

Got A Story?
Call
08032178602

**To Place
Adverts,**
Call
08025378799

Ayra Starr
Earns UK
Platinum
Plaque PG.27



WASSCE, NECO:
Lagos Fires Up
Candidates
Confidence PG.12

Badagry Women
Want More Inclusion
of Women
In Govt PG.23

Echoneews

www.echoneews.ng

LAGOS COMMUNITIES EDITION

A publication of Echoneews Newspapers Limited

Monday 12th May - Sunday 18th May 2025

CONSENSUS, PROTEST TRAIL LAGOS APC PRIMARIES Pg. 2&4

Over N3bn Transactions
Traded At Mushin Food
Hub - Commissioner P.13

Smart City: Lagos Activates
24/7 Digital Traffic Eye P.9



Court Prosecutes
Mercy Chinwo's
Former Manager
Over Alleged P.15
\$397,106 Fraud

Parallex Bank
Rewards
Young Lagos
Athletes P.31
With Millions

Lagos Accounting
Manual Will Attract
More Investors –
LSHA House P.31
Chairman

Lawmakers Urge
Police To Intensify
Surveillance
Against Crimes P.31

Land Dispute: Owode-Onirin Market Traders Get Solace P.22

LASEPA Warns Religious Organizations, Industries Against Noise Pollution P.5

Consensus, protest trail Lagos APC primaries

By Kunle Awosiyun

Some delegates across the 57 Local Government and Local Council Development Areas in the Saturday All Progressives Congress, APC Primaries have expressed their displeasure with the conduct of the election.

The delegates alleged the state APC of rigging the election and imposing unpopular chairmanship aspirants on them.

However, the Chairman of the party's electoral committee, Mr. Babatunde Ogala (SAN) had admitted that there might be a few human errors as he urged the aggrieved aspirants to exercise their right to appeal.

He said that the decision of the committee could be overturned by the APC Appeal Committee if confronted with facts.

In Ejigbo LCDA, the delegates kicked against the imposition of one Taoreed Taiwo who did not have a polling unit in Ejigbo as the victorious candidate instead of Habeeb Omowunmi Anibaba who is the people's choice.

After the primaries on Saturday, the party had announced Taiwo of polling 16 delegate votes; Olasunmade O, five delegate votes, Anibaba, four delegate votes and one invalid vote.

Speaking to Echonews, one of the supporters of Anibaba, who identified himself as Joe Yakubu alleged that the poll was rigged to favour Taiwo, adding that Anibaba had about 14 out of the 23 delegates going to the primaries.

On Sunday, the supporters of Anibaba, staged a protest at the ACME Road secretariat of the APC over the imposition of Taiwo.

Yakubu said in a statement entitled, 'Is Ejigbo LCDA Doomed? A Call to Action for APC Leaders', adding that the primaries had left many stakeholders and residents feeling disheartened and disenfranchised.

"Despite the efforts of party members and supporters, the selection of candidates for the chairmanship and vice chairmanship positions has raised concerns about the future of the party in the area.

He noted that the most alarming aspect of the primaries is that the selected aspirants for the key positions are not from Ejigbo LCDA.

"This decision has sparked fears that the interests of the local community (Ejigbo LCDA) may not be adequately represented.

The fact that the chairmanship and vice chairmanship candidates are not from the area further exacerbates the situation, potentially leading to a disconnect between



Babatunde Ogala

the leadership and the people they are supposed to serve.

To him, the development poses significant risks to the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ejigbo LCDA.

"By imposing external candidates, the party may be seen as out of touch with the local community's needs and aspirations," he said.

Another APC leader (names withheld) in Ejigbo LCDA described the emergence of Taiwo as an error on the part of the state APC that conducted the poll at the state secretariat ACME Road Ogba, adding that the error would be contested. He said 23 delegates voted Anibaba scored 14 votes while the other aspirants scored 9 votes.

"Where did they get the fake results they are brandishing," he lamented.

In a petition, "Danger Alert In Ejigbo LCDA" to the state Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the Governor Advisory Council, GAC and APC by another party stalwart in Ejigbo area, Mr. Segun Oye, the imposition of Taiwo will spell doom for the party in the coming local government election on July 12.

The petition read in part, "Anibaba is our choice in Ejigbo". In Ejigbo LCDA, there is a fire on the mountain. Early warning for the Leadership of our great Party (All Progressives Congress).

On May 10th Party Primaries held at the State Secretariat,

Acme Road, Ikeja, Lagos, it's conspicuous to the entire public that out of the entire 23 delegates' votes, Anibaba had 14 votes against his co-contenders who shared the remaining 9 votes amongst themselves, so how come the brazen act of nepotism and godfatherism?."

It continues, "This unholy cum prejudiced favouritism emanating within the party is capable of tearing our Party apart and bringing it into disrepute. Sequel to this, the vast majority have vowed to divert their votes to the opposition party if these shenanigans and tomfoolery are not nipped in the bud.

It will be a wise step

for our great Party (APC) to let the voice and interest of the people count.

However, it can never be over as the end justifies the means. Anibaba Habib is our choice and popular candidate, and mind you, democracy lies in the hands of the people, hence the dire need to allow Ejigbo to decide who governs it."

It described the announcement of Taoheed Taiwo as deception to examine popular reactions, adding that unpopular candidates can never win the General Election for APC in Ejigbo LCDA.

"Popular opinion and divine will are interconnected, in other words, the will of God is the will of the people.

Ejigbo says NO to IMPOSITION.!

79th
Anniversary

THE BANK THAT WORKS

Monday 24th February - Sunday 2nd March 2025

ALAT

DEVICE LOANS

Prestige

SARA

WEMA MSME COLLECTION AND PAYMENT PLATFORMS

NQR ALATPay

FOR BUSINESS

ALAT Xplore

ALAT GOALS

ALAT KIDDIES ACCOUNT

MSME

ALAT TRAVELS

DIGITAL BANKING

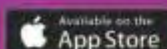
Scan Here

To Begin

WEMA BANK

With you. All the way.

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



Dial *945*01#

Don't forget, payments are easier with

*945#

0-7000-PURPLE, 0803 900 3700

purpleconnect@wemabank.com

Customer help desk 09044411010

Get social with us at:



@wemabank | @alat_ng



alat.ng

wemabank.com | alat.ng

Consensus, protest trail Lagos APC primaries

Continued from page 2

Ejigbo needs a credible candidate who understands its topography, culture and system.

Earlier before the primaries began on Saturday Echonews observed steady protest among some delegates who voiced their dissatisfaction with the process.

Delegates from Badagry caused a commotion over allegations of missing tags.

According to sources, the individual responsible for distributing delegate tags had been unresponsive and had blocked calls so that original delegates would not reach them.

Delegates from Agege also cried out saying that none of them had been given tags and were not allowed to enter the secretariat to cast their ballots to their Preferred aspirants.

An aspirant from Itire-Ikate LCDA also raised concerns over the fairness of the delegate selection process, specifically accusing the party chairman of manipulating delegate tags.

Despite the controversy, some local delegates maintained order and decorum during the primaries.

Meanwhile, findings showed that the primaries fell across faction lines with delegates coming from either the Mandate or Justice Forum of the party. In Ejigbo, it was gathered that the imposed candidate, Taohed Taiwo is from Justice Forum who has no strong roots in Ejigbo but around Okota and Isolo.

Anibaba who was rigged out is a member of the Mandate group and very popular in Ejigbo unlike Taiwo who has no polling unit in Ejigbo.

It was gathered that some members of GAC who are tilted towards Justice Forum were behind the controversy and questionable results of the Saturday's primaries.

Earlier, before the primaries, the Chairman of

Lagos Governor Advisory Council, GAC, Tajudeen Olusi, has charged Lagos youths to resist imposition.

Olusi, gave the charge at the 7th Town Hall meeting by Senator Sanni Eshilokun, tagged: "My Strategic and Progressive Stewardship In The 10th Senate Thus Far," held at Glover Hall, in Lagos Central Senatorial District. Giving the advice with regards to the forthcoming Local Government polls in 20 Local Government Area and 37 LCDA, Olusi, flayed youths' dependence on imposition.

He described dependence on imposition factor as "a clear decadence presently prevalent in the polity as against the participatory and highly assertive mien displayed during his youthful days.

"Desist from using the influence of Senators, House of Representative members, members of House of Assembly and political leaders to get to certain heights politically, instead, assert yourself.

"In our youths we were members of boys clubs from different areas of Lagos as envisioned by colonial masters and we moved from that level into political formations remaining consistent all the way.

"Then we took active parts on our own, we were not imposed.

"Stop waiting to be imposed, assert yourself, control your area and bring forward people you can vouch for to take up leadership on your behalf," Olusi said.

Reacting to the allegation of imposition by APC, the Chairman of the party's electoral committee, Mr. Babatunde Ogala said that the primaries was transparent and that at no time did the party impose candidates on the people.

