how he has been sustaining the striving project, and he commended SIFAX GROUP for their continuous support since the project started.

SIFAX GROUP is a logistics and shipping company located in Apapa and various cities in Nigeria.

He particularly expressed gratitude to Ambassador Taiwo Afolabi, the Group head, for his generous humanitarian acts.

Furthermore, Bankole praised the 12th Legacy Hotel and Suites, the associate sponsor, stating that their contribution has been significant.

He appealed to both corporate and individual Nigerians

for more support, in order to accommodate a larger number of participants next year. He also thanked the chairman of the Egbe Idimu LCDA for the provision of the hall free of charge.

The Constituency I centre will be declared open by the Vice Chairman of Alimosho Local Government Mr. Akinpelu Johnson, who has been exceptional to the project both financially and morally since its inception on February 9th at Alimosho Town Hall, registered applicants are requested to get to the venue by 9 am, they are implored to get there early enough.

The highlight of the agenda after the competition of the program will be the graduation and handing over of startup kits and certificates to all the successful participants.

Ayobo-Ipaja Legislative Building Project To Be Ready In Eight Months

By Edith Igbokwe

The ongoing multi-million naira ultra-modern legislative building project in Ayobo-Ipaja Local Council Development Area (LCDA) is expected to be completed in eight monthstime.

The contractor in charge is intensifying all efforts to make the completion date a reality.

Presently all hands are

on deck in synergy to ensure that the desired ultra modern legislative building is situated in Ayobo-Ipaja.

When completed, the building will comprise eight-room office (all en-suites), a spacious legislative hall with conveniences attached and a gallery.

The councillors can't wait to have their plenary sessions run in the new legislative building.

They believe that the new building will usher

in more progress due to its conducive atmosphere.

The Chairman, Ayobo-Ipaja (LCDA), Hon. Bola Shobowale initiated the groundbreaking ceremony of an ultra-modern legislative building within the council premises towards the end of January 2024.

She prayed that all involved in the process will live to witness the completion of the building.



100 Students Get Free Jamb Forms in Apapa Iganmu

No fewer than 100 students have benefited from the free Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) forms distributed by the chairman, Apapa Iganmu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mrs. Funmilayo Muhammed. Reports stated that the outcome of the initiative have empowered numerous young individuals to pursue their academic dreams and unlock their full potential. 2024 beneficiaries are reminded that the initiative is a stepping stone towards producing future leaders.

And they are also urged to focus on their studies to excel academically to bring back pride to the Local government.

According to the council's statistics, the annual program has contributed to the overall improvement of educational attainment levels within the local government area, laying the foundation for a more prosperous and equitable society.

And the initiative aimed to enhance access to higher education and create opportunities for youth, fostering socio-economic development and empowerment within the area.

According to the chairman, education is widely recognized as a fundamental driver of development and providing individuals with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities necessary for success in life is the council's goal. She noted that possessing access to quality education remains a challenge for many communities, particularly in rural areas and having recognised

the issue, the council has prioritized education as a cornerstone of its administration's agenda. Each year, resources are allocated to procure 100 JAMB forms, which are then distributed to deserving students across various schools within the local government area. The distribution process is transparent and inclusive, ensuring equal opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds and efforts are also made to reach marginalized and underprivileged groups, ensuring their inclusion in the program



Apapa LG Education Stakeholders Advise Beneficiaries of Free Jamb Form

Education stakeholders in Apapa Local Government have urged beneficiaries of 2024 Free Jamb Forms to make the best out of the opportunity provided for them to soar higher. Residents expressed appreciation towards the chairman's dedication to education. According to the chairman, Apapa Local Government, Hon. Adejumoke Senbano beneficiaries should pursue their education aspirations with determination and resilience. She also highlighted the importance of education in breaking the cycle of poverty and fostering personal growth. She promised that her administration will support any outstanding students among the

beneficiaries. The vice chairman, Hon, Ismail Ganiu also advised the beneficiaries to be good ambassadors of the Local Government by ensuring that they are always in good conduct.

SA on Education, Youth and sports, Hon Mike Egbayelo assured beneficiaries that the chairman and her team is committed to the development of education in apapa local government. The initiative was a

demonstration of the chairman's commitment to promoting education and equal opportunities for all. And the gesture received a meaningful recognition for empowering youth

and investing into the future of the community. By removing financial barrier and provide an open door for students to pursue further studies and enhance their future prospects.



