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Lagos state recorded the highest count of People Living With HIV in the recent report by the National Data Repository with Eti-Osa Local Government Area taking the lead with 6.1 per cent.

Data from the Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA) also indicates that more than 24,000 HIV-positive cases were recorded in the state over a two-year period ending in November 2025.

Eti-Osa Local Government Area recorded the highest prevalence rate at 6.1%, followed by Ibeju-Lekki and Epe at 3.1% each. Other areas with notable prevalence include Ojo (3.1%), Apapa (2.9%), and Ikorodu (2.8%).

The state accounts for the growing number of children under the age of 14 that died from the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in Nigeria over

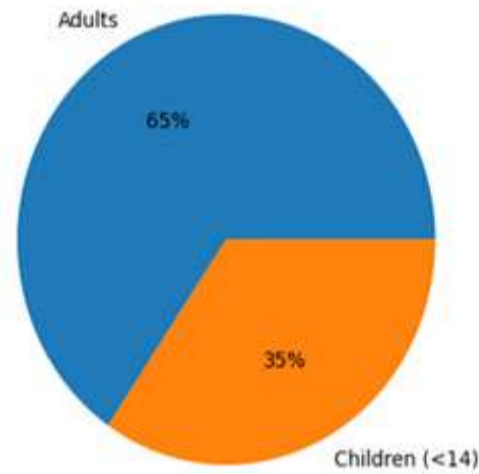
ETI-OSA LGA TOPS AIDS PREVALENCE COUNT

By Kunle Awosiyun

the past year, according to the NDR report. Out of 43,683 AIDS-related deaths recorded nationwide in late 2025, 15,094 were children under 14, while 28,589 were adults.

The state accounting for the highest number of cases, underscores its position as one of the country's most affected regions. Although disaggregated figures for AIDS-related deaths specific to Lagos between 2025 and 2026 are not explicitly available, the state continues to bear a significant share of the national HIV burden. As of late 2025, an estimated 160,000 people are living with

(NATIONAL HIV/AIDS DEATH DISTRIBUTION (2025))



“Children account for 35% of HIV deaths in Nigeria”

This clearly shows that over **1 in 3 deaths are children**, reinforcing gaps in PMTCT (Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission).

HIV in Lagos, with about 147,466 currently receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART). In the first quarter of 2026 alone, the state

recorded 2,298 new infections, the highest in the country within the period. Despite a general decline in HIV infections

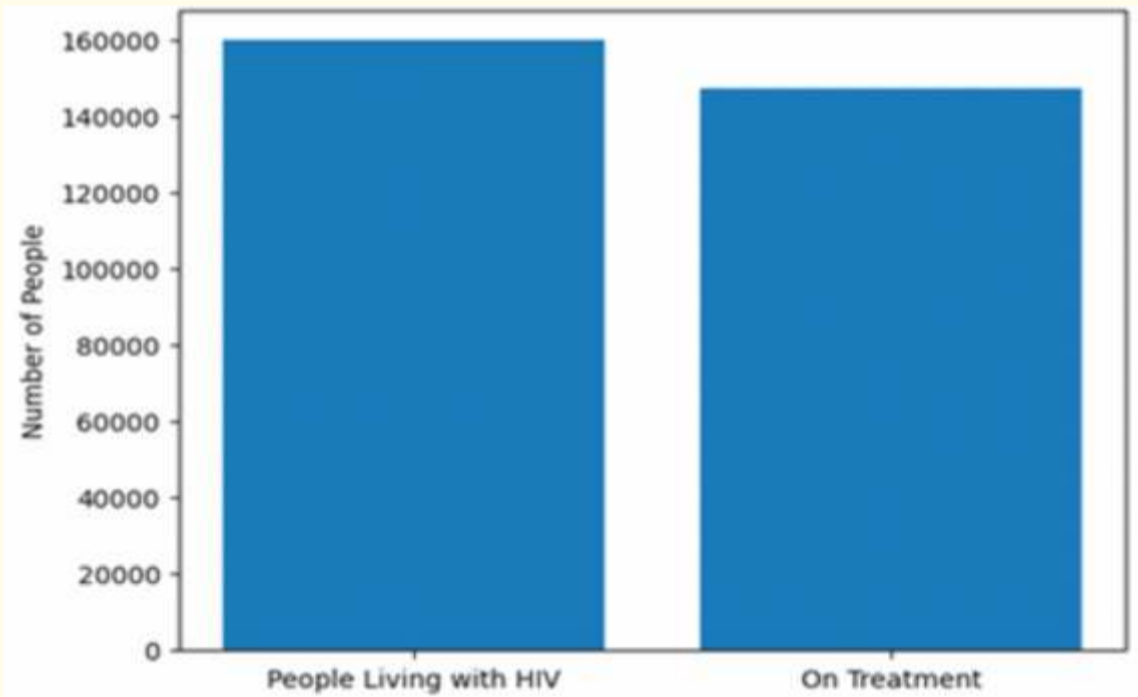
nationwide since 2020, Lagos remains a focal point due to its dense population and urban mobility.

Studies have linked the rising number of AIDS-related deaths to financial hardship among patients and gaps in healthcare support systems.