According to findings, no fewer than 1,539 delegates were expected to vote chairmanship candidates for the 20 Local Government and 37 Local Council Development, but primaries were not conducted for Yaba LCDA

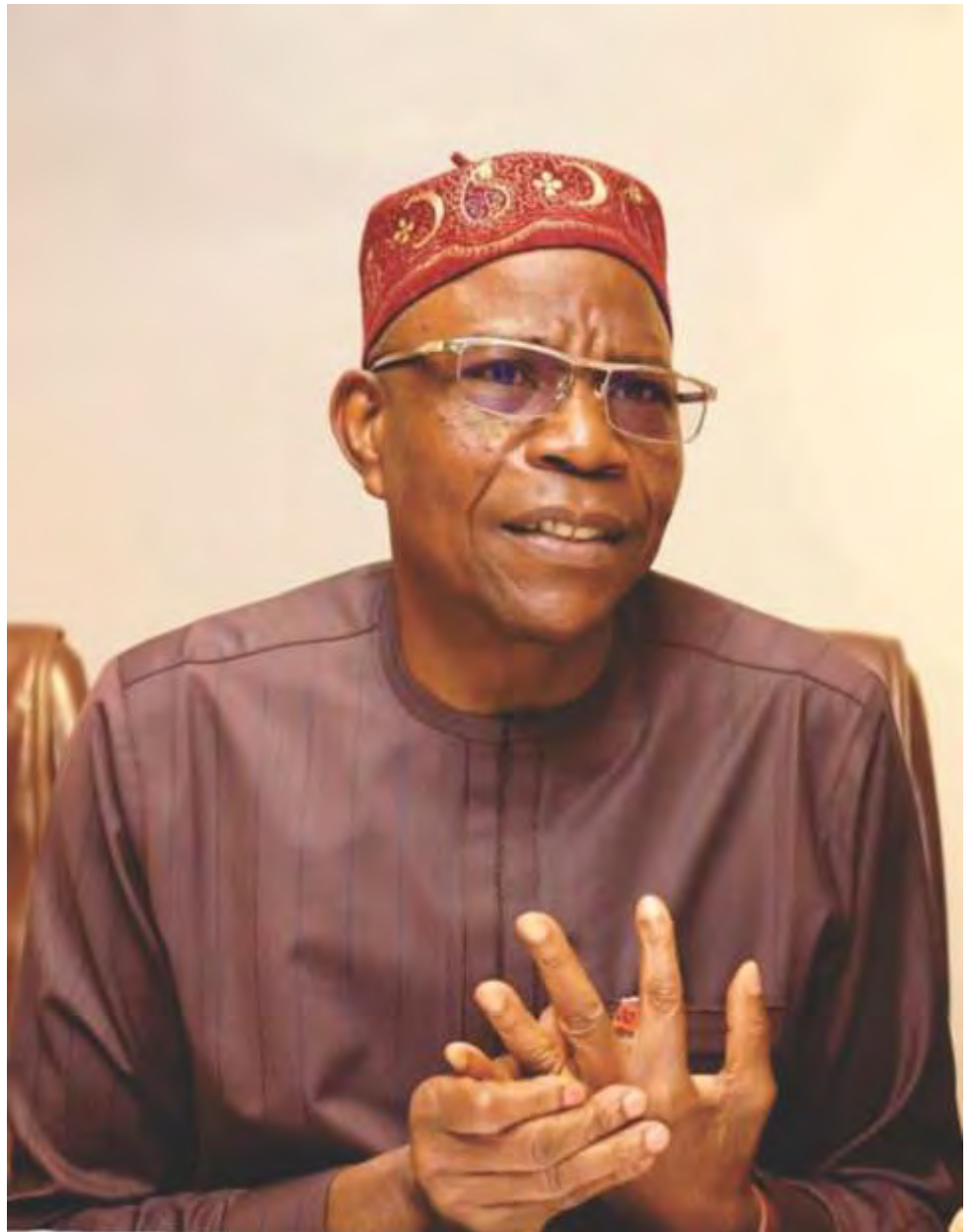
and Mainland LCDA owing to issues bordering on litigation.

27 delegates voted to elect candidates for each of the councils where voting was conducted.

According to Ogala, four chairmanship candidates emerged through consensus while 51 others contested to emerge.

According to him, candidates that emerged via consensus and were affirmed by their delegates are Mr Isa Jubril (Iba LCDA), Mrs Motunrayo Gbadebo (Ijede LCDA), Mr Rasaq Kasali (Lekki LCDA) and Mr Azeez Kareem (Otto Awori LCDA). Ogala declared Mr Usman Hamzat as the elected candidate for Ifako-Ijaiye LG and Mr Hameed Aroyehun for Igbogbo/Bayeku LCDA, Oluyemisi Rosiji (Ojokoro LCDA); Moyosore Ogunlewe (Kosofe LG); Olufemi Okeowo (Ifelodun LCDA); Olamilekan Akindipe (Ajeromi Ifelodun LG) and Suleiman Yusuf (Surulere LG).

According to him, others who emerged are Azeez Ogidan (Coker Aguda LCDA) Tola Oyedele (Agboyi-Ketu LCDA); Taoreed Taiwo (Ejigbo LCDA), Muibi Alade (Lagos Island East) Sanusi Ismail (Amuwo-Odofin LG), Muibat Rufia (Ojo LG) and Taiwo Oyekan (Lagos



Cornelius Ojelabi, Lagos APC Chairman

Island LG).

He gave the other winners as Wale Hameed (Ikorodu North LG), Samsudeen Agunbiade (Eti-Osa East LG); Humpey Babatunde

(Badagry); Sura Animashaun (Epe LG); Adebayo Olasoji (Isolo LCDA); and Sesan Olowa (Ibeju-Lekki LCDA).

Wale Alomo (Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA); Rauf Ibrahim (Badagry West LCDA); Adedayo Ladega (Ikorodu LG); Rasak Oloyede (Oriade LCDA); Abiodun Akinola (Orile Agege LCDA) and Lateef Ashimin (Somolu), Bolanle Bada (Ikosi-Isheri LCDA); Kehinde Oloyede (Oshodi-Isolo LG); and Sunday Benson (Imota LCDA); and Kazeem Sulaiman (Ikorodu West LCDA) were also announced as winners.

Shobanjo Idowu (Apapa); Peter Ajose (Olorunda LCDA); Monsuru Ismail (Eredo LCDA); Opeyemi Akindele (Mosan Okunola LCDA), Abiodun Agbaje (Ayobo-Ipaja LCDA); Ibrahim Akinpelu (Alimosho LG); and Jimoh Olawale (Apapa Iganmu), Bukola Omofe (Bariga LCDA); Tunbosun Aruwe

(Mushin LG); Olusegun Odunmbaku (Ojodu); Idris Balogun (Egbe-Idimu); Lasisi Akinsanya (Ikotun-Igando LCDA); Akeem Dauda (Ikeja LG) and Lawal Jakande (Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA) also emerged.

Other elected party flag bearers are Bola Oladunjoye (Ikoyi-Obalende LCDA); Moyo Adebajo (Onigbongbo LCDA); Adeola Sheriff (Eti-Osa LCDA), Babatunde Azeez (Agege LG); and Aminat Alabi (Iru/Victoria Island LCDA) Daniel Olufemi (Itire Ikate LCDA) and Jimoh Ishola declared winners for Agbado Oke-Odo LCDA.

Ogala, who admitted that there might be a few human errors, urged the aggrieved aspirants to exercise their right to appeal after the exercise. He said that the decision of the committee could be overturned by the APC Appeal Committee if confronted with facts.



Anibaba

LASEPA Warns Religious Organizations, Industries Against Noise Pollution

The Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) today joined the global community to commemorate the 2025 International Noise Awareness Day (INAD) with the theme “Protect Your Hearing, Protect Your Health.”

The event, which was held at the Conference Room of the agency, Alausa, is a global campaign against noise pollution because of its negative impact on human health.

Speaking at the press briefing, the General Manager of LASEPA, Dr

Babatunde Ajayi, welcomed stakeholders, partners, and members of the public, emphasising the growing importance of noise regulation in Lagos State.

He commended the large turnout and participation in the sensitization campaign, which covered key areas across the state.

Dr. Ajayi noted the pressing need to raise awareness about the health implications of noise pollution, citing its adverse effects on cardiovascular health, mental well-being, and overall quality of

life.

“Noise pollution is not just a nuisance; it is a serious public health issue. This year's theme is a clarion call to action, urging everyone—especially those in health, safety, and environmental management—to take up the cause of reducing noise pollution in Lagos,” he said.

Highlighting the agency's efforts in noise reduction, Dr. Ajayi disclosed that over the past 18 months, LASEPA had received about 1,616 noise-related complaints, of which 600 had

resulted in enforcement actions across diverse sectors including religious organizations, entertainment, clubs, lounges, and restaurants. The General Manager further disclosed that his agency would continue to collaborate with religious leaders and other organizations through periodic engagements to promote compliance with permissible noise levels in residential, commercial, and mixed-use areas for public health and safety.

Dr. Ajayi in a strong

warning to habitual violators of government regulations, announced that the agency would intensify its enforcement, including impounding sound equipment from defaulters, particularly in open markets and public areas using loudspeakers indiscriminately. He disclosed that the agency has simplified its sound permit approval process by digitising it to make it seamless, adding that anyone who has an event could apply for the permit through the agency's website: info

@lasepa.gov.ng.

While maintaining that the process could be done online without needing to come to the agency, he assured residents that the agency would scale up its advocacy to grassroots levels, including local governments, CDAs, and CDCs.

Earlier in her opening remarks, the Director, Noise Pollution Unit, Mrs Natufe Abosede emphasised the importance of proactive hearing health, noting that excessive noise is not just a nuisance but a serious environmental and public health issue.

The highlight of the celebration was the presentation of an award of excellence to the General Manager of LASEPA by the Music Advertisement Association of Nigeria (MAAN) in recognition of his leadership and commitment to environmental sustainability.

The event also featured free hearing tests for participants, underscoring the importance of early detection and prevention of hearing loss.



Ilera Eko: LASHMA Inducts 20 National Health Fellows (NHF)

In a significant stride towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and ensuring no resident is left behind, the Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) has inducted 20 National Health Fellows (NHF) as dedicated ILERA EKO Champions. This strategic move harnesses the energy and vision of young leaders to bolster the state's health insurance scheme.

During a stakeholders' engagement held today in Alausa, Ikeja, the Permanent Secretary of LASHMA, Dr. Emmanuella Zamba congratulated the newly appointed fellows. She urged them to embody the values of both the National Health Fellows Programme (NHFP) and the ILERA EKO initiative, serving as exemplary ambassadors in their crucial roles.

Dr. Zamba lauded the Federal Government for establishing the NHFP, emphasising LASHMA's enthusiasm in welcoming these future leaders to Lagos State. She expressed confidence that their involvement would significantly strengthen the healthcare system, particularly at the grassroots level.

Highlighting the critical role of the NHFs in expanding social health insurance, Dr. Zamba charged them with actively promoting the



benefits of ILERA EKO within their respective local government areas. Their mission will be to encourage widespread registration and enrolment in the health insurance scheme, directly supporting LASHMA's objectives.

Referencing the Executive Order signed by Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu on July 16, 2024, which mandates social health insurance for all Lagos residents, the Permanent Secretary stressed the necessity of collaborating with forward-thinking young leaders.

These fellows, she noted, will provide a fresh perspective and act as vital bridges between the government and the populace. Dr. Zamba encouraged the NHFs

to contribute innovative ideas that could further enhance the planning and implementation of the Lagos State Health Scheme (LSHS).

"We are charting new territory with this Social Health Insurance Scheme," she stated, emphasising their role in shaping its future. She further asserted that the future of healthcare in Lagos State hinges not only on robust policies but also on the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, with the NHFs representing a crucial segment of this collective endeavour.