The SSA for Students Affairs in Ibeju Lekki LG, Oladimeji Ibrahim, has been honoured by League of Epe-Division Youths and Students Association Conference 2.0.

The conference was convened to commemorate the 2nd Year Anniversary of LEYOSA. During his participation, Oladimeji Ibrahim highlighted the transformative potential of educational reform in fostering unity and development within the community.

Oladimeji Ibrahim emphasized that education serves as the cornerstone of societal progress, shaping the aspirations, values, and capabilities of individuals. In the vibrant tapestry of Epe Division, education not only offers hope but also acts as a catalyst for change. By advocating for strategic educational reform, the talent potential of the youth can be unlocked, marginalized communities can be empowered, and socio-economic disparities can be bridged.

The Chairman of Ibeju Lekki Local Government, Engr. Sesan Olowa, was praised for his visionary leadership in enhancing educational opportunities and uplifting the lives of young people. His initiatives have made significant strides in bettering the lives of the youth through education.

Oladimeji Ibrahim finds inspiration in the work of Sesan Olowa and believes that education, collaboration, and visionary leadership are key to creating a

LEYOSA Honour Ibeju-Lekki SSA on Students

brighter and more prosperous future for all members of the community.

Oladimeji Ibrahim expressed his gratitude to LEYOSA for the honor and invitation to participate in the conference. It is through events like these that the importance of education and its role in community development can be highlighted and celebrated.



Abiru Initiates Reconstruction of Ikorodu-Itokin Road

A wave of jubilation swept through road users, especially residents of Epe Division, when news broke a week ago about the long-overdue reconstruction of the Ikorodu-Itokin road.

Seen as a crucial alternative route to Lagos, particularly to evade the notorious traffic along the Epe-Ajah expressway, the announcement brought ecstatic relief to those who navigate this important thoroughfare. Initiated by Senator Tokunbo Abiru, the Senator representing Lagos East Senatorial District, the reconstruction project addresses a longstanding plea from residents, promising a smoother journey for trade, a boom in real estate development, and enhanced accessibility for commuters in key local governments such as Epe and Ikorodu.

The Federal Ministry of Works awarded the contract to Geld

Construction Limited, with immediate commencement, marking the end of years of discomfort for travellers grappling with the road's dilapidation, especially during the rainy season.

The ongoing rehabilitation during the week, personally overseen by Senator Tokunbo Abiru's team and led by the diligent

Special Adviser on Constituency Matters, Dr. Saheed Ibikunle, promises not only improved infrastructure but a catalyst for economic investment and ease of transport.

In a proactive move earlier in the week, the vibrant Chairman of Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA, who had visited the leadership of the construction company,

expressed his commitment to maximizing the rehabilitation's benefits by advocating for an extension of the road network beyond the Itokin junction to the Lagos-Ogun State boundary. This strategic vision aligns with the broader impact the project is expected to have on the entire region.

As the construction progresses, Lagos East celebrates the visionary efforts of Senator Tokunbo Abiru, echoing gratitude for the positive transformation underway. The road to a better Lagos East is gaining momentum, and the community eagerly anticipates the dawn of a new era in transportation and development.



Tinubu's Govt: Mandate Movement Epe Appeals To Nigerians

The Mandate Movement (TMM) (Epe Branch) has appealed to Nigerians to exercise patience with the current administration to reap the dividends of democracy. The Movement made the call during a media briefing heralding the rebranding and restructuring of the group.

It will be recalled that TMM is a progressive mobilisation platform established in 1998 to galvanize campaigns to all the nooks and crannies of the country. Renowned politicians, technocrats and professionals are members of the group.

Speaking at the briefing which converged, the 377 Ward Coordinators, 57 Local Government

Area Coordinators, 57 Women Leaders, 57 Youth Leaders, the State Apex Leader – Cardinal James Odunmbaku MFR, said the meeting is given the necessity to maintain the tempo of the group activities and assist the government in enlightening the public on policies and programme of the government.

He appealed to Nigerians to be patient with the current economic conditions. “The house was almost collapsing, we are rebuilding and it will not take long before Nigerians will begin enjoying the largesse of democracy,” he said.

He added that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is resolute in building the country sustainably and TMM will ensure Lagos

APC never loses an election again.

