

ASUU strike:

UNDERGRADS DUMPING DEGREES

Political leaders united to work for Tinubu's success

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Royal family denies recognition of new Onibeju-Lekki

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ASUU strike: Undergrads dumping degrees

The lingering ASUU strike has continued to have negative impact on Nigerian education sector.

Many of the affected students have had rethink on degree certificates, exploring other means while abandoning their academic pursuit. They now venture into other fields that would have been considered dirty jobs to earn their livings.

A great number of them have to do the work to support their poor parents in their financial obligations while some others venture into learning new vocations as they wait for the strike to be finally called off.

As gathered by ECHONEWS, cases of undergraduates dumping degree pursuit for other things abound.

The strike and many others seen as one of the deteriorating factors affecting the Nigerian education sector and render degree certificates useless have had resultant negative effects on secondary school students as well.

For instance, a case of an SS1 student, who decided to drop out of the school was reported last week.

"Sir, I Have Moved On!" the student was quoted to have said. The reporter, Hon. Iyun baba-llike (DeeMagic), wrote that the children are angry.

"They deserve to be. Suddenly, they are confronted by obstinate enemies of destinies.

"Nothing is as bad as what our children are going through right now.

"Last week, an SS1 student in the school where I teach creative writing told me he wanted to drop out of school," he said.

He quoted the student as follow: "Schooling is no longer rewarding. My brother won't be returning to the university when ASUU calls off its strike. He has moved on. His eyes have opened to money and he is doing fine. I want to join him."

DeeMagic said he had to take the student through counseling.

He further said: "But, it is not only his brother that won't be returning to schools when ASUU calls off this insensitive strike.

"In the last two weeks, I have met 11 undergraduates who may



never return to their universities after ASUU strike."

"I am no longer an undergraduate, Sir. ASUU has graduated me. After spending months to learn software engineering in Ikeja, I have started my own business. At present, sir, I am a student of three online universities in the UK. I thank God for ASUU strike," says John, a 200L computer science student.

Darin, a 300L Agric Science student, is now a busy fashion designer. Currently she and her mum got the "aso-ebi" contract for a big wedding coming up in Canada later this year.

"Honestly Sir, I don't know where my books are. ASUU strike has opened my eyes. Let them keep their universities," Darin said.

Most disturbing to me was the "I-moved-on" response I got from a very good 400L law student.

"Azeez, where have you moved on to?"

In response, Azeez said: "A friend introduced me to his uncle in Ladipo Motor Parts Market. I signed up for a two year training. I will open my own shop after training. My boss gives me pocket money everyday. I am comfortable. I have moved on with my life."

A number of undergraduates who spoke to ECHONEWS said they have taken up other jobs that now give them hope of good future.

One of them is Morwnikwi Adebayo, an Accounting Student of University of Ibadan who has now become a graphic artist.

Adebayo took the opportunity of the strike to enrol for a three-month computer training, now she makes money from the job while mastering other complex aspects.

"Even if I go back to school, that is just to get my degree certificate for mere sake of having it. I have what I can bank on now. I don't even want the strike to be called off until I finish the training. All I need after the training is money to get my own shop and computers to set up my business. Already I have been making money from the job.

"The degree certificate may not even be useful considering the situation in Nigeria. Many degree holders are roaming the streets with their degree certificates. Even without the strike, the certificates are not useful, many are dumping their certificates."

This was evident last week when an unemployed graduate of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH) stormed the school to return his certificate and demand a refund of his fees.

The man was seen in a viral video claiming that he has not profited from possessing the certificate and therefore wanted to return it and have his fees back.

According to him, he has been

struggling since graduation, with no financial benefit to show for having the certificate.

The man was heard speaking in Yoruba, "I'm suffering, refund my money. I'm suffering, take your certificate, return my money."

Similarly, a 200 level linguistics student of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko (AAUA), Ondo State told ECHONEWS that he is already processing his traveling papers to go abroad.

According to him, the best for him is to travel out of the country to continue his education and start working.

He stated that in the developed country, one can be working while schooling; that opportunity is not available in Nigeria.

Mr. Kunle a journalist said he is processing student visa for his child in Canada. He explained that he has direct contact with a school and could also help other students who wish to relocate and continue their academic pursuit overseas.

"I have enrolled my two children for vocations so that they can be engaged since the ASUU and government refuse to settle their rift.

"I just want to advise the parents to make sure their children are fully engaged because if not, they may result to fraud, yahoo yahoo and all that. We parents have to be more careful with our children

now that they are with us, they need proper monitoring and guidance," Mrs. Olayiwola said.

Commenting on the situation, Dr. Taoreed Owolabi, a Physics lecturer at the AAUA, said the lingering strike is really affecting not only the students but the lecturers as well.

He said the ongoing strike has hindered his research work which is supposed to have been completed.

Owolabi, who got his PhD degree in a university in Saudi Arabia, attested to the fact that schooling in Nigeria is somehow difficulty to accomplish.

"Though there was no strike as long as this while I was an undergraduate in Nigeria before I went for my PhD abroad, we also experienced strikes while schooling in Nigeria.

"With the new trend among the students, there is urgent need for the government and ASUU to find lasting solution to the strike. Our education system may be greatly affected if we don't urgently arrest the situation."

the Director of Information and Public Relations, Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH), Lanre Kuye, appealed to the students to desist from illicit act and keep themselves busy while the ASUU and the government settle their disagreements.

"During this insensitive strike, only psychologically strong children are sustainably useful to themselves. ASUU strike has deeply traumatised many undergrads.

"Parents are enjoined to treat this category of children with understanding, patience, love and generosity. Don't withhold their upkeep allowances. Be kind with words towards them, be less judgemental and don't be too quick to shut them up or throw insults.

"Our undergraduates are going through very difficult times. If you have been to any institution of higher learning, you would know how frustrating ASUU strikes can be.

"Our children will flourish and prosper with or without ASUU," Mrs. Subuola Shittu, a teacher remarked.



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Transporter laments weight-billing effect on business

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Secretary Edo/Delta Unit, Branch C' Amuwo Odofin, Lagos State Park and Garages Management (LASPGM), Mr Tosin Francis has said that logistic services and fuel prices are affecting the loading. He noted that from experience, not all transportation companies are into logistics but a few like Prince Lines motors, Modern motors, and Libra Executive operate logistics within this unit

despite its effect. He illustrated how passengers and pieces of luggage are loaded together before but the system has changed as customers only do logistics instead of travelling which affects the company tremendously. In his words: "The Unit runs interstate travels between Lagos and other places like; Port Harcourt, Owerri, Benin, Epkoma, Ohioirio, and Bayelsa. "The normal price, for now, is N5200:00 before we used to load N4200:00. The Lagos

to Benin none AC vehicles is N4800 while the AC vehicles are N5200 as fuel price is N200 per litres "We avoid increasing our prices in other not to lose passengers, we still maintain an old price, which has affected our transportation business. The company and drivers have to beat down what to pay the lodgers to accommodate." Francis further advised the government to reduce fuel prices to reduce their impact on transporters.



Mr Tosin Francis

CBAAC envisions Nigeria's economy through FESTAC arts and culture

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC) has envisioned that Nigeria's economy would be positively influenced by the commemoration of the

Festival of Black Arts and Culture of 1977 at 45 (FESTAC'77 @ 45). The director-general of CBAAC, Oluwabunmi Amao noted that the centre strives to make children and youths know what culture is all about as tourism and culture can revive the economy.