Dr. Jumoke Oyenuga, Director of Healthcare Planning, Research and Statistics at the Lagos State Ministry of Health, commended LASHMA for hosting the NHFs and actively

involving them in the agency's various activities.

She affirmed that this inclusive approach would empower the young leaders to become active participants in the implementation of the Governor's Executive Order, thereby advancing the state's healthcare system.

Providing context on the National Health Fellows Programme, Dr. Oyeyemi Ogunjobi, the Sector-Wide Approach (SWAP) Desk Officer, explained its mandate to cultivate a new generation of healthcare leaders across Nigeria. The programme aims to recruit 774 NHFs annually over three years, deploying these young professionals to Local Government Areas nationwide to contribute to public health

administration, monitor key health indicators, and support service delivery.

In her remarks, Mrs. Olufunke Longe, Director of Admin and Human Resources at LASHMA, lauded the increasing leadership role of youths across all sectors of society. She urged the NHFs to embrace LASHMA's mandate and core values, driving the anticipated positive change within Nigeria's health sector, particularly in Lagos State, the "Centre of Excellence."

Speaking on behalf of the inducted fellows, Sophie Adeyeye, representing Ikeja Local Government, expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Health and LASHMA for their collaborative spirit. She pledged that the

NHFs in Lagos State would dedicate their utmost efforts to achieving the desired transformation within the health sector.

During the engagement, the fellows were provided with comprehensive insights into various LASHMA activities and programmes, including the Executive Order on mandatory health insurance, the ILERA EKO health plan, demand and supply dynamics within the scheme, and the EKO Social Health Alliance (EKOSHA).

Also in attendance at the stakeholders' engagement were the Head of Planning for the Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Oluwatosin Ijimakinwa, and various Heads of Departments within LASHMA.

A new Lagos is in the works

The future is loading!

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



Lagos State Internal Revenue Service

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

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

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



Lagos Accounting Manual Will Attract More Investors – LSHA House Chairman

The Accounting Manual, developed for use by all accountants employed by the Lagos State Government, has been described as a document that will attract serious investors to the state and further portray Lagos as a business-minded and forward-thinking Government. This was the assertion of the Chairman, Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Finance, Hon. Femi Saheed, during the opening ceremony of a four-day retreat organised for Directors and Heads of Finance and Accounts across all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), held recently at Lakowe Golf Lakes Resort, Lagos.

Hon. Saheed, who represents Kosofe Constituency II at the House of Assembly, stated that once the final draft of the manual is approved and becomes operational, Lagos State will once again lead the way in public sector financial management among Nigerian states. He emphasised that the initiative aligns with globally accepted accounting standards and practices. The Chairman noted that the ratification of the manual will also enhance the oversight functions of the House of Assembly, as it will provide a clear template for evaluating the financial performance of ministries and agencies. He commended the State Accountant-General for recognising the need for the manual and



organising the retreat, which allows accountants to review their modules, rethink their strategies, and prepare more effectively for future tasks. Hon. Saheed urged the accountants to adopt the manual as a key reference tool in their daily operations, highlighting its value in ensuring proper accounting and consistent financial reporting procedures. Declaring the retreat open, the Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Abayomi Oluoyomi, emphasised the dual significance of professional development and team bonding. Represented by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Taxation and Revenue, Hon. Abdul-Kabir Opeyemi Ogunbo, the Commissioner

described the retreat as a unique opportunity to reconnect, rejuvenate creativity, and reinforce teamwork among financial professionals. He noted that the theme of the retreat, "Excellence in Teamwork: Collaborating for Success in Public Sector Financial Management," underscores the importance of working collaboratively and purposefully to strengthen the State's financial systems. The Commissioner also commended the commitment of Lagos State accountants, acknowledging their vital role in sustaining the Government's economic vision. In his address, the Head of Service, Mr. Bode Agoro, encouraged

participants to remain steadfast and dedicated to their roles, describing them as the pillars of the Lagos State Public Service. He emphasised the importance of hard work and perseverance, stating that the accountants are not just civil servants but changemakers who influence the future of the State. Agoro lauded the Accountant-General/Permanent Secretary, Dr. Abiodun Muritala, for his visionary leadership and mentorship, especially to accountants in the public service. He encouraged participants to consistently strive for excellence in their professional duties. Earlier, Dr. Muritala reiterated that while updating the

Accounting Manual is a central goal, the broader mission is to promote transparency, accountability, and best practices in financial governance. He noted that the retreat provides an opportunity for participants to contribute their expertise, exchange ideas, and build mutual trust to enhance teamwork and overall efficiency in service delivery. Also speaking, the Engagement Leader for the development of the new Lagos State Accounting Manual, Consultant Mr. Gbenga Adepetu, stated that the retreat offers stakeholders a platform to harmonise their perspectives and ensure the manual reflects the collective vision of finance managers and the state Government. He noted that the

current accounting manual, which is over three decades old, has become obsolete given the evolution of accounting practices and reforms instituted by the Lagos State Government. He affirmed that the new manual, once finalised, will provide immense value, ensuring uniformity in accounting processes, serving as a knowledge repository, and guiding accountants to better understand their mandates and functions as outlined by the state. The event brought together key stakeholders in the public finance ecosystem, including the Special Adviser to the Governor on Internal Audit, Dr. (Mrs.) Oyeyemi Ayoola, and several Permanent Secretaries.

Smart City: Lagos Activates 24/7 Digital Traffic Eye

In a decisive move to solidify its smart city agenda and bolster public safety, the Lagos State Government has launched a round-the-clock digitised traffic enforcement system. This cutting-edge initiative, unveiled during the ongoing 2025 Ministerial Press Briefing at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, Alausa, marks a significant stride in the state's commitment to leveraging technology for enhanced security, seamless business operations, and robust economic expansion. Speaking at the briefing, the Commissioner for Innovation, Science, and Technology, Mr. Olatubosun Alake, underscored the Sanwo-Olu administration's unwavering dedication to cultivating a technology-driven ecosystem that fuels job creation, amplifies Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), and fortifies the state's digital backbone. The Commissioner elaborated that the project entails a

phased deployment of intelligent video surveillance infrastructure strategically positioned across Lagos. This three-pronged rollout ensures a comprehensive and cohesive approach to both traffic management and public safety. "A truly digitised city necessitates a robust synergy between physical and digital infrastructure," Mr. Alake asserted. "The Metrofibre Project, with its ambitious target of

6,000km of optic fibre and ducts, is therefore pivotal in expanding digital penetration and enhancing connectivity throughout the state." He further emphasised the critical role of enterprise architecture in digitising the state's data infrastructure, a move poised to streamline governmental processes and cultivate stronger collaborations with the private sector. Mr. Alake also reiterated the

administration's strong commitment to e-Governance, highlighting significant progress on key platforms such as the Lagos State Government (LASG) website, the ICT Request Platform, and the Oracle system. He announced the imminent launch of the Lagos State Digital Services Platform, a unified portal designed to provide residents with simplified and centralised access to a wide array of government services and information.

Looking to the future, Lagos is poised to implement its comprehensive AI adoption strategy, which includes the deployment of AI-powered chatbots, the integration of artificial intelligence into e-Governance services, and the publication of state-wide AI guidelines to foster responsible innovation. Addressing cybersecurity, the Commissioner revealed that Lagos has significantly fortified its digital defence

mechanisms over the past year, successfully thwarting two major data exfiltration attempts. With the strategic deployment of 109 certified Data Protection Officers across various ministries and agencies, Lagos continues to lead as the foremost state for data compliance in Nigeria. "This administration's commitment to digital transformation transcends mere efficiency gains; it is fundamentally about the safety, prosperity, and empowerment of every Lagosian," Mr. Alake stated emphatically.



Anglican Diocese Hails Sanwo-Olu's Giant Strides in Infrastructure



The Diocese of Lagos West, Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), has commended Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his administration's giant strides in road infrastructure, education, health, urban development, housing, environment, job and skill acquisition. The Bishop of Lagos Diocese, The Rt Rev'd Dr Ifedola Senasu Okupevi, spoke about Governor Sanwo-Olu's achievements while delivering a Presidential Address at the First Session of the 36th Synod of the Diocese, held at Our Saviour's Church, Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos, on Monday. The Diocesan said Lagos State continues to experience significant growth and development across various sectors, particularly under the Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration. He said, "We commend the Lagos State Government in the area of roads and

infrastructure. In the last 12 months, we observed that infrastructure initiatives in the State reflect a commitment to modernising the city's transportation networks and cultural landmarks. Yet more still needs to be done in ensuring these developments benefit all residents equitably. "We observe Blue Line Rail Development, Red Line, John Randle Centre for Yoruba Culture and History, road and bridge projects as significant infrastructural projects aimed at enhancing transportation, urban development and cultural preservation. "The education sector in Lagos State in the last 12 months shows a pattern of strategic planning, increased investment and collaborative efforts. The Church affirms that Lagos State has demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing its education sector with appreciable progress in the academic calendar and compliance, budgetary allocations,

literacy rates and education challenges, quality assurance and monitoring. "The State's healthcare system has seen notable developments in spite of significant challenges plaguing the sector. We applaud the ILERA EKO Health Insurance Scheme managed by the Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) to reduce out-of-pocket healthcare expenses, enhance service accessibility and expand healthcare access to the underserved. Speaking during the synod, Governor Sanwo-Olu, who was received with fanfare by the Synod delegates, said his administration is committed to delivering the dividends of democracy to Lagos residents in all sectors. He said the intervention of Lagos State on the issue of electricity is based on the recent decentralisation of the power sector and it will bring a lot of relief to

the residents. He said the intervention will unlock additional investments into the energy space for a new life in power generation and power distribution. Governor Sanwo-Olu, while stressing the need for a healthy environment, advised people against dumping refuse on the road and blocking the drainage system. He disclosed that his administration has increased the number of state-owned universities from one to three, and there is a plan to establish another university for medical sciences. The Governor said his government is currently building many hospitals in different parts of the State, among which is the Massey Children Hospital, which will be the largest paediatric hospital in West Africa once it's completed. He also disclosed that his administration is currently building a psychiatric and mental rehabilitation hospital with about 1,000 beds in Ikosi-Ejinrin.