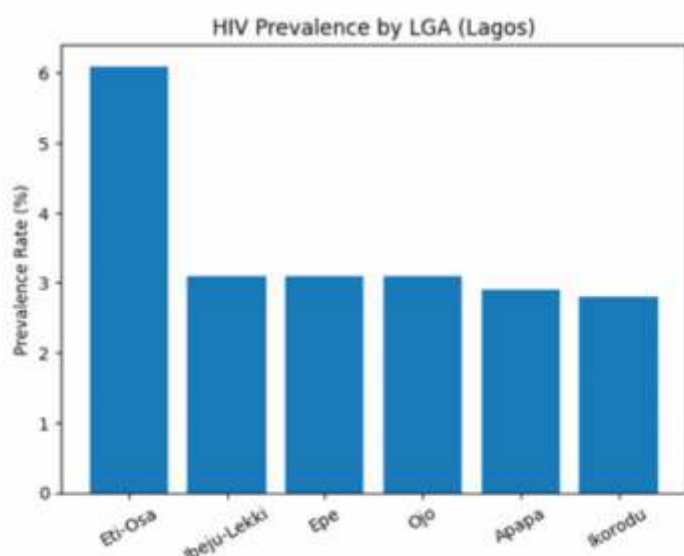
While 147,466 out of ~160,000 are on ART (strong coverage), the continued spike in infections suggests prevention is lagging behind treatment. A study titled “The Impact of HIV/AIDS on Household Income: A Case Study of Lagos State” found that

approximately 60% of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) receive treatment outside their residential areas, increasing transportation costs and limiting access to care. The study also noted that women are disproportionately affected, accounting for up to 65% of respondents in some cases, often bearing the dual burden of caregiving and income loss.

LAGOS HIV TREATMENT COVERAGE



“High treatment coverage, yet new infections persist”



“Eti-Osa emerges as Lagos HIV hotspot”

Eti-Osa significantly higher at **6.1%**
Cluster of mid-level prevalence LGAs (3.1%)

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Eti-osa LGA Tops Aids Prevalence Count

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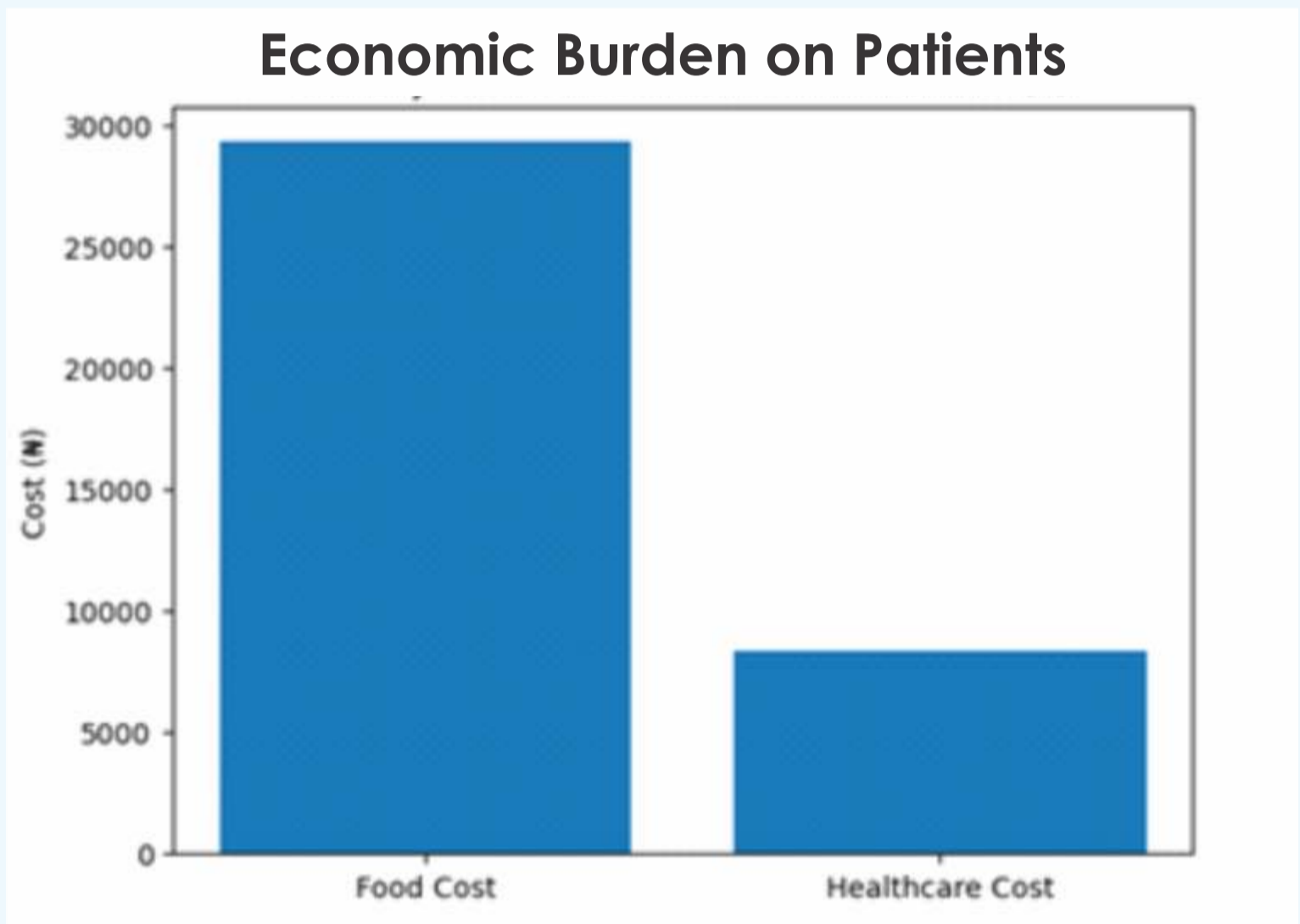
Another study by Adeyinka Adeniran, Omobola Y. Ojo and others on catastrophic health expenditure revealed that the average monthly spending on food among PLWHAs is about 29,282 (\$53.2), while healthcare costs average 8,364 (\$15.2). Nearly 60% of respondents reported borrowing money to cover medical expenses, while about 96% had no form of health insurance. The findings highlight the financial vulnerability of affected households and reinforce calls for improved financial risk protection mechanisms. The World Health Organization recommends that health spending should not exceed 10% of household consumption or 25% of income. However, global estimates show that over 150 million people incur catastrophic health expenditures annually, with more than 100 million pushed into poverty due to out-of-pocket healthcare payments. The Lagos State AIDS Control Agency says it is