TMM is very solid, it has a strong track records to mobilize for votes and win elections. It is quite unfortunate that we lost Lagos during the presidential election but it will never happen again because President Tinubu is going for a second term.”

He advised the loyal members of the group to continue working for the success of the party as they will reap their hard work, noting that the group has gained recognition globally.

“The restructuring of the group is for the attainments of its new goals, members who work selflessly will be rewarded.”

The Deputy Apex Leader of Lagos TMM – Kolawole Peregrino,

urged Nigerians to give the present administration time to fix the economy, acknowledging that Nigerians were going through economic hardship.

“Tinubu is working hard to reposition the country's economy and restore its lost glory.

“the major call of the meeting is for members to recruit more people. Let's follow the rules and ethical creed of the group. Those who have the feeling that they will be removed from the renewed Mandate Movement, we assure you, that will not happen. All we want is your loyalty to President Bola Tinubu.”

Rt. Hon. Adefunmilayo Tejuoso said TMM is in support of the progress of Nigeria and the plan is

to make sure things get better.

“Let's go and mobilise people. We are the president's representatives and must tell people to be patient because Rome was not built in a day.

“We cannot build Nigeria a day. It is a gradual process and by the grace of God, President Tinubu would move Nigeria to a greater height.

“Our president is a man of honour, he feels the pain and wants to make Nigeria great again. We have absolute confidence in him and that is why we can stand proudly today to say we are the Mandate.”

She assured that very soon, the naira will perform very well against foreign currencies.

“We are very confident that the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has the workable blueprints to fix the country. The measures he used to make Lagos State great is the same method that he will use to make Nigeria great and he is using it.

“We can see that he does not tolerate any form of corruption, wherever there is news of corruption, he moves in immediately. He is not sentimental and not tribalistic at all, he is bent on moving Nigeria forward.

Let's do our work as Messengers of Hope, let's go to our various local government to mobilize people and preach the gospel of Hope, we of Mandate stock are great mobilizers,” she said.



Lagos State University of Science and Technology holds inaugural founder's day celebration tagged "Nation Building Through Innovative Science and Technology". The founder's day celebration which serves as remembrance of the day Governor Babajide Sanwo-olu signed the bill that established the university in law, was held on Friday, at the school's 500-seater Auditorium, College of Agriculture.

In his welcome address, the vice chancellor of the university Professor Olumuyiwa Omotola Odusanya, he expressed his gratitude to God and also to the Governor of Lagos State, Governor Babajide Sanwo-olu. He also mentioned all what the university has accomplished so far and what they are looking forward to.

Also representing Honorable Commissioner for tertiary education - ministry of education - Lagos State Tolani Sule was, Prince Adeniran Kasali, the permanent secretary of ministry of tertiary education. In his speech, he mentioned three core parameters that will make the university grow higher and increase the school education. They are: Quality, Access and Relevance. He also mentioned that the 21st century's about, Being Knowledge Driven, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Creativity and Innovation and Collaboration and Partnership.

"We want to assure you that we have around here projects going on and these projects will be put to use by our students," said Prince Adeniran Kasali. Professor Oluwatoyin Temitayo Ogundipe, the chairman of Lagos State Science Research and Innovation Council (LASRIC), was the keynote speaker of the event.

He spoke on Nation

LASUSTECH Celebrates Second Anniversary

Building through Innovation Science and Technology where he mentioned various importance of innovation and technology and the roles they play in infrastructure and social development. He also mentioned the challenges they face which includes, Ethical Dilemmas, Inequality and Access and various others.

"Let's set out on a journey together where innovation serves as the cornerstone for building a nation and moves us closer to a more promising and inclusive future." Professor Oluwatoyin Ogundipe. Following the keynote speech was the presentation of awards. Jubril Olamilekan, 200 level accounting student was awarded the overall best student in 2022/23 session and was given scholarship for 1 year and some financial benefits. Professor Balogun also presented his scholarship award to the best student in each college (2022/23 session). Students with CGPA of 4.5 and above were recognized as well and were awarded 50 percent off their tuition fees.

In an interview with the keynote speaker, Professor Oluwatoyin Temitayo Ogundipe: "The backbone of security in any nation is about the area of technology, applying innovation with security matters.