Lagos Revolutionises Emergency Response With EMS

Bolstered by the Governor's decisive approval, the Lagos State Government, through the Office of Transformation, Creativity, and Innovation (OTCI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, is set to launch a groundbreaking Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agency. This strategic initiative marks a paradigm shift in pre-hospital care, poised to deliver critical ambulance emergency services to those in urgent need across the state. The OTCI, spearheading this transformative effort, will elevate the existing department into a robust and authoritative body. This new agency will be equipped with a comprehensive corporate planning model, ensuring efficient coordination of ambulance emergency medical responses statewide. The core objectives include significantly reducing response times, enhancing the quality of patient care during emergencies, and ultimately lowering mortality rates. By integrating innovation and creativity, the agency will leverage cutting-edge technology and cultivate strategic alliances to provide exceptional emergency medical services. "We are thrilled to embark on this landmark collaboration with the Ministry of Health," stated Mrs. Toyin Anjous Ademuyiwa, Director-General of OTCI. "The establishment of this new emergency medical response agency signifies a monumental leap

forward in bolstering healthcare outcomes for all residents of Lagos State." Echoing the same sentiment, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health lauded the professionalism demonstrated by the OTCI team, stating, "We are eager to witness OTCI's expertise in action and are confident in the success of this vital initiative. We look forward to a strong partnership with all stakeholders." The newly formed agency will build upon the foundation of existing emergency medical services, strategically expanding its reach and enhancing care provision, particularly in underserved communities. Key enhancements of the new agency will include streamlined systems, expanded access, increasing access to crucial emergency medical services, especially in remote and rural areas and elevated expertise which provides improved training and robust capacity-building programmes for all emergency responders. The Office of Transformation, Creativity, and Innovation is steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the successful establishment and operation of this vital new agency. The government firmly believes that this initiative will usher in a transformative era for emergency medical care within the state, ultimately saving lives and fostering improved health outcomes for all Nigerians residing in Lagos.

OTCI Resolves Mandate Issues Between Govt Ministries

The Office of Transformation, Creativity, and Innovation (OTCI) has successfully resolved contentious overlapping functions between the Ministry of Waterfront Infrastructure Development (MWID) and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR) on mandate delineation. Speaking at a Stakeholders' Engagement held recently in Alausa,

Mrs. Toyin Anjous-Ademuyiwa, Director-General of OTCI, said the meeting was convened to resolve the lingering mandate overlap between the two Ministries, especially concerning their individual responsibilities relating to Dredging and Mining across the State. According to her, there was a need to establish a clear delineation of responsibilities on dredging, mining, and mineral resources. Delineation, she said, will not only enhance efficient

governance but also prevent future conflicts between the two Ministries. Anjous-Ademuyiwa emphasised the Office's role in ensuring seamless governance and removing obstacles to progress, stressing that through collaborative dialogue to foster clarity, a resolution became necessary to empower both Ministries for effective delivery of their mandates. Key resolutions were reached during the engagement, which witnessed presentations and

in-depth discussions for a more streamlined governance structure. Some of the immediate resolutions reached included the establishment of boundary limitations and the coordination of dredging efforts. The process will be supervised by the OTCI to ensure compliance by both Ministries and facilitate a smooth transition. Anjous-Ademuyiwa expressed confidence that the resolutions will enhance the collaboration and operational



efficiency of MWID and MEMR, a significant step towards reiterating OTCI's strengthening governance and ensuring effective promoting sustainable development in Lagos State," she said.

Lagos Organises Overseas Study Tour For Youth Leaders

The Lagos Ministry of Youth and Social Development has organised a Canada Study Tour for Youth Leaders in the State to equip them with global skills required for leadership. In his keynote address at the Press Briefing and Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in Alausa today, Honourable

Commissioner, Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Mr. Mobolaji Abubakre Ogunlende, stated that the initiative demonstrates Government's unwavering dedication to youth development, global exposure and inclusive leadership, adding the study tour will

empower the youth leaders to think globally and lead confidently with a strong sense of civic responsibility. Mr. Ogunlende said the Study Tour with focus on "Leadership in Innovation and Sustainable Development" and afford participants opportunity of gaining hands-on experience in different areas. Similarly, the Permanent

Secretary, Pharm (Mrs.) Toyin Oke-Osanyintolu affirmed that "Empower Lagos" is not just a call to action but a

movement to produce changemakers and make Lagos shine brighter on a global stage.

Executive Director, Future Perspectives, Abby

Asekun, while speaking further on the Study Tour, assured participants of life-transforming experience both from the academic and practical perspectives.



WASSCE, NECO: Lagos Fires Up Candidates Confidence

As the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) and the National Examinations Council (NECO) Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (SSCE) approach, the Lagos State Government is actively bolstering the morale and preparedness of its students.

Through the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, a strong message of confidence and strategic support is being conveyed to candidates, emphasising that thorough preparation coupled with the right mindset paves the way for success.

The Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Jamiu Alli-Balogun, underscored the pivotal role of a positive mindset and self-assurance in navigating the pressures of

external examinations.

He stated that cultivating this mental fortitude will be instrumental in helping students effectively manage exam stress and ultimately enhance their performance in the upcoming crucial assessments. To further empower students, the State Government has proactively launched initiatives such as the 'Eko Learners' Support Programme,' a collaborative effort with private sector stakeholders strategically designed to equip students with the necessary tools and resources to achieve outstanding results in these external examinations.

A key component of the government's strategy involves the revitalization of school-based activities that are vital for nurturing both the physical and mental well-being of students. This includes a renewed emphasis on co-curricular

activities, recognising their importance in fostering holistic development.

Furthermore, in a direct effort to elevate student performance, Principals and Vice Principals are now mandated to dedicate six to eight periods per week to direct teaching, ensuring experienced leadership actively contributes to academic improvement.

Commissioner Alli-Balogun further elaborated on the implementation of dynamic and engaging interactive learning strategies designed to provide comprehensive support to students. These methods incorporate hands-on activities, practical experiments, and stimulating projects, reflecting the Ministry's unwavering commitment to the advancement of education across Lagos State.

Highlighting the significance of technology in modern learning, the Commissioner



also drew attention to the dedicated e-learning platform specifically developed to assist final-year students in achieving academic excellence in their major examinations.

He concluded by urging all students to dedicate their utmost effort to their studies and to firmly resist any involvement in examination malpractices.

The 'Eko Learners' Support initiative is built upon several key pillars designed for maximum impact. Firstly, it offers a comprehensive suite of 320 meticulously crafted lessons

spanning 10 core subjects: English Language, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Economics, Government, History, Literature-in-English, and Yoruba Language.

These vital lessons are readily accessible to students through broadcasts on Lagos Television (LTV) and various social media platforms, ensuring widespread reach and convenience.

Secondly, the initiative boasts a team of highly proficient teachers who were selected through a rigorous and thorough screening process, guaranteeing quality instruction.

Finally, all lesson content has been carefully developed in strict adherence to the Lagos State Government-approved Scheme of Work and the official WASSCE and NECO syllabi, ensuring relevance and alignment with examination requirements.

Through these multifaceted efforts, the Lagos State Government aims to cultivate a supportive and enabling environment that fosters impressive academic outcomes for all students and ultimately elevates the overall standards of education within the state.

Over N3bn Transactions Traded At Mushin Food Hub-Commissioner



Lagos State Government has said that since its launch in December 2023, the Mid-Level Agro Produce Hub at Idi-Oro Mushin has traded food valued at over N3 billion.

Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Systems, Ms. Abisola Olusanya made this known on Tuesday at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, Alausa, during the ongoing 2025 Ministerial Press Briefing organised to mark the sixth year in Office of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

Olusanya noted that the establishment of Lagos Cattle Transit Station, Ranches, Central Food Security Systems and Logistics Hub in Epe is a show of

unwavering commitment by the administration towards raising the bar of the agricultural space. She added that the development of the five-year agricultural and food systems roadmap, as well as the food security systems policy document, has been a source of guidance towards ensuring productivity in the agricultural space. In her words, "The Mid-Level Agro Produce Hub at Idi-Oro Mushin was commissioned on the 17th of December, 2023, by Mr. Governor, and commenced market operations with sales of Farm Fresh Agro Produce every Wednesday and Saturday. So far, the total value of transactions at the Hub since inception is put at over N3 billion. "The Hub is the second tier of the

food system transformation agenda of the present administration in the state; an additional three Mid-Level Agro Produce Hubs are at various levels of construction at Agege, Abijo and Opebi."

"Governor Babajide Olusanya Sanwo-Olu has started a revolution in the agro space, and this will enshrine the changes that Lagosians desire in having wholesome foods at affordable prices, processed under hygienic conditions and marketed in dignified facilities," she said.

Olusanya noted that the population of Lagos State is projected to increase to about 24 million by 2030, stressing that it becomes expedient to ramp up food production in the state. "The food demand of the state will rise to N7.96 trillion per

annum by 2030. At present, with the local food production output, the state will need to import food worth about N3.38 trillion per annum by 2030 to meet demand. To achieve 40% local production, the state needs to grow its production by about 20% per annum."

Reeling more achievements by the Ministry in the past years, the Commissioner said that the state government, through the ministry, has implemented numerous programmes that have positively impacted food production, agro enterprises and created job opportunities in various segments of the Agric value chain.

She said the state food system transformation agenda, as well as the produce for Lagos programme,

has redefined marketing, transportation, and processing while establishing up country partnerships for the consistent supply of food to the State.

The Commissioner also noted that the state government initiated the food discount markets, as well as farmers' discount markets; the Ounje Eko initiative to cushion the effects of the high cost of animal feeds and support communities with affordable food through the farmers' subsidy programme.

Speaking on the Lagos Rice Mill, Imota, the Commissioner said the facility has produced over 240,127 Bags of 50kg Rice, created direct employment for 430 Lagosians, with over 10,000 indirect jobs. She further stressed that to ensure its sustainability, the state government has partnered with various organisations to produce paddy and provide technical support.

The Commissioner said, "Lagos has provided 800,000 households with subsidised food items under the Ounje Eko Food discount Market Project, supported 3,726 poultry and fish farmers with subsidized feed

under the Ounje Eko farmers' Subsidy Programme, trained 300 youths in Apiculture (Bee Keeping), and Empowered 70,200 beneficiaries across all value chains with agric inputs and production assets.