intensifying efforts to curb the spread of HIV and reduce mortality rates. Chief Executive Officer of LSACA, Dr. Folakemi Animashaun, said the agency is strengthening infection prevention and control measures in primary healthcare centres, while

expanding community advocacy and testing campaigns. According to her, more than 222,000 people were tested for HIV between January and September 2025, a decline compared to the previous year due to funding disruptions and

operational challenges affecting outreach programmes. A statewide campaign during the 2025 World AIDS Day recorded over 9,900 tests in its initial phase, with a positivity rate of about 2%. Testing efforts are increasingly focused on high-burden areas such

as Ikorodu, Badagry, Ojo, and Mushin, with particular attention to women and young people aged 20 to 35. LSACA maintains that individuals who test positive are promptly linked to care, with nearly 147,466 people currently on ART in Lagos.



“HIV patients spend over N37,000 monthly on survival”
Combine with: 60% borrowing + 96% uninsured

Health experts and researchers have called on government authorities to expand access to affordable and responsive health insurance schemes, particularly for vulnerable populations. They also recommend increased funding for HIV-related support services, including transportation, nutrition, and accommodation for patients undergoing treatment. Further investments in research and innovation in HIV treatment and prevention are also identified as critical to reducing the long-term impact of the disease.



LASCOPA Advocates Safe Products, Consumer Rights at WAMCO

As part of ongoing public sensitisation and stakeholder engagement efforts, the General Manager of the Lagos State Consumer Protection Agency (LASCOPA) attended the FrieslandCampina WAMCO Nigeria Limited Regulatory Parley held recently at the Oludolapo Akinugbe Academy. The parley brought together key stakeholders from the Federal Government and Lagos State regulatory ministries and agencies to foster collaboration and strengthen regulatory alignment. In his remarks, the General Manager emphasised the importance of ensuring Safe Products, Confident Consumers, in line with the theme of World Consumer Rights Day 2026. He noted that consumer confidence is built on

the availability of safe, high-quality products that meet established standards and regulatory requirements. According to him, when consumers are assured of product safety, they are better empowered to make informed choices and actively participate in the marketplace. Furthermore, speaking on product replacement and compensation, the General Manager reiterated that consumers have the right to seek redress when sold defective, substandard, or unsafe products. He stressed that businesses have a responsibility to promptly replace faulty goods or provide adequate compensation where necessary, in accordance with consumer protection laws. Solebo also encouraged consumers to report grievances through

appropriate channels, assuring them of the Agency's continued commitment to protecting consumer rights and ensuring fair treatment in the marketplace. The parley provided a platform for constructive dialogue, collaboration, and alignment on regulatory standards, compliance, and industry best practices. It also reinforced the commitment of FrieslandCampina WAMCO Nigeria Limited to maintaining high-quality production standards and fostering a transparent relationship with regulatory bodies. The engagement underscores the importance of public-private sector collaboration in advancing consumer protection, food safety, and sustainable growth within Nigeria's dairy

industry. Regulatory bodies in attendance included the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC), National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Lagos State Ministry of Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment (MCCTI), Lagos State Consumer Protection Agency (LASCOPA), Lagos State Wastewater Management Office (LASWMO), Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA), Lagos State Water Regulatory Commission (LAWRECO), Lagos State Internal Revenue Service (LIRS), and Lagos State Advertising and Signage Agency (LASAA).

Alli-Balogun's Book Links Lagos With Lagos People



The Lagos State Records and Archives Bureau (LASRAB) attended the official presentation of the book "Alli-Balogun and the Nupe Dimensions of Lagos History," authored by Dr. Gbolahan Taiwo Alli-Balogun, held at the MUSON Centre, Lagos. The event brought together traditional rulers, scholars, historians, government officials, and cultural enthusiasts to celebrate the enduring legacy of Alli-Balogun and his contributions to the socio-political development of Lagos. The book, featuring a foreword by Babatunde Raji Fashola (S.A.N, C O N), provides a compelling exploration of the historical linkages between the Nupe people and Lagos, shedding light on previously underrepresented narratives. The programme served as a platform for re-examining Lagos' historical narratives through the lens of Nupe influence, with presentations and discussions illuminating the diverse forces behind the growth of the metropolis. The Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Information & Strategy, Mr. Olanrewaju Bajulaiye, who anchored the programme, described Lagos as "A living narrative of resilience, innovation, and cultural fusion, emphasising the importance of preserving history for future generations". LASRAB showcased cultural artefacts, rare publications, archival materials, and historical photographs, offering guests a deeper, visual engagement with Lagos' past. The display complemented the theme of the event, "Alli-Balogun and the Nupe Dimensions of Lagos History," and enriched discussions on the interconnected cultural influences that have shaped the state. Its participation underscores its continued commitment to making history accessible and engaging, while supporting initiatives that document and celebrate Lagos' rich heritage. The Bureau remains a key stakeholder in heritage preservation, research support, and cultural promotion, fostering partnerships that ensure the safeguarding of invaluable records for future generations.





LASCOPA Intensifies Crackdown On Expired, Hazardous Products

As part of activities commemorating World Health Day, the Lagos State Consumer Protection Agency (LASCOPA) has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of Lagosians through sustained market surveillance and enforcement operations.

The General Manager, LASCOPA, Afolabi Solebo Esq., disclosed that the Agency recently carried out an extensive enforcement exercise across over 200 stores and supermarkets within the State. This operation resulted in the discovery, seizure, and

removal of a significant volume of expired, substandard, and hazardous products from circulation.

He noted that such products pose serious health risks to consumers if left unchecked, stressing that the Agency will continue to enforce strict compliance with consumer protection laws.

According to him, erring businesses were sanctioned in accordance with existing regulations.