And for the students, they have a very good advantage concerning education and with the present vice chancellor who is a researcher, I'm sure within the next 3 years, we'll be able to see everything coming up in a good way"



Interview with the Vice Chancellor, Professor Olumuyiwa Omotola Odusanya: "We are looking forward to, Greater height, expansion of facilities, translational research, innovations for my university, that's all we'll deliver.

The proprietor is the governor because the institution is a government own institution and they have everything to commission the institution they've established"

Speaking to the Overall best student, Ogunbiyi jubril from

Accounting Department: "I feel elated and i will say it is a nice feeling getting to be the pioneer student and also the overall best student for academic session 2022/2023, i feel it is a

motivation to do better and over the year lets see how it goes, i hope to also emerge as one of the bests in the coming years with my efforts and God's grace.

Well first i would say God and secondly, it takes dedication, it takes lecturers who would put you through, it takes lecturers that will not just see you as students that would come to class and not just give notes and leave but would explain, he would make you understand the concept and what is going on"

Interview with Dr Olanrewaju kuye PRO of lasustech: "Honestly I'm so elated, especially in the area of scholarship being given to good students, it will spore them to read more and to achieve more and this thing will be celebrated every year, it means we are encouraging our

students to do better and perform well in their academics.

"You expect the best now from the university, we have instutionalise this founders day, so it would be, so i am going to encourage students to do more and which i recognise them too.

"The founders day celebration is to remember the day the university was founded and to also give scholarship to our good students every year.

"I have been on for more than 25 years, so managing the public relations of tertiary institution is part of what i know, and with God guidance have been able to do it"

Dean of students affairs, Dr Adedamola Aderogba, he admonished the student to mind their business and ask questions they don't understand from

their lecturers since they are there to learn.: "I feel elated because this is the first edition and they started well and not just mere celebration but all what needed to be celebrated : the institution as a whole, and the products (pioneer student),he said .

Mrs Olufunmilayo Tifashe College Officer of College Of applied Social Science: "In fact this is the best event I've ever attended this year, I'm so glad, and for the fact that the best student came from my college, I'm so happy and i hope it continues, i want at the end of the program after the four years i hope CASS will produce the best student in the university.

"What happened at the program today, is worthy of emulation. I think they should emulate those student that have performed excellently well, they benefited in a financial way, so they should emulate such things, i think this is worthy of emulation.

"The lecturers are trying their best, whatever happen the students will always find a way out, so if you are good you are good, if you are good no lecturer will intimidate you, so you need to put more effort on your studies, that is my own advice to students.

"The whole of CASS should be expecting nothing short of what we just witnessed, and it is the best on you students, you should try and make CASS proud in all your department, you know majority of the award goes to accounting department so other departments too should put in more effort"

Faleke Empowers Hundreds of Ikeja Residents

Kehinde Adeleye

Member representing Ikeja Federal constituency, Dr. James Abiodun Faleke recently held a highly successful empowerment program for the youth and women in the area. This annual event, which took place at the Open field of the Police College, GRA, Ikeja, provided individuals with practical tools necessary for economic sustainability.

Constituents were empowered with various economic and business tools and Motor vehicles such as (3) 2016 Toyota Highlander SUV for our First Class Oba; 10 Toyota Corolla for UBER, 38 Suzuki Every Mini-buses, 20 Tricycles, (3) 18 Passenger Buses, 4 Ambulances, 6 Security Pickup Van, 10 Sets Of Security Gadgets, 10 Dispatched Motorcycle, 15 Motorcycle Pickup, 18 Laptops, 268 Deep Freezers with Generatos, 120 Industrial Sewing Machines, 180 Butterfly Sewing Machine, 90 Motor Scanners For Mechanics to determine faults, 36 coolers, 6 tyre alignment equipment, vulcanizer machine, 180 granding machines, 36 Hair Dryers Machines, washing basin, standing hair steamers as well as 3 oven with gas cylinder & cake mixer.

Other empowerment tools shared includes Sets of Hand and Nails Dryer, 120 Air Compressors, 18 Gas Cylinders and Burners, 18 Solar

Mobile Kiosks, 18 Pop Corn Making Machines, 18 Juice Extractors Machine, 18 Phone Repair Kits, 18 Generator (I Pass My Neighbor), 18 Barbing Tools Box and 150 Mechanic Tool Boxes Mr. Cornelius Ojelabi, the State Chairman of the APC in Lagos State, spoke at an event where he praised Dr. Faleke for representing the party and the people effectively. Mr. Ojelabi then encouraged the constituents to show their appreciation by increasing voter turnout in the Ikeja Federal Constituency.