She suggested that the government should indulge in other fields rather than focusing totally on oil and petroleum but consider reviving culture, farming and agriculture. Amao revealed that the celebration would be held at Abuja from December 5-11 to

showcase to the world, African music, fine arts, literature, drama, dance and religion. "The event will attract all the African blacks all over the world. I mean blacks in America, Brazil, Cuba, Ethiopia and others. "But what we are doing this time around

because of COVID-19, we are using their community here in Nigeria. All of them have embassies. "Ambassadors have already agreed to be part of this occasion. We are going to use their community to showcase something similar to FESTAC'77.

"Instead of bringing them from their main countries, there is no money to do that now, but we can achieve the same thing by using their communities here in Nigeria," she said. She encouraged all the embassies to participate and be part of the event.

Council urges students to dedicate themselves to excellence

By Motolani AbdulGafar

As students begin a new academic session, Amuwo-Odofin Local Government has urged students to be dedicated to their studies. The council chairman, Hon. Valentine Buraimoh in a press release welcomed students and teachers back to

school while encouraging them to put in more effort towards attaining their goals in school. He noted that his administration is making much effort to develop the sector as the sector remains a top priority of his administration. He said more opportunities would be open for schools in ensuring their development. He urged students to

yield to their teacher's mentoring to showcase their worth at competitions while representing the council and earning a brighter future for themselves. He commended the teachers for their commitment to their duties and promised those who distinguished themselves in the course of their duties will be appreciated at the end of the year.



Hon. Valentine Buraimoh



NIMASA launches e-registration platform for dockworkers

By Saheed Afolabi

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) has launched the electronic registration platform for maritime labour and issuance of biometric identity cards to dockworkers to improve on service delivery, as well as build capacity of the maritime labour workforce. The agency's Director General, Dr. Bashir

Jamoh, described the e-registration platform as a major step towards attaining full automation of all its processes adding that it was conceived out of the need to establish an independent, robust, integrated information, verification and communication platform that would serve as a system database generation on maritime labour in Nigeria. The DG who was represented by the agency's Executive Director, Maritime Labour

and Cabotage Services, Victor Ochei, stated that the development of automation processes would benefit the industry both in terms of time-saving thereby improving on service delivery, as well as building capacity of the maritime labour workforce. "I am particularly delighted about the prospect of eliminating the time consuming process of seafarers and employers registration which is what the e-

platform would provide. It is further expected that the e-platform would promote a seamless registration process that will culminate with the issuance of biometric identity cards to seafarers and dockworkers," he said.

Jamoh said NIMASA remained committed to building up the capacity of Nigerian seafarers and dockworkers in order to improve on the standing of the country's maritime sector among the committee of maritime

nations stating:

"I wish to reiterate the agency's commitment towards actualising its mandate as provided in the enabling Act. Our resolve to make life meaningful to the entire maritime labour remains firm and we intend to achieve this through sustainable efforts in capacity building and improved welfare. The Agency is also prioritizing the training of Nigerian seafarers to meet industry needs with emphasis on specialised

and advanced trainings," he said.

The President General of the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN), Comrade Adewale Adeyanju, expressed his delight with the automation of maritime labour registration processes by NIMASA, stating that the agency had proven that it was indeed committed to improving standards in the Nigerian maritime sector especially in terms of labour practices and capacity development.

Students express joy over free GCE forms

By Saheed Afolabi

The beneficiaries of free GCE forms distributed by the chairman of Apapa Local Government, Hon. Idowu Sebanjo, have expressed their joy over the gesture as their hope was raised. While appreciating the chairman for the largesse, they promised to put in their best to achieve success. The council chairman said the forms were given to the indigent students to give them hope, noting that education is the bedrock of any achievement. While distributing the forms at the council secretariat, Sebanjo assured of supporting excellent students to further their academic pursuit with scholarship. She implored the students to face their studies squarely and try hard to burn their candles at both ends in other to pass with flying

colors.

The council boss was represented by the Special Adviser (SA) on Education, Youth and Sports Development, Dr. Mike Egbayelo who explained that the indigent students were identified by stakeholders of the council. He hinted that the local government will do everything to support and encourage all students that pass excellently in furtherance of their education.

The head of Education and Library Services Department, Mr. Reuben Eniyawun urged the beneficiaries to appreciate the kind gesture shown by the council by passing the exams in good grades. The event was witnessed by some members of the legislative arm led by Hon. Ebenezer Fowowe, SAs, Management team, parents and some key stakeholders of the local government.

The largest container terminal in Nigeria, APM Terminals Apapa has set a new safety record at the port as it recorded 400 days no Lost Time Injury (LTI).

Regional Managing Director, RMD Africa and Europe at APM Terminals, Igor Van Den Essen, who was on a visit to Nigeria, commended the Apapa team for the major safety milestone, charging them to sustain and improve on the record.

"As we discuss safety while we observe Global Safety Day, we continuously highlight how deeply it impacts our operations and our entire company. Being in an asset-heavy industry and due to the nature of our operations, we consider safety to be non-negotiable to us, our people and our partners across the port logistics ecosystem and it is also one of the three pillars of our strategy 'Safer, Bigger, Better.'"

No Lost Time Injury (LTI) is a key indicator of the effectiveness of an organisation's safety programme, means no injury was sustained on the job by an employee or contractor that resulted in the person being away from work due to his or her injury.

This was made known at an

APM Terminal RMG, Essen commends Apapa safety record



MD addressing APM Terminal staff

event to mark the company's 2022 Global Safety Day in Lagos, with the theme 'We Learn And We Adapt'.

The company's Country Managing Director, Klaus Laursen commended the employees for the good job well done.

"We are here to remind ourselves about the importance of maintaining safety everyday. We need to look at a few things. The first step to becoming better is to realise that you have an opportunity to be better. So, you have to be humble. We have to come to the consciousness that we can be better in small and bigger steps.

"So, when we come to work, if we want to maintain 400 days and more of no LTI, it is important that apart from what we achieved today, we

should do it better. One of the things that we do as an organisation to foster this is when we try to apply our newly learned knowledge.

"Learning is for all of us. It gives us an opportunity to say I think this could be better, I think I can help make this better. And we can all be part of making a small and bigger improvement that makes this place a safe place to work."

Terminal Manager, APM Terminals Apapa, Steen Knudsen, encouraged employees to celebrate themselves as they had achieved a huge milestone of going through a whole year without any injury recorded. He urged employees to always remain safety conscious.

"All of us here should inculcate the practice of coming forward to report

incidents to ensure a more robust safety. I want you to also know that safety is not only for today; safety is tomorrow, next tomorrow, next week, and so forth.

"Today is about safety and the theme, 'we learn and we adapt'. When I try to reflect on learning and adapting, I want to talk a little bit about the transformation journey that we have been on in the last couple of years. We have the ambition to change how we fundamentally do things in APM Terminals.

"We want to be more efficient; we want to give our customers a better experience, we want to deliver more to the Nigerian economy and we want to do this while ensuring that everyone goes home safe after work.