Solebo further highlighted that the Agency operates dedicated Scientific Investigative Research, as well as Monitoring and Enforcement departments, which work collaboratively to

protect Lagosians from unsafe and substandard products.

He revealed that approximately 80 per cent of hazardous products in circulation are linked to poor handling and improper storage. He therefore urged manufacturers and distributors to strengthen public sensitisation on proper product storage and handling to maintain quality and safety standards.

The General Manager also advised consumers to remain vigilant by checking product labels, expiry dates, and overall quality before making purchases. He called on members of the public to promptly report cases of consumer

rights violations to the Agency for swift intervention.

He said his team has been embarking on sensitisation, consumer education and public enlightenment exercises in previous years. He also cautioned that prolonged exposure of plastic-bottled liquids to heat and sunlight may cause chemical substances from the plastic to leach into the contents, compromise product quality, and pose potential health risks to consumers.

He also advised the residents to avoid exposing bottled water, soft drinks, and other consumable liquids to direct sunlight for extended periods, as well as reusing single-

use plastic bottles, especially for storing drinking water.

The General Manager seized the opportunity to advise Lagosians to patronise products that are properly stored and handled by vendors and the manufacturer.

"Health is not merely the absence of illness, but a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being. As consumers, the choices we make daily on what we eat, drink, and use have a direct impact on our overall health," he stated.

He assured Lagosians that LASCOPA will continue to intensify its enforcement drive to rid the market of unsafe products and uphold consumer rights across the State.

Sanwo-Olu Unveils Popo Aguda Community Centre

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has commissioned the Paulinus Olusegun Carrena Popo Aguda Community Centre, a state-of-the-art three-storey building located on Bamgbose Street, Lagos Island.

The community centre, named after the father of the First Lady, Pa Paulinus Olusegun Carrena, a renowned Nigerian educator and administrator, is equipped with modern facilities designed to enhance the quality of life of the community members.

In his address, Governor Sanwo-Olu expressed delight in witnessing the completion of the project, urging community members to be selfless towards one another. He acknowledged the presence of esteemed guests and dignitaries, appreciating their support in making the event a success.

The First Lady, Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, dedicated the community centre to the people, emphasizing that it is a give-back to the community project. She thanked her husband, the Governor, for his unwavering support in actualizing the project.

Dr. Oluyinka Olumide, Honorable Commissioner, Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, described the commissioning as a historic moment, highlighting the state's commitment to community development. He assured that adequate security measures are in place, including a car park and open spaces for display.

The General Manager, Lagos State Physical Planning Permits Authority (LASPPA), Tpl. Kehinde Osinaike, presented the Planning Permit Approval to the First Lady, commending her for adhering to due process.

The Representative of the Popo Aguda Community, Hon. Razak Abiodun, expressed gratitude to the Governor and the First Lady, assuring that the community centre will be

maintained and utilized for the benefit of the people.

The event was attended by notable dignitaries, including Mr. Pedro Lawal, SAN, Honourable Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Lagos State; Chief Babajide Damazio, Apex Leader APC (Lagos State), and Prof. Abisogun Leigh, Former Vice Chancellor, Lagos State University (LASU), among others.

The commissioning was marked with vibrant performances, including a display by the Boi & Brazilian Campus Garretta.

The Lagos State



Government remains committed to improving the lives of its citizens through initiatives like the Popo Aguda Community Centre.

Lagos Inaugurates Takwa Bay PHC

... Aims To Expand Healthcare Access To Residents of Riverine Communities

The Lagos State Government on Thursday took a significant step towards achieving universal healthcare access with the commissioning of the renovated and upgraded Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Takwa Bay, Iru-

Victoria Island LCDA.

Speaking during the Commissioning of the facility, the Permanent Secretary, Health District III, Dr. Monsurat Adeleke reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to the mandate that no resident is left behind in

access to quality healthcare service delivery. She added that the initiative aimed at bringing essential health services to riverine communities stressing that as part of the commissioning activities, a comprehensive medical outreach was conducted

for residents of Takwa Bay. She mentioned that the medical outreach activities include - hypertension and diabetes screening. Test for Syphilis, Hepatitis B, HIV, malaria and urinalysis. Dental Checks with extraction, blindness prevention screening with free corrective glasses, Prostate Cancer screening, among others.

According to her, one of the challenges is the poor health-seeking behaviour of the community members. She advised residents of Takwa Bay to utilise the services available at this facility.

The Chairman of Iru Victoria Island LCDA, Hon. Aminat Alabi while delivering her keynote address said the unveiling of the physical structure reaffirmed the present administration's commitment to the well-being of the community.

"As part of this intervention, we have successfully installed a 24-hour solar power system and constructed a four-bedroom en-suite staff quarters. This project strongly aligns with our administrative goals particularly in the case of healthcare service delivery", she said.



UK Ministry of Justice Delegation Undertakes Learning Visit To Lagos

The Lagos Multi-Door Courthouse (LMDC) recently hosted a delegation from the United Kingdom Ministry of Justice on a learning visit aimed at fostering knowledge exchange in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and court-connected mediation. The UK delegation, comprising Sorrel Evans, Justice, Home Affairs Attaché and Christina Soper, Head of Unit, Rule of Law, Ministry of Justice, was received by the former Director/CEO of the LMDC, Mrs. Achere Cole, alongside members of the Management Team. She reaffirmed the LMDC's

commitment to continuous learning, institutional excellence, and international collaboration. The LMDC Management Team provided an overview of their

respective roles and responsibilities within the institution. Mrs. Olubusola Ojo, the former Registrar and Head of Operations, led detailed discussions on the LMDC's operations,

highlighting its institutional framework, case management processes, and the guiding principles underpinning its success. Earlier, the delegation outlined the

purpose of the visit: to gain insight into the LMDC's innovative Multi-Door Courthouse model and to explore best practices in access to justice and dispute resolution. The visit

underscored the shared commitment of both jurisdictions to strengthening the rule of law and advancing the use of ADR mechanisms in the delivery of justice.