He also mentioned that the low voting numbers in the previous election were unexpected and urged the constituents to recognize their representatives as instruments of positive change.

The Chairman of the APC restated the President's praise for Faleke at the recent meeting in Lagos with Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, where the President personally commended Faleke as a trustworthy and reliable ally.

Prince Rabiun Oluwa, GAC to the Governor of Lagos State, urged the recipients to wisely utilize the items they



have received.

The Oba of Lagos, Oba Akinolu, was represented by his white cap chiefs during an event where Chief Mayegun of Lagos spoke on behalf of the king to express gratitude to Dr. Faleke for his outstanding efforts in serving his people since his tenure as chairman of Ojodu Local Council Development Area until now.

The Lawmaker was prayed for and encouraged to continue his commendable work, while the recipients of the items were urged to utilize them for their economic benefit rather than selling them.

Dr. Faleke expressed his gratitude to the community for their support during his time in office, and vowed to continue his efforts to empower the people of Ikeja Federal constituency throughout the year.

He highlighted his past achievements, including providing Federal government employment to 183 constituents, distributing 400 MINI-KOROPE buses and 103 tricycles, assisting 17,000 constituents with major surgeries, and granting cash to 17,349 constituents.

The event was well attended by GAC members Lagos State, party leaders, Royal

Fathers in Ikeja Federal Constituency, stakeholders, well wishers and other party loyalists of All Progressives Congress (APC) notably amongst whom are Prince Rabiun Oluwa, Baba Bashorun, GAC Ikorodu division, Lagos State, Alhaji Mutiu Are, Secretary, GAC, Lagos State, State Chairman of APC, Mr. Cornelius Ojelabi; Chief Akinbolade, SAN Ogala, Chief Niyi Oyemade, Prince Olufon, Alhaji Owokoniran, APC state Assistant legal Adviser, Barrister Ladigbolu Adebola; Chief Sonola, State officer from Ifako ijaiye, Baba Osha, Mr. Adedamola Kasunmu

(Ikeja II, DML LSHA), Alhaji Dally Adeokun, Chairman, APC Ikeja LGA; Alhaja Iyabo Akerele, Chairman, APC Onigbongbo LCDA; Alhaja Olusola Kokumolajo, APC Chairman, Ojodu LCDA; Engr Mojeed Alabi Balogun, Ikeja LG Council Chairman, Mr. Dotun Olakanle, Onigbongbo LCDA council chairman, Mr. Olusegun Odunmbaku, Ojodu LCDA Council chairman, Chief Mathew Adesanya. Alhaji Oladapo Atinshola, Mallam Jaji, Mr. Yomi Balogun, Baba Omolabi, Alhaja Funmilayo Layeni and several others leaders including the leadership of the Bakers Association Ikeja Federal Constituency Chapter, who also used the occasion to present breads to Dr. Faleke and he reciprocated by giving the Association 2million naira to support their businesses.

Ikeja South South people's United forum presented an Achievers Award and an Excellence Award was also presented to Rt. Hon. (Dr) Faleke by the CEO of Fabulous Magazine and more Award was presented to the constituents.

Two Residents Kidnapped in Igbe Community, Ikorodu

Two residents of Igbe community in Igbogbo/Bayeku and Ijede Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) of Ikorodu Division, Lagos State, have been kidnapped.

According to reports, the victims were seized around 10 am at the weekend by unknown

gunmen who shot sporadically to scare the residents.

The kidnappers, armed with AK47s, reportedly abducted one person working on a farm.

A distressing video circulated on social media captured a man urgently rallying residents to confront the kidnappers,

who were believed to be in the swamp, before he eventually resigned to fate.

This incident follows two kidnappings in the last quarter of 2023 in Igbe community, where ransom payments were made for the release of victims Alhaji Tijani Mukaila Bayo and Alhaja

Tijani.

Expressing concern about the recurring kidnappings, a resident identified as Iboklyndesigner lamented the insecurity in Igbe community, urging residents to be vigilant. Another resident, Tolulope13, highlighted the frequency of such incidents, emphasizing

the need for swift community action.