Technical Implementation Committee visits LASUSTECH on Mock Resource Verification

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Lagos State Technical Implementation Committee on Transmutation has visited LASUSTECH for Mock Resource Verification ahead of the

main exercise to be conducted by the National Universities Commission (NUC). The 8-man team was led by a former Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, Prof. Femi Bamiro. The team inspected the general campus

outlook, clear designation of Academic Units and service Departments, library and clinic facilities, technical facilities, designation of physical structures, ICT/Internet facilities, staff CVs, see the school's areas of

specialisation, religious centers, administrative structure, and recreational facilities. The Ag. Vice Chancellor, Dr. Oluremi Nurudeen Olaleye assured the team of the university's readiness for full university academic activities.

"We are fully ready, the management and the Governing Council had also done the mock in preparation for the Technical Implementation Committee," he said. He added that the exercise will improve the degree of readiness

ahead of the NUC team's visitation. After the exercise, one of the professors noted that "the arrival of LASUSTECH is intimidating to existing universities." "This is the university like no other," he concluded.

Students challenge SUG over portal fees

Students of Lagos State University of Education (LASUED) have complained over the proposed hike in the cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) portal update fees on the school's website.

According to them, the increment is a form of extortion, saying such cases have been experienced by students as the management continues to increase certain levies.

They totally condemned the act as inconsiderate, saying the management does not consider the less privileged students who strive to sponsor themselves in school.

In a social media group on Facebook, a student, Samuel Maria writes: "The so-called SUG, students' representatives and the Dean have failed the students of LASUED.

Imagine the extortion! This is wickedness at its highest peak!

LASUED and staff at ICT should fear God!.

"So now they're threatening to increase it to 5000naira!...Ahhh LASUED! Una Weldon oooh. Kill the students with billings, later you'll be posting nonsense posters about depression and drug abuse upandan.

With the useless SUG that you people put there so you can manipulate them."

The Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH) in partnership with the National Coconut Producers Processors and Marketers Association of Nigeria (NACOPPMAN) has celebrated the year 2022 World Coconut Day.

The World Coconut Day is an annual event celebrated every September 2 across the globe by all operators in

LASUSTECH partners NACOPPMAN to celebrate World Coconut Day

the coconut value chain industry.

This year's celebration was held in the school at the College of Engineering Lecture Theatre.

The Ag Vice Chancellor, Dr. Oluremi Nurudeen Olaleye, represented by the Ag. Deputy VC (Administration), Dr. Kolawole Godonu, in

his remarks stated that coconut remains a natural asset in Lagos State and Nigeria at large.

He said all hands must be on deck to make sure coconut survives, while explaining that the institution has planted over 1200 coconut trees with the decision to plant additional 800

coconut trees before the end of the year 2022.

The Chairman, NACOPPMAN, Mr. Abdulsalam Abdulateef, appreciated the institution for the warm reception.

He said the choice to partner with LASUSTECH to celebrate world coconut day was apt, noting that

the institution which recently transmuted into a University has been at the forefront of promoting African culture.

The Association in appreciation of the University's interest in coconut plantation donated 200 units of coconut seedlings to commence the

LASU intensifies efforts in research and innovation

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Lagos State University (LASU) has disclosed its commitment to increasing its efforts in ideas of research projects and innovative ideas among professional scholars in the school.

The Vice Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello noted that a N5m research grant is in the offing to enhance multi-disciplinary research towards hitting her administration's target of clinching the number one university in West Africa before her tenure elapses.

She said their efforts over the years have birthed an intensified

redirection of the Directorate of Research Management and Innovation which is organising a research fair at the institution.

She said the N5m research grant will help in cutting an edge in multi-disciplinary research at the University.

She emphasised that her administration wants research to maintain its paramount position as it is expected in every world-class institution of higher learning as they are currently addressing ownership of research outcomes by instituting an Intellectual Property Policy for the University. Olatunji-Bello said engaging in more research will birth economic prosperity and global relevance would



Lagos State University management and some matriculated students

be developed especially in the challenging and critical times of global economic meltdown and recession.

She revealed that in the last three to four decades, the Nigerian University system has been saddled with

numerous perennial and increasing monumental challenges that include but not limited to poor infrastructural facilities, recurrent industrial actions, governance deficits as well as corruption just to mention a few.

She urged all lecturers to key into the new development in the institution as LASU will become greater through their hard work. cilities, inadequate funding, brain drain, outdated curriculum and inadequate research



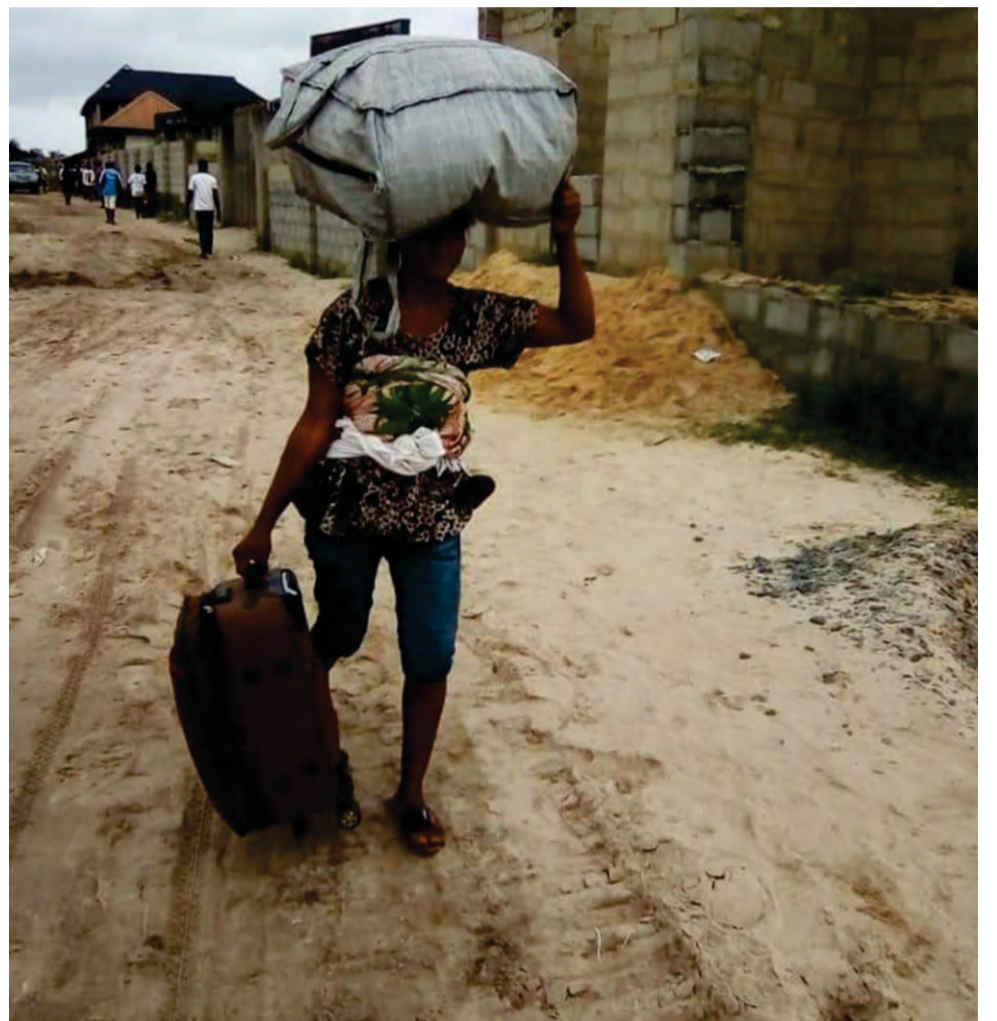
Residents seek govt's intervention over illegal house demolition