The Lagos State Government, through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, convened a high-level Inter-Ministerial Stakeholders' Engagement on the Clean Lagos Electricity Market, reinforcing its commitment to building a sustainable, reliable, and investor-friendly electricity ecosystem.

The engagement brought together Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), alongside regulators, private sector players, investors, and industry experts, to deliberate on the implications of the Electricity Act 2023 and the Lagos

Independent Electricity Market: Lagos Holds Inter-Ministerial Stakeholders Meeting

Electricity Law 2024, which provide the legal framework for the State to establish and regulate its own electricity market.

Delivering the keynote address, the Honourable Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, Mr. Biodun Ogunleye, described the Electricity Act 2023 as a landmark reform that devolves regulatory and operational powers to subnational governments. He noted that this development positions Lagos State to regulate electricity across the value chain, generation,

transmission, distribution, and supply, thereby enabling the creation of a competitive and efficient electricity market.

The Commissioner outlined the State's strategic priorities, including the development of a financially viable electricity market, expansion of access to reliable power supply, promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency, protection of consumer interests, and strengthening of regulatory and institutional frameworks.

He emphasised the

pivotal role of the Lagos State Electricity Regulatory Commission (LASERC) in licensing operators, setting tariffs, enforcing standards, and ensuring transparency and investor confidence. Addressing the State's plan to deliver an additional 6GW of power capacity, he highlighted key challenges such as financing constraints, gas supply limitations, transmission bottlenecks, land acquisition issues, and regulatory overlaps with federal institutions. He, however, reaffirmed

the State Government's commitment to addressing these challenges through clear policy direction and strategic public-private partnerships. Other contributors, including the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Energy and Mineral Resources, Mr. Akintunbosun Emmanuel, underscored the importance of the 6GW initiative in positioning Lagos as an energy-secure megacity.

Representatives of LASERC and the Lagos State Independent System

Operator also stressed the need for strong regulatory coordination, financial viability, grid stability, and efficient system operations.

The engagement concluded with a renewed commitment by the Lagos State Government to deepen collaboration across MDAs and stakeholders, drive ongoing reforms, and deliver a modern, resilient, and sustainable electricity market that supports economic growth and improves the quality of life for Lagosians.



Health District V Inducts New Health Personnel

The Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health District V, Dr. Oladapo Asiyambi, has urged the newly inducted health personnel to embrace a growth mindset and align with the Lagos State THEMES Plus Agenda in advancing Universal Health Coverage.

Speaking at a one-day induction programme themed "Inducting the New Era: Cultivating a Growth Mindset to Change the Narrative," held at the Amuwo Odofin Local Government Secretariat Hall, Festac, on 30th March 2026, he highlighted key priorities including reducing maternal and infant mortality, improving life expectancy, and ensuring equitable access to quality and affordable healthcare. He further emphasised the adoption of digital tools and data-driven strategies to strengthen healthcare delivery, improve reporting accuracy, and enhance patient tracking, while reiterating the importance of data privacy, professionalism, and sustained commitment to efficient, patient-centred

service delivery.

Dr. Asiyambi also outlined key targets such as improving data timeliness, increasing antenatal care completion, reducing immunisation dropouts, and strengthening collaboration with Traditional Birth Attendants. He said, performance data from recent years indicate that while the district has recorded notable successes, including full BCG immunisation coverage and increased antenatal care attendance, there remain critical gaps in service utilisation and patient retention, with dropout rates for follow-up immunisations and antenatal visits posing challenges, particularly in areas such as Badagry and Ojo.

The initiative aligns with the Lagos State Government's THEMES Plus Agenda, reinforcing its commitment to achieving Universal Health Coverage and improving health outcomes for all residents, regardless of socio-economic status. The Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, Dr.

Oladeinde Oluwaseun, highlighted the key components of Primary Health Care (PHC) service delivery, presenting relevant matrices to guide implementation.

He emphasised the adoption of standardised clinical protocols, strengthened disease prevention strategies, and the integration of health system support to enhance efficiency and quality service delivery across facilities.

The session further underscored the critical role of legal and policy frameworks, including the Lagos State Health Sector Reform Law and national guidelines, in promoting accountability, ensuring quality care, and driving improved health outcomes within communities.

In her slides, Director Medical Services and Disease Control Dr. Ahmad Amina Bello, while facilitating, reaffirmed the district's commitment to efficient and quality healthcare service delivery with the implementation of a structured organogram and clear communication

channels across its Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities. She noted that this initiative is designed to enhance coordination, improve service delivery, and ensure seamless flow of information, while also emphasising the importance of a well-defined system in promoting accountability, timely decision-making, and optimal healthcare outcomes for residents.

Also speaking at the event, a seasoned facilitator and former Director, Admin and HR Reform Department, Office of Transformation, Creativity and Innovations, Mr. Samuel Okedara, stressed the need to strengthen adherence to Public Service Rules (PSR) and promote efficient service delivery.

The session highlighted key areas including Recruitment and Appointment, Promotion Processes, Discipline, and Adherence to established procedures, while participants were sensitised on core work ethics such as Integrity, Accountability, Professionalism, and Transparency as essential

drivers of public trust and quality healthcare delivery. In his address, the Chairman of Amuwo Odofin Local Government, Hon. Lanre Sanusi, accompanied by the Supervisor for Health, Mrs. Fola Animashaun, welcomed the officers and underscored the importance of public trust in healthcare delivery.

He urged them to uphold discipline, professionalism, and compassion, remain accountable and loyal to the system, and respect constitutional authority by adhering to due process, while encouraging them to make a measurable impact in their communities, while reaffirming his administration's commitment to strengthening grassroots healthcare.