"The state also constructed farm access roads (13km), six jetties, 15 cottage processing centres for farmers across the State under the APPEALS and Lagos CARES projects in collaboration with the World Bank, Implemented youth centric programmes/projects, like Lagos Agric Scholars programme (LASP), Agrinnovation Club/Agrithon Fund and Eko Flavours competition."

Other initiatives of the Ministry, according to the Commissioner, include the Lagos Food Festival, Urban Farming Initiative, Eko Agro Mechanisation Project, the establishment of the aquaculture production and processing centre, LACE and Lagos Agripreneurship programme, among others.

ECOWAS Court Commences External Sessions In Lagos

By Felix Kuyinu

The court of justice, regional integration, and the protection of human rights across West Africa. West African States, ECOWAS, has begun holding external court sessions in Lagos. The President, ECOWAS Court, alongside Justice Ricardo Gonçalves, stated on Thursday, that the body holding sessions in the state is to reinforce its commitment to justice, regional integration, and the protection of human rights across West Africa. Gonçalves said that the initiative is a crucial part of the body's mission in bringing justice closer to the grassroots, alongside forestering legal understanding and strengthening collaboration between the court and national judiciary. The court president also underscored the growing visibility and influence in promoting legal understanding in the African zone. He noted that the provisions convened under Article 26 of the court's protocol enables the court to sit in the state, on course of adjudicating over 35 cases from 12 member states during a seven day long session to address matters including human rights breaches, administrative disputes and regional governance issues. Governor of the state, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, highlighted that the measure will sensitize the citizen on its role in the improvement of justice system. Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the state's Attorney, Lawal Pedro, said, "The ECOWAS Court's external sessions do more than adjudicate. They demonstrate that every person has rights that cannot be taken away, be defended transparently and fairly in court." In her speech, the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairperson of the ECOWAS Judicial Council, Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, described the gathering as "a testament to the court's dynamic commitment to accessibility, transparency, and regional solidarity in the service of justice." The state's Chief Judge, Kazeem Alogba, assured that the state would continue to support the ECOWAS Court in overcoming enforcement challenges to uncover an effective and amiable solution to the challenges in the state's judicial arm.



Court Prosecutes Mercy Chinwo's Former Manager Over Alleged \$397,106 Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

The Federal High Court in Lagos is prosecuting one Ezekele Onyedikachukwu, former manager of gospel singer, Mercy Chinwo over accusations of fraud.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, while arraigning the suspect popularly known as Ezekele, submitted that he committed the fraudulent act in the tune of \$397,106.

EFCC Prosecutor, Bilikisu Bada, disclosed that the suspect, CEO of Eze Global Concepts, is facing a seven-count amended charge bordering on unauthorized foreign exchange transactions and failure to report company earnings, replacing earlier allegations of misappropriating Chinwo's funds. Bala claimed that

Eze negotiated a \$52,895 foreign exchange transaction with one Oladotun Mureke without authorization from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), hence, violating the Foreign Exchange (Monitoring and Miscellaneous

Provisions) Act.

The defendant was also alleged to have conducted a \$70,000 FX transaction in March 2021 with Avalan Chetrase 1307 Company under similar unauthorized circumstances.

Further allegations include unlicensed FX dealings and failure to report

company earnings between 2022 and 2024. In the period, the accused reportedly received \$137,383 into his corporate account without the necessary disclosures to the Special Control Unit Against Money Laundering, SCUML.

Prior to the court that he is the sole adjourning the case caregiver. Ojukwu till May 9, Bala also informed the court that parties prayed the court to remand the defendant in a for an out-of-court correctional facility resolution. pending trial. Justice Chukwujekwu However, the defense counsel, Aneke adjourned Chikaosolu the ruling on the Ojukwu, SAN, bail application applied for bail, and released the citing that defendant to his EzeTee's two counsel in the children are ill and interim.





Echonews
Newspapers Limited

We Never Fail To Deliver

Every Minute

Every Week



Subscribe | Advertise | Partner

www.echonews.ng | www.facebook.com/EchonewsNG

Agege and Oko-Oba Communities Unite Against SGBV

Kehinde Adeleye

In a resolute move to combat Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) at the local level, the Community Engagement Team of the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) recently executed a high-impact door-to-door sensitisation campaign in Agege and Oko-Oba.

The campaign, sponsored by the FORD Foundation, aimed to establish a zero-tolerance culture towards SGBV within these communities through proactive awareness-raising and fostering open discussion.

Targeting diverse community segments, the DSVA team conducted their outreach in multiple critical locations, such as Places of Worship, Schools, Markets, Healthcare Centers,

Businesses, and Transportation Hubs like Agege Motor Park.

The team also reached out to residents and commuters across several key streets in Agege and Oko-Oba, including Alfa Nla Street, Alagbigba Street, Capitol Road, Old Abeokuta Road, Iyalode Obe Street, Markets Street, Ipaye Street, Oladoje Street, and Renner Street. The engagement efforts were further amplified through the collaboration of the Bale Alhaji Rasheed Kufai of Isale-Oja, who facilitated access and interaction with community members in his vicinity.

Throughout the campaign, the DSVA team distributed vital Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to a wide array of individuals, including community dwellers, passersby, religious leaders, pupils, students, market traders, tricycle and commercial drivers, fuel

attendants, teachers, imams, commercial bus drivers, hawkers, and business owners.

Visually reinforcing the message, the team strategically pasted awareness stickers on buildings along streets, within schools, and at religious

institutions.

Furthermore, prominent IEC banners were positioned in high-traffic areas to ensure maximum visibility.

The DSVA Community Engagement Team consistently emphasised the critical importance of reporting all

instances of (08000-333-domestic violence and sexual abuse.

They strongly reiterated the Lagos State DSVA's unwavering commitment to combating SGBV and providing readily accessible, free social services to survivors.

Community members were urged to commit the Lagos State DSVA's toll-free number

333) to memory, enabling them to report incidents of SGBV promptly, at any time.

The outreach successfully connected with over 20,000 community members, marking a significant step towards a safer and more informed Lagos State.



Agege/Orile-Agege APC Members Pay Tribute to Sanyaolu

Kehinde Adeleye

Alhaji M.A. Sanyaolu has been laid to rest in accordance with Islamic rites after a brief illness. Members of the All Progressives Congress (APC), particularly those affiliated with the Justice Forum from Agege, Orile Agege, and Lagos State at large, gathered to pay their final respects to the late elder statesman.

The funeral was attended by several notable dignitaries, including Hon. DR. Babatunde Samuel Adejare, Hon. DR. Oluyinka Ogundimu, Hon. DR. Kayode Opeifa, Hon. Taofeek Adaranijo, Hon. Adedokun Odeomu, Hon. Adisa Ariori, Hon. Abiodun Ogunji, Hon. Akinropo Abdullah, Hon. Koyejo Fatimoh, Chief Adeogun, and Hon. Enimakure Akindele Sakiru, among others.

The ceremony served as a



testament to Alhaji Sanyaolu's lifelong dedication to serving his

community and contributing to the betterment of society.

The attendees, who represented various factions of

the APC, came together to honor his invaluable contributions to Sanyaolu's legacy the party and the nation at large.

Eredo Councilor Empowers 10 Vocational Trainees

By Mohammed Adekola

Councillor representing Ward M 1, Hon Sulaimon Adebola Poi, has empowered 10 vocational trainees with startup equipment at a ceremony held in Eredo LCDA. The initiative, in partnership with Project 21 Global Limited, followed a successful vocational training program at the Lagos State Vocational Training Center in Igbo-Oye.

The beneficiaries, four from Odomola and three each from Odo-Egiri and Iraiye, completed training in various trades including tailoring, barbering, hairdressing, and cosmetology. Tools and equipment were distributed to support their entrepreneurial journeys.

Representing the Eredo LCDA Chairman, Hon. Ismail Akinloye, Mr. Ismail Olabode praised the initiative, calling it forward-thinking

and impactful.

“By equipping our youths and residents with practical knowledge and marketable skills, we are empowering them to become self-reliant, productive and contribute to our local economy,” he said.

He commended Hon. Sulaimon and his supporters, urging party loyalists to stand firm as pillars of growth and development within the community.

Hon. Sulaimon shared the idea for the program emerged during his birth month, inspired by Barrister Olayinka Oladunjoye, the Federal Commissioner representing Lagos State at the National Population Commission. The initiative was first floated on the Eredo Progressives WhatsApp platform and swiftly gained traction, noting that a few trainees dropped out, the councillor

encouraged the beneficiaries to make good use of the tools and avoid selling them off. He emphasized the importance of parental guidance and pledged that the empowerment program would continue annually. “I try to encourage the youth of my wards not to just be a lady or any how street boy, but for them to be good ambassadors. They shouldn't sell the tools given to them; they should make sure they are used for their betterment.

I believe that in the next edition, beneficiaries of this program will be more than 10,” he said during an interview.

The Aro of Odomola Kingdom speaks on behalf of Odomola of Odomola acknowledged the significance of combining vocational training with tangible tools. He urged beneficiaries to take the opportunity seriously.



Kadiri Organises Free Medical Outreach To Celebrate 50th Birthday

By Mohammed Adekola

Engineer Omode Mosque), Kenny drew an impressive turnout of elderly citizens who benefitted from various health services including blood pressure checks, blood sugar testing, eye screening, and general consultations. Engr. KK Edu emphasized the importance of giving back to the community,

especially to the elderly who have played vital roles in nation-building. "The best way to celebrate in life is by making people happy," Edu stated. "As a politician, these are the people that have been supporting us locally, at the state level, and nationally. Giving back to them in terms of health and welfare

will make them know that they aren't forgotten." Edu encouraged citizens to actively support the government in any capacity they can. "It's not only about what the government can do for us, as people, we should also support our government in our own little way whether by looking out for our neighbors, encouraging civic

responsibility, or contributing to community development." A 67-year-old resident of Ita-Opo, said, "It's rare to see someone use their birthday to care for others. Engr. KK Edu has shown she is truly for the people. May God bless her richly." One of the volunteer medical practitioners, noted that early detection of health issues among the elderly is crucial. "Most of the cases we've seen today are manageable if detected early. This initiative is a life-saver for many," he said. The event featured health talks, free medication distribution, and refreshments, creating a festive and compassionate atmosphere. It was supported by volunteer doctors, nurses, and health workers from within and outside Epe.