By Saheed Afolabi

Residents of Okegun-Museyo community have lamented over the demolition of over 300 houses in the community. According to them, the demolition was carried out by an unidentified group of Estate companies with unknown security agents holding weapons and shooting sporadically while the demolition was ongoing. ECHONEWS observed that the turmoil had rendered innocent families helpless without shelter and support. The Vice Chairman of the CDA, Mr Tajudeen Akinsanya expressed

his concern over the situation and called on the government to come to their rescue. "We want those who engage in the demolition to leave our land. We have over 250 hectares of land here. We are only occupying a space which others are still not using. They can take those and use them for whatever they want to. "To forestall this embarrassing moment, we have written several letters to the government both local and state but were not productive. "Destroying our property and houses is of no good to both parties. We remain law-abiding residents of the state." One of the affected people, Mrs. Idayat

Tijani told newsmen that the demolition of their buildings in the community was uncalled for as no prior notice was made. "We woke up this morning and saw some unknown guys who were equipped with weapons led by the mobile policemen shooting rifles to scare away the residents. " Everywhere is in disarray. You can see people running and children crying hopelessly. We were not allowed to take out anything when they commenced the demolition of our houses." They urged concerned delegated parastatals of the government to intervene in the present turmoil in the area.



Okegun-Museyo affected residents relocating

Resist paying illegal ransom, Task Force urges land owners

By Saheed Afolabi

Land owners that have legally purchased lands have been urged to resist the intimidation of land grabbers (Omonile) in paying illegal fee to them after documentarily purchasing the land from them. The notification was made following the arrest of five land grabbers in Ibeju-Lekki Local Government who had been regularly reported to have continuously intimidated victims over illegal money over purchased land(s). The miscreants were said to have intimidated their victims with guns, charms and harmful

weapons that scares them into complying with their demands. The Chairman of Lagos State Taskforce, CSP Shola Jejeloye disclosed that the crime syndicate has been known for terrorising legitimate property owners and occupants within Sangotedo, Lakowe and Abijo in Ibeju-Lekki Local Council Development Areas. He said the land grabbers have been warned by the State Government to desist from carrying out their nefarious acts but failed to comply with the plea. He noted that the arrest would be a lesson to others while encouraging residents to report any misgiving in the community to the force.

Royal family denies recognition of new Onibeju-Lekki

By Saheed Afolabi

Members of Ajumobi Oniwonlu Royal family in Ibeju-Lekki Kingdom have debunked the claim and rumours of an unidentified individual who claims to be the new Onibeju of Ibeju-Lekki Kingdom. According to them, no verdict has been announced in court over the selection as they view the impostor as a fraud trick used to accumulate wealth by transacting businesses in the community. The head of the royal family, Chief Shefiu Ajumobi appealed to doubtful members in

the family, who are willing to join those bribed to mortgage their future, by dropping the pursuit to rescue the family inheritance from present usurpers, to retrace their steps and join the part of justice to stop spreading the fake news of anyone being selected or elected as Onibeju of Ibeju-Agbe throne illegally. He encouraged that the community's cultural background plays a non-quantifiable and critical role in their entire humanity saying their truthfulness to their cultural background and uncompromising behaviour stand to protect the heritage, defines the genuineness

of their humanity which plays a strong role in what awaits them in the future. He added that the kingmakers are not involved in such unscrupulous, disgraced and destructive acts while declaring that there is no division among the authentic members of the Ajumobi Oniwonlu Royal family. Ajumobi assured that the territorial integrity of Ibeju Kingdom will be forever protected in the interest of all genuine members that will forever remain uncompromising, including for future generations in the community.



Logo of Onibeju of Ibeju-Lekki Kingdom



CAIDOV group kicks against NSCDC, police merging

By Edith Igbokwe

The Centre Against Injustice and Domestic Violence (CAIDOV) has urged the Federal Government not to yield to pressure from certain quarters advocating for the scrap or merger of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC, with the Nigerian Police Force.

Speaking on behalf of the group at a press conference held at the International Press Centre, (IPC), Ogba, the Convener, Comrade Gbenga Soloki, kicked against the move saying it should be resisted by all.

"This is not the time for scrapping or attempting to scrap the NSCDC, most especially now that, we are daily being faced with all manners of security challenges. Nigeria is a country of over 200 million populations with

less than one million security personnel's across board.

"With this statistic, how do you think we can conveniently fight insecurity in the land. From its humble beginning, the NSCDC has evolved into an indispensable force to reckon with, garnering critical acclaim for its courageous exploits. With billions of Naira being lost annually to oil vandals across Nigeria, the crucial role being played by NSCDC in curbing this hydra-headed monster is being appreciated more than ever before.

Clarifying its position with the NSCDC, Soloki said his organisation, the CAIDOV is not in any way connected with the NSCDC but saying they are speaking for the good of the country.

"Let me state here categorically that CAIDOV is not in any way

associated with the NSCDC or any way connected to the security enforcement agency. But that the centre has decided to take this cause upon itself because it abhors injustice as a promoter of peace and progress of Nigeria as a country."

Stating further, Comrade Soloki submitted that it is not the time to scrap or merge NSCDC with the Police when the country with over 200 million population and less than one million security personnel across board is facing all manners of threat.

"On this note, I call on the Federal Government not to merge NSCDC with the Nigeria Police Force; doing that will be a crime against the land and this action, if implemented, would cause more harm than good. For your information, Nigeria is not the only country in the



CAIDOV group at press conference

world that has civil defence, many countries around the world have Civil Defence Organisations dedicated to protecting civilians from Military attack and providing rescue services after widespread disasters.

"The Centre is, however, taking this cause upon itself because it abhors injustice, but a promoter of peace and progress of Nigeria.

"And as a result, we have taken time to reach out to other bodies of like minds over this issue and we are

ready to ensure that the NSCDC does not lose its sovereignty and identity because of the laudable and complimentary role it has been playing in ensuring the security of the country within the limits of its power.

Muri-Okunola implores new retirees to leverage on opportunities

By Edith Igbokwe

Lagos State Head of Service, Mr. Hakeem Muri-Okunola has admonished the recent 63 retirees across the various mainstream of the civil service to leverage the highlighted opportunities provided by the government to make them employers of labour and at the same time have a source of extra income which will hopefully keep them more engaged.

The sixty-three retirees were made up of thirty management officers, and thirty-three Senior and

junior officers.

He reminded the retirees that the government has put in place the post-service department in the Office of the Head of Service to continually attend to all issues relating to welfare packages of the retirees and improvement in their lifestyle after retirement.

The event was held at the Adeyemi Bero Auditorium, Alausa-Ikeja, having in attendance retired officers from Lagos State Civil Service, retirees their families, friends, colleagues and well-wishers who came to rejoice with them after

their meritorious service to their fatherland.

Muri-Okunola was represented by the Tutor General/ Permanent Secretary, Education District 1, Mrs. Margaret Solarin, who said the present administration in Lagos State has put in place several initiatives and programmes to keep retirees active and remain connected to the state government.

She disclosed that part of the post-service programmes include bi-monthly webinars, quarterly training and sensitisations, skill acquisition and vocational

training and mentoring scheme among others to keep them active and connected to the state government after service.