In his closing remarks, the Director, Administration and Human Resources of the District, Mr. Tesho Jawando, appreciated the newly inducted officers for their active participation and commitment throughout the programme.

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The Lagos–Calabar Coastal Road: Nigeria's Emerging Real Estate Frontier

By Emmanuel Daniji



If nightlife captures the vibrant pulse of Lagos today, the Lagos–Calabar Coastal Road may well be a preview of the Nigeria that is quietly forming along the Atlantic horizon.

Years from now, when historians and urban economists attempt to trace the birth of Nigeria's next great

development corridor, they may return to this stretch of coastline where a road began to redraw the country's economic geography. What is currently framed as a federal highway project is increasingly being imagined as something far more transformative—a coastal spine

capable of reshaping how Nigerians live, travel, invest and build cities.

Across Lagos, history has repeatedly shown that real estate growth rarely follows speculation alone; it follows infrastructure. Long before the skylines of Ikoyi and Lekki began to climb upward, roads had already mapped their futures. The

same story unfolded as development pushed outward from Chevron to Ajah, from Sangotedo to Epe. Each expansion began not with towers, but with access.

The Lagos–Calabar Coastal Road appears poised to extend that pattern on a far larger scale.

Stretching across

Nigeria's Atlantic shoreline, the corridor opens a chain of coastal communities that for decades remained physically distant from the country's urban growth centres. What once seemed remote could gradually become connected. Places that once existed outside the orbit of economic activity may begin to

attract attention as accessibility improves and movement follows the road.

Infrastructure has always carried a quiet but powerful sequence. Roads create access. Access invites movement. Movement generates demand. Demand encourages settlement. And

Continue on page x

The Lagos-Calabar Coastal Road: Nigeria's Emerging Real Estate Frontier

By Emmanuel Daniji



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Over time, settlements mature into cities.

From a futuristic lens, the coastal road begins to look less like a transport route and more like the early blueprint of a lifestyle corridor. In the decades ahead, the Atlantic-facing stretch may evolve into a ribbon of waterfront communities, tourism districts, logistics hubs and residential enclaves tied together by a single arterial route.

Even before the highway reaches full completion, small signals of that future are already emerging along sections of the Lagos coastal stretch. Beach resorts are appearing. Private estates are carving out space near the shoreline. Short-let apartments and

leisure hubs are beginning to frame the coastline as a destination rather than merely a boundary.

If the trajectory continues, the coastal belt could gradually become a place where Nigerians vacation, retire, host cultural festivals, operate hospitality businesses and build second homes overlooking the Atlantic. The same corridor that today carries construction equipment may tomorrow carry tourists, entrepreneurs, digital workers and families seeking a different pace of living by the sea.

For real estate investors, the road introduces a familiar but powerful dynamic: timing. Property markets tend to reward those who enter

when infrastructure is confirmed but the surrounding landscape is still evolving. The Lagos-Calabar Coastal Road has now crossed the threshold from idea to execution, and that shift alone begins to alter how land along the corridor is perceived.

In the future, land that once sold as distant coastal terrain may be described instead as the frontage of emerging cities. Coastal property has historically carried premium value across global markets, and the addition of a major federal highway introduces a new layer of economic potential.

Tourism could become one of the corridor's most powerful economic drivers. The Atlantic coastline provides a natural stage for beach festivals, eco-tourism, resort

communities and hospitality developments. Over time, a network of coastal attractions could form a tourism belt stretching across multiple states, drawing both domestic and international visitors.

Urban planners also see the possibility of something larger than mere city expansion. Infrastructure corridors of this magnitude often give birth to entirely new urban zones — master-planned districts designed around modern housing, commercial clusters, tech-friendly workspaces and lifestyle amenities. These are not simply extensions of older cities but fresh urban experiments shaped by new economic realities.

At the same time,

the corridor may gradually relieve pressure on Lagos itself. As population density, land scarcity and infrastructure strain intensify within the metropolis, development naturally seeks room to breathe. Coastal expansion could attract projects that require scale — resorts, logistics parks, mixed-use districts and waterfront residential communities.

The significance of the corridor may also lie in the diversity of entry points it creates for investors. The future coastal economy will not be built solely by billion-naira developments. It may grow through layers of participation — land banking, estate development, hospitality ventures, joint partnerships and mixed-use investments that unfold gradually as demand expands.

For everyday professionals, diaspora investors and emerging developers, the corridor represents something beyond conventional property acquisition. It becomes a question of positioning within a long-term urban transformation.

Looking ahead, global examples offer clues to what such corridors eventually become. Coastal highways around the world have historically done far more than move vehicles. Over time they have shaped waterfront downtowns, international hospitality destinations, creative hubs, luxury residential belts and logistics super-routes connecting cities across entire regions.

Nigeria's coastline remains one of its most underutilised economic assets. If sustained by policy consistency, infrastructure investment and responsible urban planning, the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Road could begin unlocking that dormant potential. Years from now, the road may no longer be spoken of merely as a construction project. It may instead be remembered as the corridor where Nigeria began building its next generation of coastal cities — places where land, lifestyle, commerce and culture meet the Atlantic and redraw the country's development map.

Lagos, World Bank, FCMB Push \$500m Education, Health Drive

Atume Terfa

A bold transformation is taking root in Lagos, where the state government has joined forces with the World Bank and First City Monument Bank (FCMB) to drive a sweeping \$500 million reform aimed at reshaping access to education and primary healthcare.

At the heart of this shift is the Human Capital Opportunities for Prosperity and Equity, Governance (HOPE-GOV) programme, an ambitious, system-wide intervention designed to repair deep-rooted inefficiencies in Nigeria's public service structure. Supported by the Federal Government and implemented nationwide, the initiative replaces the old spending culture with a results-based model, where funding is earned through measurable progress, not just allocated by routine.