APC Chairman Lauds Newly Affiliated Health College In Epe

By Mohammed Adekola

Atmosphere was celebratory, and deeply inspiring, as the newly inaugurated affiliate annex of Eco-African College of Health Sciences and Management Technology held its maiden matriculation ceremony in Epe. The event, which took place at the institution's lecture centre along LASU Road in Epe, attracted dignitaries, education advocates, and proud families. The Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Epe LGA, Comrade Toyin Gbadamosi, excited about the development, pledged full support for the new academic venture. Applauding the initiative's impact, Gbadamosi declared, "This type of program that you have brought to Epe, despite being an affiliate, is commendable. Today,

we have seen a son of the soil who has brought a registered institution of higher learning to the local government."

Gbadamosi note that he had no choice but to keep his word and attend the event despite a demanding schedule. "I am glad to honour this occasion. It shows the weight this milestone carries. I had to be here myself. Every other engagement could wait," he stated, affirming the importance of the institution's arrival in

the educational landscape of Epe.

The chairman turned his attention to the students and parents who had enrolled in the pioneering class, praising their faith in the program's potential. "To our new students and their parents, thank you for believing in this vision as initiated by Professor Tola. I want to assure you that by the next matriculation, this venue will be filled up. We will do everything to make sure more people in our

community benefit from this opportunity."

Gbadamosi acknowledged the town had long yearned for this kind of academic investment. "This is what we've been hoping for, a chance for our people to gain professional qualifications without leaving their roots. Now that it's here, we won't let it go unsupported."

Reflecting on the unwavering efforts behind the scenes, the APC chairman praised the Provost, Professor Tola's commitment.

"I'm particularly excited about this development because Prof. Tola's resilience has borne fruit. He clearly has the community's best interests at heart. His push to improve access to education in our locality deserves every bit of recognition."

The chairman concludes with a hopeful blessing: "When you educate people, you uplift your community. By God's grace, this light will shine brighter."



Land Dispute: Owode-Onirin Market Traders Get Solace

Kehinde Adeleye

Traders from the demolished Owode-Onirin Motor Spare Parts Market can now breathe a sigh of relief as an agreement between the Olowu family, the landowners, and the Chairman of Agboyi-Ketu LCDA, Mayor Dele Oshinowo, has been reached. The agreement follows extensive negotiations involving relevant agencies and law enforcement, resulting in the following terms: 1. The Olowu family will retain

60% of the 4.4 hectares of land.

2. The LCDA will acquire 40% of the land, in addition to their existing 26.6 hectares.

This agreement is based on a judgment issued in 1998, along with subsequent judgments.

Mayor Oshinowo highlighted the importance of the agreement in resolving the crisis and promoting an amicable resolution between both parties.

He disclosed that the decision was reached during a meeting that included the Attorney General

of Lagos State, the Solicitor General, GM - Physical Planning, and other relevant officials, as well as Barrister D.A. Awosika (SAN) representing the Olowu family.

Before the compromise, the chairman said he had also gotten the Lagos state Governor involved who contributed in no small measure to the resolution.

He debunked allegations of orchestrating the market demolition and thugs attacking mobile policemen, stating that he went to the market with the head of RRS and

left together.

He said: "I have nothing to gain by demolishing the market. I thank God for the opportunity to serve. I have never demolished anything. People were spreading rumour that I orchestrated the demolition. I am not here to take over your market. I am doing what I am doing for posterity sake. My adversary thought I would contest. I am not contesting till 2027 God willing.

The next step in this matter is for us to court for consent judgement.

"On the allegation

that I organised thugs to beat up Policemen stationed at the market is a lie. I went to the market with the head of the Rapid Response Squad (RRS), Jejeloye and we left together. The Lagos CP arrested four of the policemen without signal."

The traders, led by Abiodun Ahmed, Chairman of Motor Spare Parts, Owode-Onirin, thanked Mayor Oshinowo for his efforts, expressing surprise at the extent of his commitment to protecting them.

Other market leaders, including

Thaddeus Idawor (chairman, Agbajowo Market and Wahab Islamideen, secretary, Iron, Owode - Onirin) also appreciated the chairman's efforts.

The market was previously demolished by officers of the Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA) along with armed policemen and thugs, enforcing a court judgment against a section of the Agbajowo Market that shares a boundary with the Owode-Onirin Motor Spare Parts market.

JUDICIARY

Magistrate To Sentence 74 Year-Old Man For Raping Neighbour's Daughter

By Felix Kuyinu

The Ikeja Magistrates' Court is set to sentence a septuagenarian, Aderinsola Addiths, who has pleaded guilty to raping his neighbour's daughter. At an earlier

arraignment of the suspect, the court magistrate, Olabisi Kusanu, adjourned the case and ordered the remand of the 74 year-old at the Kirikiri Correctional Facility till May 20, scheduled for injunction.

The Police

Prosecutor, Adegoke Ademigbuji, told the magistrate that Addiths raped the 13 year-old victim at his residence in February.

Ademigbuji said that the lawbreaker sent the survivor on an errand to buy sachet water. The

policeman added that upon the victim's arrival, he shut the door and raped her.

The prosecutor added the offence contravened section 137 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

The magistrate jettisoned Addiths'

guilty plea to a one count charge of sexual assault and disclosed that the court awaits an

advice from the state's Director of Public Prosecution, DPP, for sentencing.



Badagry Women Want More Inclusion of Women In Govt

By Saheed Afolabi



resilience in the face of political challenges. "Your steadfastness is commendable," she said, urging all to participate actively in the upcoming elections.

In a solemn moment that underscored the depth of leadership loss in the political circle, Mrs. Elizabeth Hunpe, called for a one-minute silence in honour of Chief Akinsanya Sunny Ajoose, OON, and Leader Owolabani, fondly known as Naminadu.

"This is the first official gathering of our women leaders since their passing," she said.

"Their contributions to the political and social advancement of Badagry will never be forgotten."

Hunpe reflected on their legacies and encouraged the women present to emulate their passion and service to community.

Badagry women have collectively advocated for more inclusion of women into administration. Hon. Onilude Segun Adeniran, the Council Chairman, lauding Mrs. Atoyebi Olayinka Fausat, a prominent advocate for women's empowerment and APC LGA Woman Leader, addressed the gathering with a passionate plea for cohesion. "After the primaries, once a consensus candidate emerges, it's imperative we unite and work

collectively." She extended heartfelt appreciation to Hon. Onilude Segun Adeniran, the Council Chairman, lauding his unwavering support for women's initiatives. "Chairman Onilude has consistently championed women's causes, making him one of the most women-friendly leaders we've had." Alhaja Kikelomo Ladipo, the Apex candidate of the Badagry Federation, commended the

active participation of women in the political process. She urged continued support for APC candidates.

"This isn't the time for discord; it's a time to rally behind our party's vision." Highlighting the recent councillorship screening results, she noted the significant strides made in female representation, with women securing automatic slots in multiple wards.

Alhaji Gafar Meyon, APC's LGA Party Chairman in

Badagry, addressed the women, emphasizing the party's commitment to inclusivity.

"The allocation of councillorship slots to women is a testament to our belief in their pivotal role within the party," he asserted.

He encouraged unity, urging members to eschew divisions and work harmoniously.

Alhaji Dele Layode, a current supervisor in the local government, offered sage advice

to women in or aspiring for political office.

"Respect for leadership and an understanding that positions are transient are crucial."

He revealed the importance of using political offices to effect positive change, while he reminded attendees that there is life after office.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hunpe, wife of former MHR and chairmanship aspirant Babatunde Hunpe, expressed gratitude to the women for their unwavering

Free Learning Materials: Education Stakeholders Commend Whingan

By Saheed Afolabi

Lagos educational stakeholders have poured accolades on the member representing Badagry Constituency in the Federal House of Representatives, Honorable Sesi Whingan on the distribution of free educational materials to students. In a significant stride toward enhancing educational standards, Whingan unveiled a multifaceted education support initiative. This program, impacting over 3,000 students across 75 schools, encompasses the distribution of essential learning materials, commissioning of new school buildings, and the introduction of a free school transportation service.

The initiative is part of Whingan's Educational Empowerment Programme aimed at providing students with the necessary tools to excel academically. Items distributed include school bags, branded exercise books, sandals, calculators, mathematical sets, and lunch boxes for teachers. Additionally, over 450 desks and benches, 756 whiteboard markers, and 1,000 giant staplers were

provided to enhance the learning environment. Highlighting the significance of the free educational learning materials to the students, Dr. Hakeem Babatunde Shittu, Chairman of the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB) says the educational free gifts are a seal of knowledge and empowerment. "These are not just educational materials, but a seal of knowledge, empowerment, and opportunity."

The program also saw the commissioning of new classroom blocks at Mowo Community Secondary School, Anglican Primary School in Igbanko and St. Leo's Primary School in Ikoga-Zebbe, reflecting Whingan's commitment to infrastructural development in the education sector. To address transportation challenges faced by students, Whingan introduced the Sesi Whingan

Badagry School Free Ride initiative, while deploying two buses to facilitate easy access for students to schools. Mrs. Modinat Adebayo, Education Secretary for Badagry is impressed with the support Whingan has given to students and the educational sector in Badagry since resuming office as a federal house of representative. "This is not the first time Hon. Whingan has supported our schools. His consistent efforts

have significantly improved our educational landscape." Hon. Samuel Sejoro, a former House Of Representatives Member lauded Whingan's proactive approach in providing learning materials to students across the LG. "Sesi Whingan, you are starting well and early. Your dedication to education is evident, and I urge Badagrians to support him for a second term."



Oshodi-Isolo LG Set to Transform Olori Street

Kehinde Adeleye

A preparatio chairman of the council, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, is a testament to his dedication to fulfilling electoral promises and improving infrastructure across the region. Days ago, the council chairman successfully completed the installation of

solar-powered street lights along the ongoing street rehabilitation project. This was preceded by a comprehensive overhaul of the street's drainage system. To ensure a seamless transition, tractors and graders are already on-site, preparing the

groundwork for the interlocking pavement placement.

All necessary materials have been supplied, and once the grading is finalized, the interlocking pavement placement will commence without delay.

The project on completion will

bring much-needed relief to residents and road users in the area as it serves as one of the major streets connecting the Shogunle community. As the grading commences, the council chairman assures the residents of his dedication to

completing the project within scheduled time. He emphasized that the rehabilitation of Olori Street is part of a broader agenda to enhance mobility, reduce flooding, and support economic activities across the local government.