Mayehun called for government intervention, suggesting the deployment of both land and air security personnel to rescue victims. Efforts to reach the Chairman of Igbogbo/Bayeku LCDA, Builder Sesan Daini, for comments were abortive

JIMI SOLANKE

THE INDESTRUCTIBLE



Oluwatoyin Sutton

Jimi Solanke: The Indestructible <https://amzn.eu/d/f67m3e1>

Ifako Ijaiye Local Councillor Restates Commitment to Education

Kehinde Adeleye

The Local Councillor representing Ward C 2 in the Ifako Ijaiye Legislative Arm, Mr. Ibrahim Adenekan has restated his commitment to Education in the council.

The Lawmaker who in a commendable display of dedication to education commenced with the Registration and distribution of Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) to student in his Constituents

Being the 4th edition of it's kind and well known for his unwavering commitment to empowering the youth through education Adenekan has consistently prioritized providing opportunities for students in his constituency to pursue higher education.

The distribution of JAMB forms is part of his

ongoing efforts to ensure that financial constraints do not hinder talented and deserving individuals from accessing tertiary education.

The initiative has gained widespread appreciation from the local community, as it directly addresses one of the key challenges faced by many aspiring students. By facilitating access to JAMB forms, Mr. Adenekan is not only investing in the future of individual students but also contributing to the overall development of the community.

Over the past three years, the councillor's initiative has positively impacted numerous lives, with several beneficiaries successfully gaining admission to various universities and institutions across the country.

This consistent effort highlights the councillor's commitment to creating a pathway for academic success for the youth in Ifako Ijaiye.



Of commitment to educational advancement, distributed free JAMB slots to deserving candidates. The beneficiaries gathered to submit their documents as part of the initial steps in this empowering initiative.

During the meeting with the beneficiaries, Mr. Ladi Ajomale emphasized the importance of academic achievement and urged candidates to

Students Get Free JAMB Slot, Scholarship Powered By Ajomale

strive for excellence and achieve outstanding results. In a significant announcement, he committed to providing full scholarships until university graduation for the top two performers. Furthermore, he promised a reward of 250k each for the next two exceptional students. This innovative and influential initiative

reflects Ajomale continuous efforts to improve education in Oshodi-Isolo Constituency II.

By offering substantial support to motivated students, he aims to make a positive impact on the educational system, promoting a culture of excellence and creating opportunities for a brighter future.



Ajala Sympathises With Fire and Robbery Victims

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Odiolowo-Ojuwoye Local Council Development Area, Mr. Rasaq Olusola Ajala, displayed a strong sense of responsibility during his visit to three locations in Ilupeju Area.

Beginning at Olutunda Street, he showed genuine empathy for the residents who suffered from a destructive fire, recognizing the immense loss they experienced.

Accompanied by his team, Ajala offered sincere condolences and reassured those affected that although they faced material losses, the preservation of life was of utmost importance.

He also prayed for comfort and divine protection from future disasters.

"I express profound sorrow upon receiving news of the devastating fire that consumed your residence. My team and I extend our heartfelt condolences for the significant loss of cherished possessions resulting from this unfortunate incident," empathized HRA.

"We are grateful that no lives were lost during this tragic event. It is our fervent hope that, moving forward, we will be shielded from such unforeseen calamities," he earnestly prayed.

In his commitment to his community, the chairman of the council headed to a house where a



Mr. Rasaq Olusola Ajala

burglary had taken place, making sure to highlight the seriousness of the situation.

Together with his team, he carefully examined the area, promising to work closely with the police to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident.

Ajala also paid a visit to the residence of Mr. Tunde Akinbiyi, a

respected leader in Ilupeju who recently passed away.

The son of the late Mr. Akinbiyi warmly received the chairman and his group at their home.

HRA appealed to him to take heart and accept the death of his father as an act of God.

He prayed for the repose of the soul of the deceased.

This proactive approach underscores his commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the community.

The final leg of his engagements involved attending the 8th-day Fidau prayer for Late Mr. Babatunde Awoyejo, the husband of his Personal Secretary, Mrs. Mojisola. In Ogunji Street, Ilupeju.

Ajala extended heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Mojisola and the bereaved family, offering prayers for the peaceful repose of the departed soul.