For Lagos, the

reform signals a clear break from tradition. Under the leadership of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the focus has shifted toward real impact, ensuring that classrooms are better equipped and that primary health centres deliver timely, quality care, especially for mothers and children.

Early signs point to a system beginning to respond. Data tracking in schools is becoming sharper, healthcare services are more efficient, and procurement processes are more transparent. These often unseen adjustments are quietly eliminating bottlenecks, helping resources flow faster and more effectively to the people who

need them most. Through its technical guidance, the World Bank has positioned the programme as a direct response to long-standing governance challenges in both sectors. FCMB, on the other hand, is playing a crucial financial role, managing the movement of funds and highlighting how

private sector expertise can strengthen public sector outcomes. Since its rollout in 2025, HOPE-GOV has steadily evolved into a benchmark for reform—where accountability, efficiency, and performance now define success. While the full impact is still unfolding, the direction is unmistakable:

stronger institutions, smarter spending, and more dependable services. Beyond the figures and frameworks, the real impact is being felt on the ground, in improved learning environments and more responsive healthcare centres, where results, not rhetoric, are fast becoming the new standard of governance.



Lagos Airport Soars to Africa's Fastest-Growing Aviation Hub

Atume Terfa



Murtala Muhammed International Airport is rapidly redefining its status on the continental stage, posting a striking 11.8 percent rise in air traffic in 2025, earning it the distinction of Africa's fastest-growing major airport.

The figures, released by the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), signal more than a recovery, they point to a powerful resurgence in Nigeria's aviation ecosystem. Unveiled before industry leaders at a key continental forum, the data places Lagos firmly

at the centre of Africa's evolving air travel network. But the growth story doesn't end with passenger numbers. Cargo activity surged even more dramatically, climbing by 34.4 percent and positioning Lagos as a rising force in air freight and logistics across the

region. This upward trajectory reflects a broader transformation within Nigeria's aviation sector. Alongside Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Lagos now ranks among Africa's busiest domestic travel corridors, contributing to

over 10.5 million passenger movements and reinforcing the country's standing as one of the continent's largest aviation markets. FAAN's Managing Director, Olubunmi Kuku, described the milestone as a defining moment, noting that the numbers reflect Nigeria's growing

influence as a hub for connectivity, commerce, and regional integration. As the aviation landscape across Africa continues to shift, Lagos is no longer just a gateway, it is fast becoming a powerhouse, driving movement, trade, and opportunity across borders.

Nigeria's digital landscape has received a significant upgrade as Digital Realty and the Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria (IXPN) officially launched a new Internet Exchange Point at the Lekki data centre in Lagos, marking another step toward faster, cheaper, and more resilient local internet traffic. The new interconnection hub expands IXPN's presence within Digital Realty's growing Lagos infrastructure network, adding Lekki as a strategic node alongside its existing footprint, including its Victoria Island operations. The integration strengthens intra-city connectivity by enabling data to

Digital Realty, IXPN Launch Lekki Internet Exchange in Lagos

Atume Terfa

move more directly between networks with significantly reduced latency. Industry insights highlight the strategic importance of the Lekki facility, which sits within Nigeria's fast-growing digital corridor and benefits from proximity to major subsea cable systems such as 2Africa. These undersea links connect Africa to

Europe and other global internet routes, positioning Lagos as a critical gateway for international data exchange. By bringing more traffic exchange points closer to local networks, the new setup allows internet service providers, cloud platforms, and content networks to peer domestically rather than routing traffic through overseas

hubs. This shift improves speed, reduces congestion, and lowers operational costs across Nigeria's internet ecosystem. IXPN continues to expand its national infrastructure footprint, operating multiple exchange points across key cities to support increasing data consumption and strengthen Nigeria's position in regional

connectivity. The Lekki addition further consolidates its leadership role in West Africa's internet exchange landscape. For Digital Realty, the development reinforces its long-term strategy of building carrier-neutral, scalable infrastructure designed to support hyperscalers, enterprises, and cloud service

providers across Africa's fastest-growing digital markets. As digital demand surges, Lagos is steadily cementing its reputation as a continental connectivity powerhouse, where submarine cables, data centres, and internet exchange points converge to drive the future of Africa's online economy.



Dangote Rolls Back Fuel Price After Crude Oil Decline

Atume Terfa

Nigeria's fuel market has taken a fresh turn as the Dangote Petroleum Refinery reversed its recent petrol price increase, responding to a softening in global crude oil prices. The adjustment comes just days after the refinery raised its ex-depot

price amid a temporary surge in international crude benchmarks. With oil prices now easing, the company has moved to realign its pricing structure with prevailing market conditions, reflecting the direct link between crude

input costs and refined fuel pricing. Industry updates indicate that the price of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) has been adjusted downward to about 1,200 per litre, effectively cancelling out an earlier increase estimated at around 75 per litre. The refinery's

pricing shift is tied to fluctuations in the global oil market, where geopolitical tensions and supply uncertainties had previously pushed crude prices higher. As those pressures eased, downstream pricing quickly followed suit. Energy analysts note that the development highlights the full

impact of deregulation in Nigeria's petroleum sector, where domestic fuel prices now move in near real-time response to international crude trends rather than fixed government subsidy structures. The ripple effect of the adjustment is expected to filter through the supply chain, influencing retail pump prices as marketers and

fuel distributors update their rates in line with the new ex-depot figures. For consumers, the rollback offers immediate relief at the pump—but also reinforces a new reality: fuel prices in Nigeria are now closely tethered to global oil volatility, with shifts in crude markets quickly reshaping everyday transport costs.