Residents expressed appreciation for the swift commencement of work and prayed for the council chairman's success in office.

They lauded the council chairman for responding to their concerns and taking decisive steps to address the road's deteriorating condition. Appreciating the chairman, Alhaja Morufat Oloto and Mrs. Temitope Adeaga, both of whom are business owners in the street. They commended the efforts of the chairman, noting that the road, when completed, would improve business activities and mobility in the area.



DJ Cuppy Reflects on Costly Lesson About Hidden Motives

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Florence Otedola, widely known as DJ Cuppy, has shared a personal encounter that reshaped her understanding of human intentions, especially in relationships built on seemingly generous support.

The Nigerian disc jockey and daughter of billionaire businessman Femi Otedola took to social media to recount how a past experience taught her that some offers of help may come with unspoken expectations.

In a candid post on her X (formerly Twitter) page, Cuppy revealed that a few years ago she believed she had found someone who genuinely cared for her and offered support during a challenging time. According to her, the individual

appeared to be reliable and consistent, showing up when she needed help and giving her a sense of security. However, she later discovered that the kindness was not without motive.

Over time, the person disclosed that they expected something in return—specifically, an investment or a personal introduction to her father, a well-known figure in Nigeria's business landscape.

"I learnt the hard way that there's

no such thing as a FREE lunch," she wrote. "I really thought someone was being kind. They showed up for me, offered help, and made me feel supported. I thought it came from a good place... But later, they made it clear they expected something in return."

Cuppy described the moment as one that made her feel blindsided, expressing regret over not recognizing the underlying motive earlier. "I felt so stupid for not

seeing it earlier. Learn from me... Not everything that looks like support comes from a good place," she concluded.

The disc jockey's reflection touches on a broader issue many public figures face—navigating relationships where genuine intentions are sometimes hard to discern, especially when wealth or influence is involved.

While her experience is deeply personal, it

resonates with a wider audience navigating trust and reciprocity in everyday interactions.

Beyond her latest revelation, Cuppy has remained transparent about her upbringing and the privileges it afforded her.

In a previous post, she acknowledged that growing up without financial worries shaped her early worldview.

Now, with more awareness, she expresses gratitude for her background and the opportunities it has provided,

while also confronting the realities it brings into her personal relationships.

Cuppy's story stands as a reminder of the importance of discernment, particularly for individuals whose family names and social status often attract both sincere supporters and those with hidden agendas. Her openness continues to offer a window into the complexities of fame, privilege, and trust.



Ayra Starr Earns UK Platinum Plaque

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Ayra Starr's momentum on the global music scene shows no signs of slowing down as the Afrobeats singer earns a platinum certification in the United Kingdom for her 2022 single.

This milestone adds another achievement to her already expansive career and marks her as the first Nigerian female artist to debut a solo track on the UK Official Top 100 chart — a significant feat that reinforces her growing international impact.

The platinum plaque joins a growing list of accolades for the song, which has also been certified Diamond in France — an uncommon milestone for Afrobeats artists, especially women.

The recognition cements the song's long-term commercial

success and cultural resonance across multiple regions.

As 2025 unfolds, Ayra Starr's schedule remains full. She was among the prominent figures present at this year's MET Gala, further highlighting her influence beyond music and into global fashion and pop culture.

She also recently released a new single, Gimme Dat, featuring Grammy-winning artist Wizkid. The track, released on

April 25, 2025, creatively samples Wyclef Jean's Diallo and 911 featuring Mary J. Blige, blending nostalgic elements with contemporary Afrobeats rhythm. Gimme Dat marks the second time Ayra Starr and Wizkid have collaborated, following her feature on 2 Sugar from his fifth studio album, More Love, Less Ego.

Their renewed partnership reflects the

continued merging of Afrobeats with mainstream global pop sounds.

Her influence extends beyond her own singles. She recently featured on Rvssian's global hit Santa, which appears on her second studio album The Year I Turned 21.

The project, released earlier this year, has contributed to the expanding footprint of Nigerian music

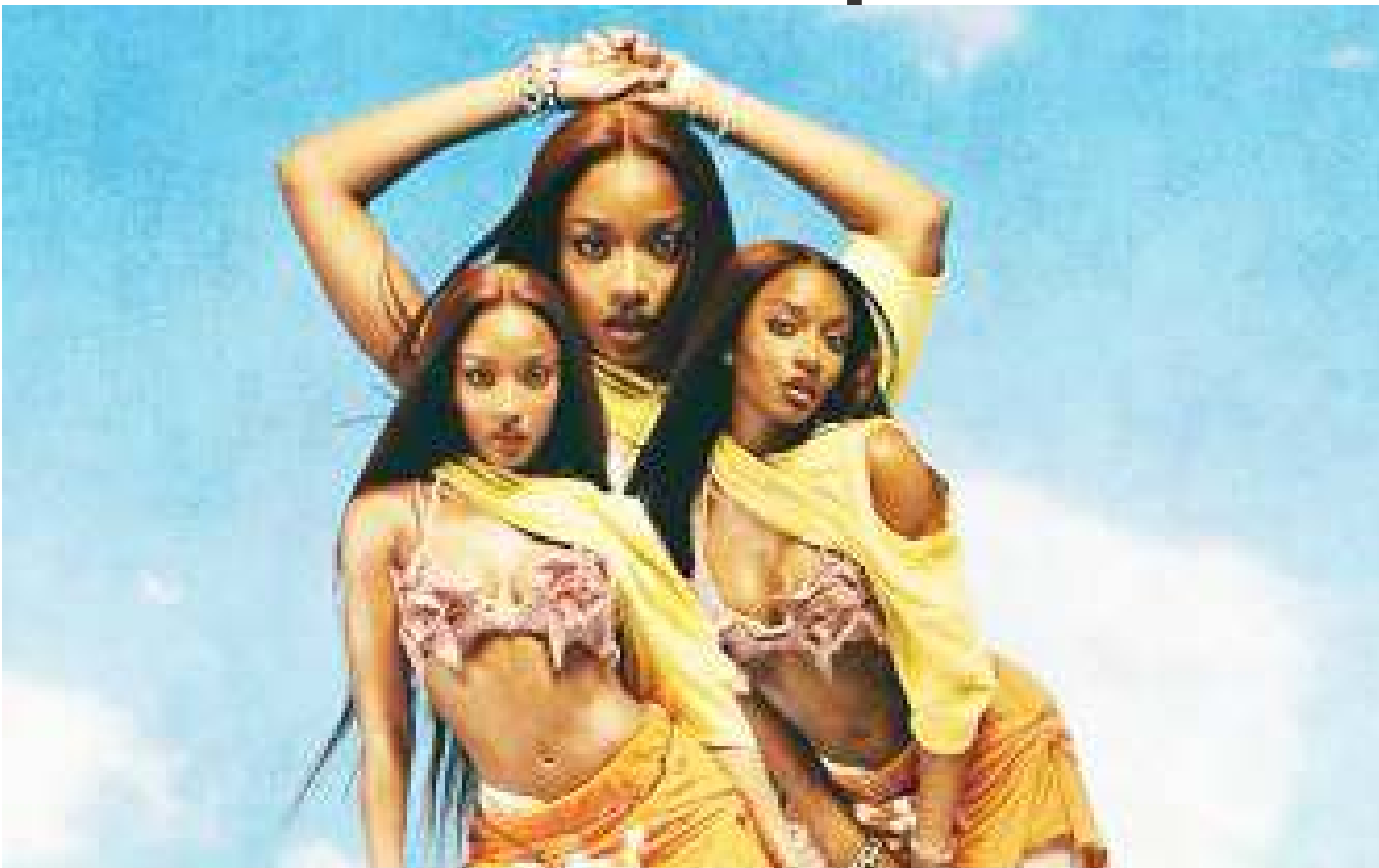
globally. Tracks like Woman Commando, featuring Coco Jones and Anitta, and Commas have stood out commercially and critically.

Ayra Starr's work on the album played a role in her winning a MOBO Award earlier in 2025, further cementing her place among Africa's leading musical exports. She also added another accolade to her name at the 17th Headies, winning Best R&B

Single for Last Heartbreak Song, which features American singer Giveon.

With consistent chart appearances, high-profile collaborations, and increasing global recognition, Ayra Starr continues to be a key figure in the evolution of Afrobeats and its global reception.

Her journey reflects the genre's expanding reach—and the power of Nigerian artists to shape international music culture.



Mushin Customary Court Wears New Look

By Saheed Afolabi



Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr Emmanuel Bamigboye has completed the rehabilitation of Mushin Customary Court (Grade A) behind Area D Police Command. The Court edifice was rehabilitated for conducive working environment to the court's staff in order to serve residents diligently. The rehabilitated court will offer a familiar and less intimidating environment compared to formal courts. The now conducive court will help in settling disputes and hastening court decisions which makes justice readily available. The renovated Mushin customary court will allow community involvement in the resolution process and fostering a sense of ownership over the outcomes. The rehabilitated customary courts can alleviate the caseload of the formal justice system, allowing them to focus on more complex cases.

Residents Applaud Mushin Council Boss Over Road Construction

By Saheed Afolabi

Residents of Mushin LG have applauded the council chairman, Mr Emmanuel Bamigboye for embarking on construction of the Ajibade street road in the community. Bamigboye commenced the road construction in Mushin Local

Government at Shasere Ajibade Street along Vulcanizer bus stop, Ilasamaja which had been in a bad state for awhile. The road construction would be fully constructed with interlock paving stones surface and solar paneled street lights to be installed after completion of the road infrastructural project. The road

construction will serve as benefit and ease the road users of congested traffic in Mushin particularly towards Apapa Oshodi expressway. It also links Adeoyo, Layi Oyekanmi towards Isolo Road, Palm Avenue. The project has earned the council chairman commendations from residents who expressed ecstatic mood



seeing the commencement of the road construction in

their community. Bamigboye assures residents quality service delivery as his tenure drives to an end on to relent on end.

As part of ongoing initiatives to bolster primary healthcare delivery in underserved regions, Dr. Oladapo Asinyanbi, Permanent Secretary of Lagos State Health District V, led a supervision team to the Ibode-Tedo and Ilashe communities in the Ijegan riverine area of Oriade Local Council Development Area (LCDA) under Ojo Local Government

Ijegan Riverine Communities Benefit from Health Service

Kehinde Adeleye

Area.