The representative of the Permanent Secretary, Public Service Office, Mrs. Sunkanmi Oyegbola, acknowledged the contributions of the retirees to the development of the state and their exemplary conduct while in service.

She, however, urged them to deliberately take care of their health and wellbeing, just as she appealed to them to take advantage of the services provided by the post service department.

She expressed gratitude to the state Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for granting approval for the event and the Head of Service for his support in hosting the event.

"I am of the opinion that you will now have time not only for yourself but your families, as you will be able to deploy your skills, wide knowledge and extensive administrative and management experience garnered over the years. I thereby implored you to be deliberate in paying attention to your personal health and wellness."

Advising the retirees, Director, Post Service

Department, Mrs. Bukonla Durodola charged the retirees not to be tired in retirement.

Responding on behalf of the retirees, Mr. Lawrence Onafowokan, appreciated the Lagos State Government for organizing such a wonderful retirement ceremony as they bow out of the public service gloriously.

He also gave glory to God Almighty for sparing their lives, noting that though they have exited, but appealed that government should speedily organise and work upon their retirement benefits without delay.



LASEMA presents statistics on collapse buildings

By Edith Igbokwe

The Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), Ikeja has revealed that at least 30 collapsed buildings were recorded in various incidents which occurred between January and July 2022 in Lagos State. The latest data was contained in a comprehensive recorded incident which happened during the period under review, released by Permanent Secretary of the agency, Dr. Femi Oke-Osanyitolu. The building collapse



LASEMA at work

incidents recorded, showed 24 total collapsed, six partial collapse, with one impending collapse. According to the

record, Alimosho recorded the highest cases and Badagry recording the lowest with just two

emergency incidents out of the 20 recognized councils, along respective Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs).

The highest recorded emergency incidents occurred in January, while April had the lowest. The incidents subsequently dropped in February with 155, while it peaked again in May and July with 160 and 140, respectively. According to the data, out of the 973 emergency cases recorded across the metropolis, Alimosho council area topped the list of occurrence. A total of 337 road accidents was recorded during the period under review.

Out of the figure, vehicle, fallen tanker and trailer, recorded: 303, 29, and 45,

respectively.

Fire disasters recorded 103 cases with, outbreak, truck, and vehicle recording 93, two and eight respectively, among other recorded emergencies during the period under review.

To curb incidence of building collapse in the state, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu announced resignation of his Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Idris Salako barely 24 hours after a seven-storey building under construction collapsed on Oba Idowu Abiodun Oniru Road, Oniru Estate, Victoria Island area of the state.

Lagos trains swimming pool operators

By Edith Igbokwe

Lagos State Government has begun training of swimming pool operators, life guards and hotel owners in the state to prevent drowning in the areas listed. Speaking at a one-day sensitisation programme for stakeholders in Ikeja, the Director-General, Lagos State Safety Commission, Lanre Mojola, said the training would teach life guards and swimming pool operators how to reduce swimming fatalities. Mojola stated that drowning is one of the foremost causes of death worldwide among children and young people aged 1-24 years. According to him, this programme is an opportunity for the Commission to interface with stakeholders and focus on the issues as regards drowning and proffer

solutions on how to keep pools safe.

"It is estimated that about 236,000 people drown across the globe yearly and this can be drastically reduced if adequate safe practices are put in place.

"Here in Lagos, the incidences of drowning appears to be heading north and there is an urgent need to nip this trend in the bud.

"In June, 2022, three children (siblings) lost their lives as a result of drowning in a swimming pool located somewhere at Ajah.

"In August alone, four college students reportedly died at the Elegushi Beach on Tuesday 16th August, while another drowning incident was reported at Alpha Beach on Tuesday 23rd August 2022," he lamented.

He explained that in response to the growing number of drowning incidents, the Commission

developed the Swimming Pool Safety Regulations, which was passed by the Lagos State House of Assembly last year.

He reiterated that the regulation would standardize the construction, upgrade and operations of swimming pools in Lagos.

"This session will afford us the opportunity to dissect the Regs which covers topics such as swimming pool rules, use of signage, cleaning and treatment, restriction of drug and alcohol use around pools, lifeguards, reporting etc.

"We will continue to carry out our 4 Es around the use of swimming pools in the state as we promote the development of safe rescue and resuscitation in cases of emergencies."

"We are always open to new ideas and suggestions that will ensure that incidents of

drowning is brought to their barest minimum. Our goal is accomplishing our target of zero drowning in the State with our support."

The Founder of Strap and Safe Child Foundation, Mrs. Bolanle Edwards, highlighted the reasons for drowning to include absence of pool barriers and non-supervision.

"Some of the reasons for drowning include absence of

barriers around the pool, lack of supervision, failure to wear life jackets and low sensitisation of the public about drowning and its prevention.

"There should be a four-sided fence separating the pool area from the house and hard because this has been found to reduce drowning by 83% and there should be supervision of swimming pools. Swimmers should

learn basic swimming and water safety skills."

The Chief Executive Officer, Occupational Health and Safety Management, Mr. Ehi Iden, said, "Swimming pool operators should ensure that every part of the pool is marked to indicate its depth. There is also a need to look out for pool drain as this can trap women's hair or do bodily damage to children."



Swimming pool training to avoid drowning



Odufowokan celebrates Goodness, World record para-athlete in Birmingham

By Edith Igbokwe

The Lagos State Coordinator of the Tinubu/Shettima Support Group (TSSG) Hon. Seyi Odufowokan, has celebrated the Constituency-based Nigerian Para-athlete, Goodness Nwachukwu for making the country proud during the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, United Kingdom. Goodness won a gold medal for Nigeria in the women's E42.44/61.64 discus

throw at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, putting down a commanding performance that set her apart from the rest of the field.

In the process, Goodness also set a new world record with her throw of 36.56m. Odufowokan who doubles as the All Progressives Congress (APC) chairman in Ikosi-Isheri LCDA, commended Nwachukwu's success as she paid him a courtesy visit. He applauded her for

making Nigeria proud in the comity of nations by setting a world record with her throw of 36.56m.

"Nwachukwu Goodness, the Nigerian Para-athlete who won a gold medal at the just concluded Commonwealth Games, did put on a show for the spectators at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham, breaking not just one, but two world records in quick succession to dominate her event at the Games," he said.



Nwachukwu receives warmth celebration

The Olu of Agboyi Kingdom, Oba Monsuru Oladega, has expressed profound appreciation to Agbooyi Ketu Local Council Development chairman, Hon. Dele Oshinowo for his contribution towards the success of his official inauguration ceremony. The monarch, popularly addressed as Akinmasa 1, expressed his gratitude during his courtesy visit to Oshinowo at the council Secretariat.

The monarch noted that the tour was to show appreciation to all individuals who supported the ancient town in its journey to ensure the traditional stool was not desecrated.

He stated that the visit had provided an opportunity to ensure that the challenges faced by the ancient town receive attention of the outside world.

Responding, Oshinowo described the emergence of the monarch as an act of God.

Olu of Agboyi appreciates Oshinowo's contribution to kingship installation

By Edith Igbokwe

While stating that the official inauguration of the new monarch will open a new chapter of development in the ancient town.

He stressed that with the rightful thoughts and conducive atmosphere for robust partnership, the ancient town may end up as the

new Lekki corridor in the state.