The solemn Fidau prayer ceremony was attended by dignitaries including Vice Chairman Hon. Seyi Jakande, Leader of the Legislative Arm Hon. Ola Ajenifuja, Councillor

representing the Ward Hon Nosiru Mustafa and some Councillors across the wards, Members of the Executive Arm of government in the LCDA, Council's Manager Mrs. Afolake Otenaike, Wife of the Chairman Alhaja (Mrs) Muhibat Omokehinde Ajala, HODs in different department, and well-wishers.

Nollywood Actress, Victoria Inyama Opens Up On Alleged Domestic Abuse

In a recent interview with Chude Jideonwo, renowned Nollywood actress Victoria Inyama revealed distressing details about her past, alleging that her estranged husband, Godwin Okrim, subjected her to physical abuse whenever Manchester United, his favorite football club, experienced defeat on the pitch.

Inyama shared the harrowing experiences, stating, "I hate Man Utd, eh. The number of beatings wey dem beat me because Man United lost match eh."

The actress went on to express the enduring impact of the trauma, explaining that even today, witnessing the team's losses serves as a



painful reminder of the abuse she endured during her marriage. She recounted, "Even up

to today when there is a football match and Man U loses, I am like Thank God, today would have

been a beating day." Inyama disclosed that her son is aware of these distressing incidents,

and in moments of defeat for Manchester United, they share laughter, acknowledging

the dark history attached to such outcomes in their household.

Brain Jotter Discloses Shift from Crossdressing Characters

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Renowned skit creator Brain Jotter, born Chukwuebuka Emmanuel Amuzie, recently shared insights into his decision to abandon the use of crossdressing characters in his comedic sketches. Previously known for portraying Madam Ogadi, Brain Jotter revealed in an interview that he made a conscious choice to switch to a different

character. During the conversation, Brain Jotter candidly acknowledged his past venture into crossdressing, highlighting that while his performances as Madam Ogadi garnered applause, he recognized the inherent challenges of sustaining such a character. He expressed his belief that effective crossdressing demands a high level of skill and dedication to be executed convincingly.

"I have a friend who is advising me to start making content as a crossdresser. I'm not interested because I've tried it before," he shared. "But then I realized that cross-dressing is not sustainable for me. I just don't buy the idea because it won't last. People might enjoy it once or twice, but you're not a woman. Except you are doing it exceptionally well. You can't be wearing a woman's clothes with beards."



Why I Refrain From Luxury Purchase-Avra Starr



In a recent interview that has gained widespread attention, Afrobeat sensation Avra Starr candidly shared insights into her life, revealing a relatable side of her relationship with her mother.

The Mavin signee disclosed how, despite having the financial means, she refrained from purchasing an expensive bag she desired, acknowledging the influence of her mother's opinions on her choices.

Ayra Starr painted a vivid picture of her mother as a typical Nigerian mom, whose values and

perspectives play a crucial role in shaping her decisions.

The Grammy-nominated artist further delved into her personal experiences, recounting how her mother, like any concerned parent, exhibits the typical traits of a Nigerian mom.

She highlighted her mother's habit of making calls to check on her and everyone around her whenever she is out late, emphasizing the caring and protective nature of their relationship.

During the interview, Avra Starr expressed her

gratitude for receiving a Grammy nomination, a milestone she had fervently prayed for. Additionally, the Afrobeat sensation confidently declared her plans to release an album later this year, raising anticipation among her fans.

The interview has sparked reactions on social media, with fans sharing humorous comments and playful banter. The artist's relatable revelations have resonated with many, drawing attention to the intersection of fame and family dynamics in the life of a rising music star

Remembering the Victor, his Trumpet and his Songs 4 Years After

His showmanship, his trumpet, the immaculate white handkerchief and his urbane comportment are among the features that defined his image and stood him out. He had his fans among all socioeconomic classes and age groups. Dr Victor Abimbola Olaiya OON, bestrode the highlife music terrain affecting generation after generation with his melodious and soothing evergreen songs. During his active years he dictated the pace of highlife music with his calm and ballad like orchestration. It didn't take him long as he took the center stage during the visit of Queen Elizabeth 11 to Nigeria in 1956. In 1960 his band was the official band that played during Nigeria's Independence. Also in 1963 when Nigeria became a republic he shared the same stage with Louis Armstrong. Dr Victor Olaiya was the Evil Genius that had a unique dress sense with his golden trumpet and white handkerchief the symbol of his success. His ability to pen down philosophical melodies, love songs, and songs touching on socioeconomic issues and vanities of

life stood him out. He was one musician who was able to adapt traditional music of different tribes in his highlife repertoire.