During the visit, Asinyanbi paid a courtesy call on His Royal Majesty, Oba Abdulhakeem Adeyimika, the Onilashé of Ilashe Kingdom. Asinyanbi expressed gratitude for the Monarch's consistent support during routine immunisation drives, particularly polio vaccination

campaigns in the community.

Oba Adeyimika acknowledged the efforts of the Lagos State Government and Health District V, praising their continuous engagement with the Ilashe community in public health initiatives.

The health delegation proceeded to Ilashe Primary School, where children

under five years old received vaccinations. The team also met with Hon. Ramotalai Akinlola-Hassan, Executive Chairman of Oriade LCDA, to discuss the outreach's goals and accomplishments. Additionally, as part of weekend outreach efforts, Dr. Asinyanbi visited Eko Akete Ward, Amuwo Odofin Assemblies

of God Church on fight against Shalom Street, vaccine-preventable diseases, gathering at Adekoya Street, to reach communities.

It must be noted that Lagos State Health District V supervises health activities across four key local government areas, namely: Lagos State Amuwo-Odofin, Ojo, and Badagry LGAs.

This exercise reinforces the commitment of the Lagos State Ministry of Health to ensuring no child is left behind in the

OSHODI

Oshodi-Isolo APC Women's Wing Endorses Oloyede for Second Term

Kehinde Adeleye

The women's wing of the Alimosho Progressives Congress (APC) in Oshodi-Isolo local government has unanimously pledged their support for the re-election of Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede as the executive chairman for a second term.

Led by Alhaja Modinat Ibrahim, the women's leader of the LGA, the group expressed their gratitude for Oloyede's significant achievements in

infrastructure, healthcare, education, youth, and women's empowerment.

Alhaja Ibrahim further emphasized that the women's branch will collectively vote for the council chairman's re-election, demonstrating their unwavering confidence in his leadership.

In response, Oloyede thanked the women for their endorsement and vowed to continue

implementing developmental projects that benefit local residents.

The council chairman also revealed plans for a mega empowerment program in the coming weeks, designed to provide working tools and alleviate poverty among community members.

"As we move on, I will do more to empower the widows, aged men and women. We have started planning to hold our mega empowerment

programme this month.

Leadership is all about sacrifice and I am always

ready to continue to do this for the benefit of our people," he said.

The women also

seized the occasion to celebrate the birthday of Hon. Ajoke Onitolo.



Odunmbaku Donates 500 Desks and Benches To Schools



Kehinde Adeleye

In a significant stride towards enhancing the learning environment for students, the administration of

Hon. Olusegun Odunmbaku has donated 500 pairs of desks and benches to three schools in Ojodu LCDA: Ogba Primary School, Ojodu Primary

School 3, and Okeira Junior Secondary School. The furniture, presented in batches by the Supervisor for Education, Hon. Dayo Olanrewaju,

commenced with Okeira Junior Secondary School yesterday. The school's Principal, Mr. S.A. Agunbiade, warmly appreciated the

council's initiative to improve classroom comfort and mitigate overcrowding. Pupils and staff at Ogba and Ojodu Primary School 3, who also received

their furniture, expressed their gratitude to the Olusegun Odunmbaku administration for this timely intervention.

ASSEMBLY

Lawmakers Urge Police To Intensify Surveillance Against Crimes

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State House of Assembly has urged the state's Police Command to beef up its surveillance against crimes on roads. The Lawmakers called on

the Commissioner of Police, Moshood Jimoh, to step up in the police force measures to curb the growing threat posed by miscreants harassing road users in the state.

Raising the motion, the lawmaker representing Kosofe Constituency 01, Sanni Okanlawon, called on the state's Neighborhood Watch Corps on the urgent need

to curb the unlawful activities to curb the state being a crime zone. In like terms, Kehinde Joseph, who represents Alimosho Constituency 02, confirmed that the presence of miscreants

had become widespread. He hinted that it's imperative for security agencies to enhance patrols and surveillance across the state. Desmond Elliot, legislator from Surulere,

recommended a collaboration between the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, and other security agencies to address the problem effectively.

Parallex Bank Rewards Young Lagos Athletes With Millions

By Saheed Afolabi

In a bold demonstration of commitment to youth empowerment and grassroots sports, Parallex Bank has awarded cash prizes of 1 million each to four exceptional young athletes from Lagos State in recognition of their outstanding performances at the 2024 National Youth Games.

This remarkable gesture follows the Bank's earlier pledge to identify, recognize, and reward top athletic talent in the state that distinguished themselves through exceptional performance and discipline at the U-15 Sports Competition held in Asaba.

Beneficiaries of this prestigious recognition; Emmanuel Bright (Tennis), Akanbi Demilade (Swimming), Kanu Chioma (Swimming), and Akinwun Oladeji (Deaf Athletics) were



celebrated for their remarkable contributions to Team Lagos' success at the 2024 National Youth Games held in Asaba, where the state secured an impressive 66 medals across various sports disciplines.

At a vibrant presentation ceremony attended by top executive members of Parallex Bank and senior management of the Lagos State Sports Commission, held at the Bank's Headquarters in Victoria Island, the atmosphere was charged with pride and

optimism for the future of youth sports in Lagos.

In his remarks, the Director General of the Lagos State Sports Commission, Mr. Lekan Fatodu, described the gesture as a shining example of how strategic private-sector partnerships can significantly enhance grassroots sports development and uplift the next generation of athletic talent in the state.

"This partnership with the private sector is proof that when government and corporate entities collaborate, the outcomes are

impactful. Our model of early talent identification and structured development is working — and these athletes are living proof."

According to him, today's event highlights the future we are building for sports in Lagos. One that is inclusive, strategic, and forward-thinking. Of the four athletes honoured, three are female including a deaf athlete. This is not by coincidence; it reflects our strong commitment to gender inclusion and equal opportunity in sports

development.

He further emphasized that the state's unwavering dedication to youth development through sports is driven by the vision of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to make Lagos a premier hub for youth sports excellence in Africa.

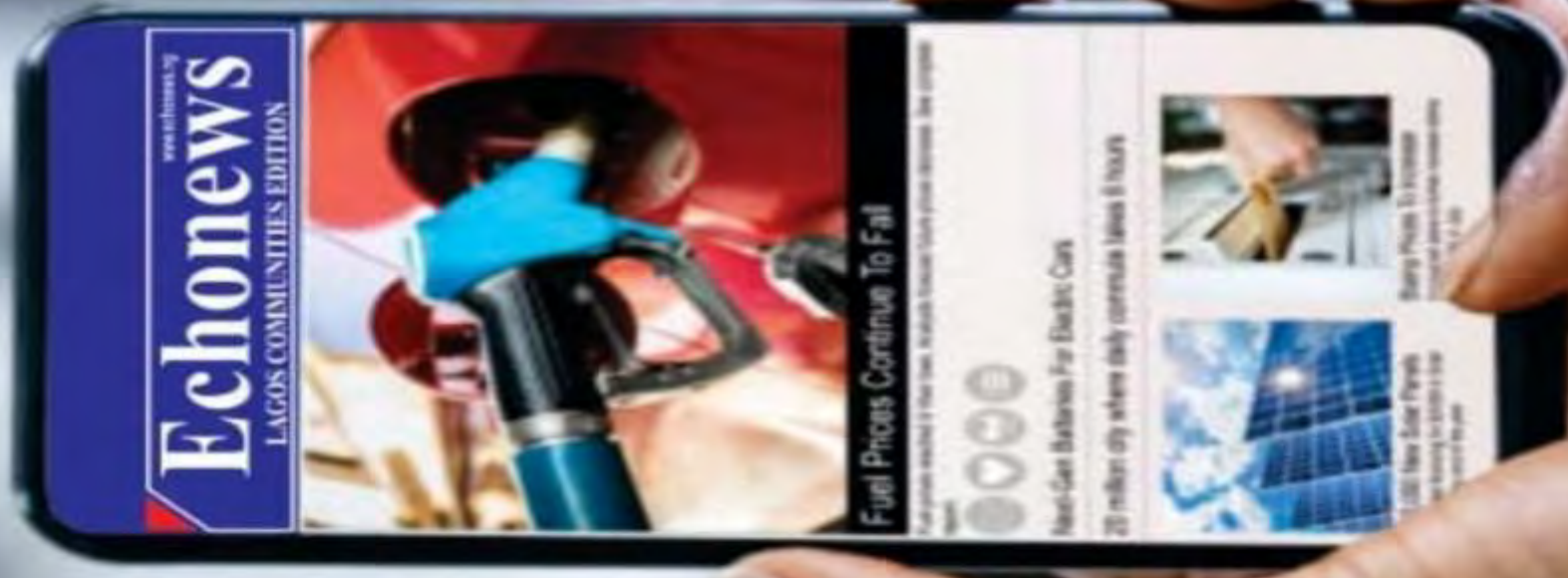
Commending Parallex Bank for its timely and impactful support, Mr. Fatodu emphasized that public-private collaboration like the one shared with Parallex Bank help close critical funding gaps and provide the additional structure,

resources, and encouragement that young athletes require to stay motivated, focused, and on track to achieve their full potential.

Speaking at the event, the MD/CEO of Parallex Bank, Dr. Femi Bakre, expressed the institution's pride in empowering the next generation of Nigerian athletes, emphasizing that the Bank remains deeply committed to nurturing talent and rewarding excellence.

He noted that the initiative reinforces Parallex Bank's dedication to supporting young Nigerians who not only excel in sports but also embody the values of discipline, resilience, and determination — qualities essential for national growth and personal success.

"At Parallex Bank, we believe in the transformative power of youth sports. These athletes embody excellence, discipline, and the promise of a brighter future. Today's reward is not just a token, but a long-term investment in their journey and in Nigeria's sporting future."



For News Round Lagos Read Echonews

Read Echonews Online

Subscribe for Echonews Whatsapp E-Copy

🌐 www.echonews.ng 📧 Publisher@echonews.ng

Published by Echonews Newspapers Limited

21, Ona Iwa Mimo Street, Ori Oke Bus Stop, Ejigbo, Lagos. www.echonews.ng Email: echonews1111@yahoo.co.uk
Managing Editor: Obe Rasheed • Editor: Kunle Awosiyan Circulation: Opeyemi Akinlade • Adverts: 08025378799