A member of Olu Agboyi's delegate, Hon. Segun Ogunseye, commended the chairman for adopting transparency as the watchword of his administration.

The high point of the occasion was the presentation of a thank-you letter to the council chairman.



Olu of Agboyi, Oladega, wife, in Oshinowo's office

LASTMA apprehends 19 vehicles for contravention of laws on Lagos Island

By Edith Igbokwe

Due to the continuous perennial traffic gridlock usually experienced around Apogbon inwards and outwards Lagos Island, caused by indiscriminate illegal parking of vehicles, garages and parks, 19 additional vehicles were again apprehended by the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA).

The General Manager, (LASTMA) Mr Bolaji Oreagba disclosed that the on-going total clampdown exercise embarked upon by the authority was to generally ease off traffic flow to motorists particularly this approaching 'Ember Months' across the state.

Mr. Oreagba disclosed further that study conducted revealed that perennial traffic gridlock being experienced by motorists are caused by recalcitrant

drivers who do not want to comply with the State Traffic Laws and Regulations.

He said that the on-going total Enforcement exercise which is expected to cover major identified spots is being coordinated by the Core Operations Commands (COC) from LASTMA Headquarters at Oshodi.

"I must implore law abiding citizens of Lagos State, especially motorists, to adhere strictly to the traffic law of the State in order not

to run foul of the law which has consequences. We must all have a positive attitude towards obeying the law of the State which was made to ensure orderliness and fast-paced socio-economic improvement of individuals, corporate entities and generality of the people".

While assuring members of the public of the Authority's commitment in ensuring free flow of traffic on all our roads, Oreagba urged drivers and general road

users to be compliant with traffic laws, to make the 'Smart City' vision achievable in Lagos.

He, However, called on officials to be more dedicated on effective traffic monitoring and management across the metropolis.

Speaking in the same vein, Mr. Peter Gbejemedede the Director of Operations that led the team confirmed that immediately after the enforcement operations



Ogudu-Alapere link road to be completed soon - Contractor

By Edith Igbokwe

The contractor handling the Ogudu-Alapere link road, Messrs Fountain Construction Company, has assured residents of a quality job as it revealed that the less than one-kilometer project has attained 70 per cent completion level. The link road is a 9-month duration project that commenced over two years ago, designed as 2-lane, linking Ogudu-Ojota and the Lagos-Ibadan Highway. A representative of the construction company

who spoke on condition of anonymity explained that the project site beside Kosofe Local Government would be completed in about three months' time with enough commitments to handle the bulk of work remaining on the link bridge. He reiterated that daily work is ongoing at the project site to get the link bridge completed in a few weeks' time. However, he declined to give any reason behind the delay of the project. The reconstruction is expected to end gridlock and scale up the value of property in the area.



The ongoing Alapere link bridge under construction

Uber driver pleads not guilty over alleged N1.7m car theft

By Edith Igbokwe

A 37-year-old Uber driver, Chukwuemeka Benjamin has pleaded not guilty before Ogudu Magistrate Court for allegedly stealing a Toyota Camry worth N1.7 million. Benjamin who resides at Olatuni Street, Ojota, Lagos was charged with conspiracy and theft. He pleaded not guilty to the charge against him by the police. The prosecutor, Insp. Donjour Perezi, told the court that the defendant committed the offences on August 2, at Olatunji Street, Ojota, Lagos.

He explained that the defendant who collected the car belonging to one Chief Olubiyi Afolarin on hire purchase, claimed to have parked the vehicle in front of his compound on August 1, around 8:30 p.m.

According to him, the defendant conspired to steal a Toyota Camry car with registration No. SMK 03 WC valued N1.7 million which belongs to Chief Olubiyi Afolarin.

"He said he came out to clean the car by 4:30 am to resume work only to find it missing," Perezi said.

The prosecutor said the offences contravened Sections 287 and 411 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

The Magistrate, Mrs. M. O. Tanimola granted him bail in the sum of N300,000 with two sureties in like sum.

She ordered that the sureties must be gainfully employed while one of them should be a blood relative of the defendant.

She also ordered that the sureties must show evidence of tax payment to the Lagos State Government.

She adjourned the case until October 14, for mention

Police arraign two Agro company employees over alleged N25m fraud

By Edith Igbokwe

Two Agro company employees, Phillip Adenuga and Vincent Akpotor, who allegedly stole the sum of N25 million through price inflation have been docked before an Ogudu Magistrates Court.

The defendants, Adenuga, 29, residing at Mowe-Ibafo, Lagos, and Akpotor, 39, residing at Lusada in Ogun State, are standing trial on a three-count bordering on conspiracy, stealing and fraud.

The duo pleaded not guilty to the charges against them by the police.

The Prosecutor, Inspector Donjour Perezi, told the court that the defendants committed the offences before the month of July at Plot 11/12, Anibaba St., Ikosi, Ketu, Lagos.

He said the defendants, being staff of Mitchell Agro Tech Ltd., did dishonestly steal the sum of N25,000,000 belonging to the

company. According to the prosecutor, the defendants usually inflate the price and weight of supply from farms and send them to the account of their suppliers for payment. He said a recent transaction they carried

out was so scandalous that the complainant, Mr. Jide Obi, on behalf of the company, decided to ask one of their customers to release a copy of their transaction, which was used to track the fraud that had been going on. "It was discovered that the defendants connived with some marketers of live

chicken to deceive Mitchell Agro Tech Ltd. and defrauded the company," the prosecutor said. He said the offences contravened Sections 287(7), 325 and 411 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. The Magistrate, Mrs. M. O. Tanimola, granted them bail in the sum of N1 million each

with two sureties each in like sum. Tanimola added that the sureties must be gainfully employed, their home and office addresses must be verified and must show evidence of tax payments to the Lagos State Government. She adjourned the case until October 28 for mention.





Supervisory councillor donates education materials to pupils

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Hon. Rasaq Ajala (HRA), has praised the supervisor for Education, Hon. Kadri Faiz for donating education materials to the pupils in the community.

The materials were distributed to the pupils of Majolate, Bereola and Mushin Public schools at Majolate Primary School in Onipanu.

Faiz had purchased items such as exercise books, bags, footwear and writing materials for about one hundred and fifty pupils at the three schools.

He said the gesture was to give back to the community that has supported him.

He stressed the importance of education in the lives of children.

He promised to continue to support the educational programmes not only in his ward but in the other eight wards in the LCDA in the future.

The councillor thanked the leadership of the party such as Senator Ganiyu Solomon, Hon. Taofik Adeyemi Ali, Hon. Nureni Ayinde Akinsanya, Hon. Rasaq Olusola Ajala, Alhaji R. O. T. Hassan (Labari) and other leaders of the party who allowed him to serve in the government.

The council chairman commended him for the laudable initiative.

He said: "It is important that we let the pupils understand the significance of what is being done today so

that those who are benefiting today will refer to what is being done when they are writing their history in the future."

He recalled that the distribution of GCE forms he did while he

was serving as a councillor several years ago produced people from all walks of life, such as doctors, engineers, lawyers and other professionals.

He stressed that education should be

funded adequately and the best that can be given to children is a quality education.

"We must use the instrumentality of our offices and any position we may find ourselves to support educational

programmes," he said. He encouraged the parents of the beneficiaries to ensure their children make use of the items adequately. He equally encouraged the children to use the items properly.