Oh yes I have some of my all time favorite among his songs. His song **Ilu Le** first released in the 60's talk about the adverse austerity biting hard on the Nigerian masses and the different coping strategies taken to overcome it. In **Aiye Soro** he admonishes those who have everything going for them to soft pedal because nobody knows when the pendulum can swing back. The song **Gbasolode** sang in Urhobo is a love song where the lover man Victor tells his lover to stay with him through thick and thin. In **Adogan** he lamented the perceived sweet pain of pint sized men who are into relationships with fat women satirizing their perceived suffering. One could feel a sizzling thrill in his Ghanaian songs like **Yabonsa, Anyako koro** (in collaboration with ET Mensah). His song **Iye Jemila** sang in Ijebu dialect talks about Bride Price. His lamentation for the dead could be felt in the dirge **EWELE We Ku EWELE** One will feel a touch of folklore in songs like **Pariboto Riboto, Lekeleke**. Etc **Soro Jeje Fun Arugbo** is a song that should



prick the conscience of those who carelessly disregard the aged in the society. He dedicated a special love song titled **Omo Pupa** to

fair skinned ladies where he promised them ticket money to meet him in London. One cannot ever get tired of listening to his **Baby Jowo** which has

been sang and rebranded by different artistes and bands. The song **Se Fun Mi** which he dedicated to one of his wives shows Victor Olaiya

professing intense love and affection to his wife Bimbo. It has been 4 years without our Victor but his memory lingers on.

We'll Use Sports To Engender Development-Fatodu

... As LSSC Welcome Fatodu To Office

The newly appointed Director-General, Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC), Olalekan Fatodu has vowed that sports as a strategic tool will be activated to drive the THEMES Plus agenda of the current administration to engender development and achieve growth. Fatodu stated this during a reception organised by the Management, Board, Senior Special Assistants to Mr. Governor and the staff of the Commission at the Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere, on Monday. He said, "We will use the sports platform to activate the agenda of inclusivity, gender-friendly as well as youth engagement".

The former Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Social Development Goals reiterated that he is passionate about development with the instrumentality of sports, to ensure a sane society and engage the youth positively. "I want this experience to be sweet, I want this experience to be mutually beneficial and fulfilling. I am convinced that through this journey, we will achieve greater results through our collaborative efforts, team spirits and commitment". As a communication strategist, he also promised to work for sports development by welcoming ideas and initiatives from every individual that tends to contribute immensely to the achievement of the #GreaterLagos vision.



Hamzat Applauds Winners of Lagos City Marathon

The Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Kadiri Obafemi Hamzat has applauded the winners of the Access Bank Lagos City Marathon, just as he stated that the Race is one of the best among long-distance races in the world owing to its capacity and the atmosphere created by the state government. He said, "The Marathon has created an opportunity for people that came from other countries to understand our culture better, make friends here, and also have a socio-economic impact on the state". On his part, the Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mobolaji Ogunlende said the yearly event is getting bigger and better, stressing that the collaboration with the

sponsor has yielded tremendous benefits for everyone.

"I am happy that Lagos State and Access Bank are collaborating to sponsor such an important event and through the collaboration, we can have multiple economic events. The Marathon also helps the youth to engage in something because most of them are restless, so I will encourage them to take advantage of it and improve themselves", he said.

The 9th edition of the Gold Label event was held on Saturday, February 10, 2024, as the 42 km race began at the National Stadium in Surulere and ended at the Eko Atlantic City in Victoria Island.

Kenya's Bernard Sang won the 2024 race with a time of 2:16:35 in the male category while in the



women's category, Chala Kebene from Ethiopia came first with a time of 2:41:01. The winners were rewarded with the

top prize of 30,000 dollars each. Over 81 elite athletes drawn from different countries took part in the

42 kilometres while thousands of runners participated in the 10 km fun race. Organisers are targeting a Platinum

Label for the 10th Access Bank Lagos City Marathon, a landmark edition, scheduled to be held next year.



For News Round Lagos Read Echoneews

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