HRA, supervisor for education Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA and the beneficiaries

One of the youths in Mushin Local Government, Mr. Michael Odutayo, has emerged winner at the grand finale of the first political board game initiated to engage and mobilise youths towards successful election for Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Governor Babajide Sanwo Olu and all APC candidates in the 2023 general elections.

The game which was an initiative of a Mushin born politician and management consultant, Pastor Olatunji Dawodu, is aimed at educating and creating political awareness for electoral process among youths and pave way to victory for all APC candidates in the coming general elections.

The grand finale, which took place on Wednesday August 31 at the secretariat hall of Mushin Local

Bamigboye advocates youth mobilisation through political game competition

Government, after the preliminary stage conducted at the Odi Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA, on August 29, had six finalists who emerged out of the 42 contestants who started the competition at the preliminary stage.

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye, who hosted the final, thanked the organisers of the competition and tasked them to use the game for youth mobilisation and education for the success of the party's candidates in the coming general elections.

He promised to use the game to mobilise all the youths across the 10 wards in Mushin.

Engr. Alaba Sholabi, who was the chairman of the tournament, expressed appreciation to Senator Ganiyu Olanrewaju Solomon for motivating the initiator and sponsoring the programme.

He also thanked the chairmen of both Mushin LG and Odi Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA for hosting the competition while commending all the sponsors who included Hon. Bolaji Yusuf Ayinla, Hon. Yemi Alli, Hon. Olayiwola Olawale, Hon. Nureni Akinsanya, Hon. Toyin Fayinka, Hon. Yinka Kazeem, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye and Hon. Rasaq Ajala.

He was happy for the successful groundbreaking

of the game, which will soon spread across Lagos State and the entire Nigeria. The Mushin born winner, Mr. Michael Odutayo, who just completed his National Diploma in Electrical Electronics Engineering from Grace Polytechnic, resides at Abeokuta Street,

off Agege Motor Road in Mushin.

He is also the Financial Secretary of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Mushin branch.

He thanked the organisers for the educative game which enlightened the youths on the route towards

winning any election through political process in Nigeria.

He smiled home with the sum of ₦30,000 while his runners up and all the contestants went home with consolation prizes including boxes of the game.



The chairman of Mushin LG and exco with the winner



Politician cautions pedestrians on Lagos-Badagry Expressway

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The aspirant for Federal House of Representatives, Ojo Constituency of the All Progressives Congress (APC) primary election and former Chairman of Oto-Awori LCDA, Hon. Bolaji Robert (Bibire 777) has urged pedestrians and road users along Lagos-Badagry Expressway to continue to be

cautious as the road has been extended and more developed beyond its former state.

He said the road will soon be completed, saying work has been smoothly ongoing on the road.

He said the more developed it becomes the more cautious road users ought to be while crossing the road being an Expressway which connects two big locations with minor

areas together and gives rise to the commuting of greater population in the area.

He updated that the round deck reconstructed on the road is completed and partly in use while the deck on the loop is also partly completed as pavement works of the section to link LASU-Iba Road are ongoing.

He said the interchange serves as a by-pass that allows the motorists on toll

lane Badagry and Lagos bound to connect in and out of LASU-Iba road using the interchange loop.

He said it also decongests traffic volume at Iyana-Iba bus stop which meets the demand of most commuters about the issue of excessive gridlock experienced on the road.

Robert said according to the ongoing structure, two bridges have been

reconstructed which indicates both Lagos and Badagry Flyover bridges at Iyana-Iba bus stop.

The bridge span across a rotary interchange to allow for underpass movement of vehicles, which enables motorists from Badagry/Lagos bound and Lasu-Iba axis to connect to their destination easily.

He said the flyover is linked to the interchange bridge, toll

lane and BRT lane only.

Bibire assured that the bridge is 100% completed while pavement work is ongoing at the underpass.

He urged residents of Ojo Constituency to embrace innovative ideas as the government is putting in efforts to develop the state as their priority remains to ensure comfortability for the masses.

NGO lectures girl-children on their existence

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Girl-children in Badagry Local Government have been urged to act beyond their present status as no man can get to choose their family background or financial status before birth.

They were enlightened that although their existence cannot be denied or shaped to their taste, they can work ahead of the future towards getting better at their desired goal if determined and efficient in their dealings.

These words of thought were given by Gospel Minister, Pastor Mrs. Kemisola Adebolade through a non-governmental initiative, Deborah Generation International (DGI) to liberate girl-child of ill thoughts that might delimit their success in life.

Adebolade echoed that as females, they are replenishers and not sex puppets as compared to

the viral ideology of teenagers trying to meet the demands of their so-called boyfriends.

She highlighted seven key methods they ought to hold onto to become successful young ladies in life while urging them to avoid indiscriminate behaviour due to their

teenage influence.

She said: "Focus on what God says about you and where you see yourself going, not what your background says. Two, note that a man will not go for a woman that only replenishes in the kitchen and when it comes to house chores

but can replenish her God-given abilities as a woman. Keep your body with and move with a sense of royalty, it is who we are. Everybody you meet at every point of your life has a role to play in your journey, you need to get it right and know who for what."

She added: "Time waits for no one, stop wasting your time on the internet instead, use your time on the internet wisely. Be a multipurpose woman. Replenishing means you are depositing and planting a part of you everywhere you go. Leaving your

footprints and impacts. Build a positive relationship. The secret to success in life is knowing good people." She, therefore, urged them to relate with good people as the kind people they associate with determining where they will get to in life.

Political leaders united to work for Tinubu's success

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Leaders and political loyalists in Ojo Federal Constituency have united to work towards the success of Asiawaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu in the 2023 general election. They converged to pray for Tinubu to emerge the President of Nigeria in 2023.

Speaking in gospel words, the Chairman of Iba LCDA, Hon. Yisa Jubril (Abila) noted that their actions were to give thanks to God for supporting the party's course till the moment hence they will continue to sing his praise as they are

fully guaranteed that God would continue to support them.

In a thanksgiving session at Olorunsogo Parish, Ese-Ofin, Oto-Awori LCDA, Abila said that through thankfulness to God one's faith is reinforced and stronghold is broken in one's life noting that it indirectly enhances his participation in the thanksgiving service for the incoming President.

To promote a sense of unity among all worshippers, the congregation directed their gaze heavenward as it unifies their sense of belief in Christ for his grace upon BAT and all the successful candidates of the party in Ojo Federal

Constituency.

Abila further mentioned from the creation: "It is wise to remember God's good providence, Long after the exodus from Egypt, God proclaims, I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt."

He said members believe

that God is active and present in the larger narrative of the scripture, the communion of various religious congregations, and in the individual experiences of their lives.

He is the Lord who saves, provides, heals, and equips mankind which

recounts the

overwhelming reasons God's people have for giving thanks.

He urged all residents to follow the trend of the party in continuously praying for their desired candidates while urging them to vote for all flag bearers of the party in Ojo Federal Constituency.



Hon. Yisa Jubril and Hon. Rasulu Idowu and religious leaders



Kendoo emphasizes on education, youth devt



Otunba Kehinde Oloyede

The chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Otunba Kehinde Oloyede (Kendoo) has reiterated his commitment towards improving education sector as he welcomed pupils back to school.

He disclosed that his government will continue to give priority to education and youth development.

While welcoming the pupils and students, Kendoo promised that good time awaits education within the local government area as his administration will improve schools infrastructure across the community.

He enjoined the students to focus more on their educational pursuit which he said remains paramount gateway to prosperity.

He promised that his administration will provide learning materials for pupils to aid learning process.

He assured that efforts are ongoing towards ensuring that some of the schools receive facelift for a conducive teaching/learning environment.

He, however, called on teaching and non-teaching staff in the schools within the council to ensure they discharge their duties diligently and dutifully.

"On behalf of the executives, management staff, members of staff and people of the local government I welcome our pupils and students back to school. I want to reiterate that education still remains the foundation for prosperity across the globe. We will continue to prioritise education in our local government and I want to assure you that education and youth development will receive adequate attention always in our administration."

Ikeja Electric launches campaign against energy theft, vandalism ...seeks community support

By Edith Igbokwe

In continued effort to curtail the rising cases of energy theft and vandalisation of electric equipment, Ikeja Electric, Nigeria's largest electricity distribution company is soliciting the support of stakeholders in tackling the issues within its network.

Speaking to journalists on Friday, Head, Corporate Communications, Ikeja Electric, Felix Ofulue, said the alarming cases of illegal connections, meter bypassing, apathy to payment of electricity bills and vandalism have been on a steady rise recently.

He narrated instances where customers using prepaid meters connive with electricians to bypass meters with the aim of evading payment for

energy consumed.

"Despite the company's huge investments in power equipment, infrastructure upgrade and network optimization which runs into billions of Naira, the negative impact of the rising cases of energy theft and vandalism has become worrisome to the company, that is why we have commenced intensive campaign against energy theft and vandalism across our Business Units in order to curb the illegalities, while we are also soliciting the support of communities to assist Ikeja Electric in curbing these illegal activities.

"The provision of improved and stable electricity supply is a collective responsibility that requires collaboration of stakeholders and should

not be treated lackadaisically, as the ricocheting effect will not only impede progress in the power sector and affect revenue, but will also erode the quality of electricity supply to our customers," Ofulue explained.

According to him, the company has intensified efforts towards closing the metering gap within its network by ensuring postpaid customers acquire prepaid meters seamlessly, whilst the Disco has also stepped up its sensitization campaigns against meter bypass across the six Business Units.

He warned of dire sanctions for offenders, saying it is a punishable offence under Section 94(3) of the EPSRA Act 2005 and culprits are liable to imprisonment for

period of not less than five years and not more than seven years.

Ofulue reiterated the company's commitment to curbing energy theft, vandalism and other illegalities perpetrated by these unscrupulous elements within the network.

He also urged community leaders and customers to avoid taking laws into their hands by carrying out what is popularly known as jungle justice.

According to him, "community leaders or members should endeavour to report energy theft through our whistleblowing platform exopressyourself@ikejaelectric.com and also handover any apprehended vandals to police authorities for prosecution, while making

sure that adequate security measures are put in place to safeguard the infrastructure within their communities.

Ofulue, who said the company has been working closely with security agencies to address issues of vandalism, energy theft including assault on IE staff, advised customers not to attack Ikeja Electric staff in the course of carrying out their legal duties.

"Customers who have complaints or issues that need to be addressed should contact customer care unit through customercare@ikejaelectric.com, or 01-7000250, 01-2272940 or visit the nearest office. For emergencies, customers can call the emergency line 081-800-00741," he explained.

The speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt Hon Femi Gbajabiamila, has commenced the construction of a modern and international standard fire service station in Coker-Aguda Local Council Development Area.

The project is being constructed on a piece of land cut out from Jubilee Model Grammar School in Coker Community.

According to the council chairman, Hon. Rasaq Olamilekan, the project will enhance swift response to any safety and fire incident within and around Orile Iganmu, Coker and Aguda Communities.

He said the emergency response team will arrive in time compared to the response team coming from other distance

Gbajabiamila constructs fire service station in Coker Aguda

By Saheed Afolabi

federal fire service stations.

Olamilekan said he is

hopeful that the emergence of the new fire service station will be the end of fire incident in the council area due to the orientation and

training sessions which will be organised for the residents by the state and federal fire service commands.

The fire service station is

expected to employ active youths within the council area and reduce crimes and unemployment rate in the community.



Rt Hon Femi Gbajabiamila



FIFA badge is my target - Shade Ekun

By Saheed Afolabi

Referees play important roles in sport and football seems to be the sport where referees are heavily criticized due to the emotional swings of fans, players, football enthusiasts and coaches.

Recently awarded the best referee in Lagos State, Shade Ekun popularly known as Standard, is believed by football lovers as one of the best referee in Nigeria presently due to her fantastic knowledge about the game and she does her job perfectly well devoid of any controversies.

Speaking to ECHONEWS, the dark skinned passionate referee said she wasn't expecting to be named the best referee in Lagos State because she has been officiating for a while and said that getting a FIFA badge is her target because she has worked for it and it's about time she earn it.

"I'm happy, I was not expecting it because I've been officiating the Lagos FA Cup for some years now and I appreciate the Lagos State Referees Association and Almighty God for making it possible.

"My next Target is to be a FIFA badge referee and it will happen by God's will and grace because I believe I have worked hard for it and will be happy if given to me."



Shade Ekun

HRA Youth Cup'll impact on players lives - Jakande

The 2nd edition of the HRA Youth Cup saw winners emerged in different categories as top political personalities led by the executive vice chairman of Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Hon. Seyi Jakande graced the event in style.

The tournament which focuses mainly on the development of the age grade football players and exposed them to a competitive level.

Speaking to ECHONEWS, the council vice chairman described the tournament as a nice one which came into being as an avenue to direct the energy and time of the youths to a productive state and have a big impact in their lives.

"It's a very nice tournament and the motive behind the HRA Youth Cup is to direct

the energy and time of the youth to a productive state, the tournament will have a very big impact in their life.

"Today being the final is obvious that the finalists have come through different stages of victory at different level.

"For me, I think we have come to witness the best of the teams within Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA and everybody today is a

winner and we have demonstrated that by either going home with a medal or going home with the trophy."



Hon Seyi Jakande

Funtwins FC specialise in scouting, devt of players - Okpokiri

By Saheed Afolabi

Newly established football club in Nigeria, Funtwins FC have stated their aims and objectives in their operation in the country. The club said it targets player within the age range of 16-18 years who are to be trained at grassroots for higher positions in footballing.

Speaking to ECHONEWS, one of the directors of the club, Christian Okpokiri said that the aim of the club is to establish a road network of actualising the ambition of young footballers.

He added that the club have recruited top coaches and also made an arrangement of conductive accommodation, which will serve as a camp for the

players scouted by the club before preparing a move for them to Europe. "We specialise in scouting young footballers, talent discovery, monitoring, development and facilitating the appropriate avenue for the talent use.

"We work with different age groups but mostly those who are in a professional level or marketable players."





Exploiting the Poultry Industry Potential

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The Poultry Sector is a huge one, contributing about 25% of agricultural GDP to the economy, with a net worth of about N1.6 trillion. Yet, there remain the challenges of smuggling, and the huge gap between demand and supply. Now, as stimulus for the sector, the Central Bank of Nigeria has disbursed funds to over 166 poultry projects across the nation, and partnered with relevant bodies towards food sufficiency, job creation and eliminating poultry importation by 2023

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