Residents Lament Poor State of Alakuko Road

Kehinde Adeleye

Residents of Alakuko in Ijaiye Ojokoro Local Government Area have called on the Lagos State Government to urgently intervene in the deteriorating condition of the Baale Animashaun Road, describing it as unsafe and long abandoned. Many residents say the road, which has been in poor shape for years, has continued to worsen their daily struggles, making movement difficult and damaging their vehicles while also slowing down economic activity in the area. Speaking on behalf of residents, Comrade

Abayomi Oguntuase said the road has been neglected for over six to seven years despite repeated appeals to authorities. According to him, "The Baale Animashaun Road in Alakuko has been in a serious state of disrepair for over six or seven years. We have made several efforts as residents and road users, even taking our complaints to social media." He added that previous government intervention only provided temporary relief. "Officials came and dumped stones on the road

as a palliative. But that is not a solution. What we need is proper rehabilitation." Oguntuase explained that the condition of the road has made life difficult for both residents and business owners, noting that constant vehicle damage has increased the financial burden on commuters. "You can hardly drive on that road without damaging your tyres. Nothing is working on that road," he said. Another resident, Ade Makinde, stressed the economic importance of the road, describing it as a key alternative route that helps ease

traffic when the expressway is congested. He said, "It is difficult to quantify the time and resources lost because of that road. When there is traffic on the expressway, this is the alternative route people rely on." Makinde also raised concerns about emergency response delays, noting that poor road conditions make it difficult for security and medical services to reach the area quickly. "Even when you call the police, it can take 30 to 40 minutes to get here when it should only take a few minutes. Vehicles also break

down frequently," he said. He warned that the situation could worsen during the rainy season, saying the road often becomes completely impassable, forcing residents to rely on inner routes. Similarly, Matthew Adeleye called on the government to prioritise the rehabilitation of the road, stressing its importance as a major link between Lagos and neighbouring Ogun State. He said, "The economic importance of this road cannot be ignored. It connects Alakuko to areas like Alagbole and Akute, and links to the Lagos Ibadan

Expressway. It is a critical route." Adeleye added that travel time along the corridor has increased significantly due to the poor condition of the road. "A journey that should take a short time now takes up to two and a half hours. This affects many communities along the route," he said. Residents are now appealing to the Lagos State Government to move beyond temporary fixes and undertake a full reconstruction of the road to improve safety, ease movement, and support economic activities in the area.

“New Fire Station Project to Improve Safety for Ikosi-Isheri Communities”

Kehinde Adeleye



Residents of Ikosi-Isheri LCDA are set to benefit from improved emergency response following the groundbreaking for a new fire station in the community. The Chairman of

the council, Samiat Abolanle Bada, led the ceremony, describing the project as a crucial step toward protecting lives and property. For many residents, the development

brings hope, especially in a community that has long lacked a dedicated fire service facility, often leaving people vulnerable during emergencies. The proposed fire station is expected to significantly

improve response time during fire outbreaks and other emergencies, helping to reduce losses and enhance public safety. Speaking at the event, the chairman acknowledged

the support of Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu in driving grassroots development, while also recognising the broader impact of policies under Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda. She described the

project as a reflection of responsive governance, assuring residents of continued efforts to build a safer, more resilient community where people can live and work with peace of mind.

Hundreds of Residents Benefit as Agege LG, T.Topps Slash Food Prices

Hundreds of residents in Agege have benefited from a 50% Food Discount Programme organised by the local government in partnership with T.Topps Foods, offering much-needed relief from rising food costs. The initiative provided access to essential food items such as rice, beans, garri, and cooking oil at significantly reduced prices, helping families meet their daily needs with less

financial pressure. For many households, the programme came as a timely intervention, allowing them to buy more food than they usually could afford. "I was able to get enough food for my family at half

the price. This really helps us," one beneficiary said. The large turnout and excitement among participants highlighted the impact of the programme, with hundreds of residents taking

advantage of the opportunity to ease the burden of high living costs. Organisers said the initiative reflects Agege Local Government's commitment to supporting residents and ensuring that governance

translates into real benefits for the people. With the success recorded, there are indications that similar programmes may be expanded to reach even more households, bringing continued relief to the community.



kidney-related illnesses: Healthcare professionals Call For Urgent Govt Intervention

Kehinde Adeleye

Healthcare professionals from Orile-Agege General Hospital have called for urgent interventions to improve access to life-saving treatment for residents, particularly those battling kidney-related illnesses. During a visit to the Chairman of Orile-Agege LCDA, Akinola Abiodun Idowu, the Medical

Director of the hospital and his team highlighted growing health concerns within the community and the need for stronger collaboration to address them. At the centre of the discussion was the proposed construction of a dialysis centre within the hospital. According to the doctors, many

residents suffering from kidney failure are currently forced to travel long distances to access treatment, a situation that places both financial and emotional strain on families. They explained that cases of end-stage renal disease are on the rise, driven by factors such as substance abuse, untreated high blood

pressure, and complications from diabetes—conditions that are increasingly common among residents. "For many patients, access to dialysis can mean the difference between life and death," one of the doctors noted, stressing that a local facility would bring relief closer to home.

Beyond kidney care, the medical team also raised concerns about vulnerable residents who struggle to afford basic healthcare. They appealed for stronger support for the "Sick Purse" initiative, a programme designed to help indigent patients receive treatment without delay. Children's health was also part of the conversation, with the team seeking partnership on the "Back-to-School Health Initiative," aimed at ensuring

pupils are medically fit and healthy for learning.

The issue of healthcare workers leaving local communities was also discussed. The Medical Director pointed to the ongoing Doctors' Quarters project, explaining that completing it would provide better living conditions for medical staff and help retain skilled professionals within the community.

Responding, Idowu acknowledged the challenges facing residents and reaffirmed his administration's commitment to improving healthcare delivery. He assured the team that steps would be taken to strengthen support for the hospital, including the provision of essential facilities and equipment.

The engagement reflects a shared goal between the local government and healthcare providers to ensure that residents of Orile-Agege have easier access to quality, affordable, and life-saving medical care.



New Road, New Opportunities for Itoki Community

Kehinde Adeleye

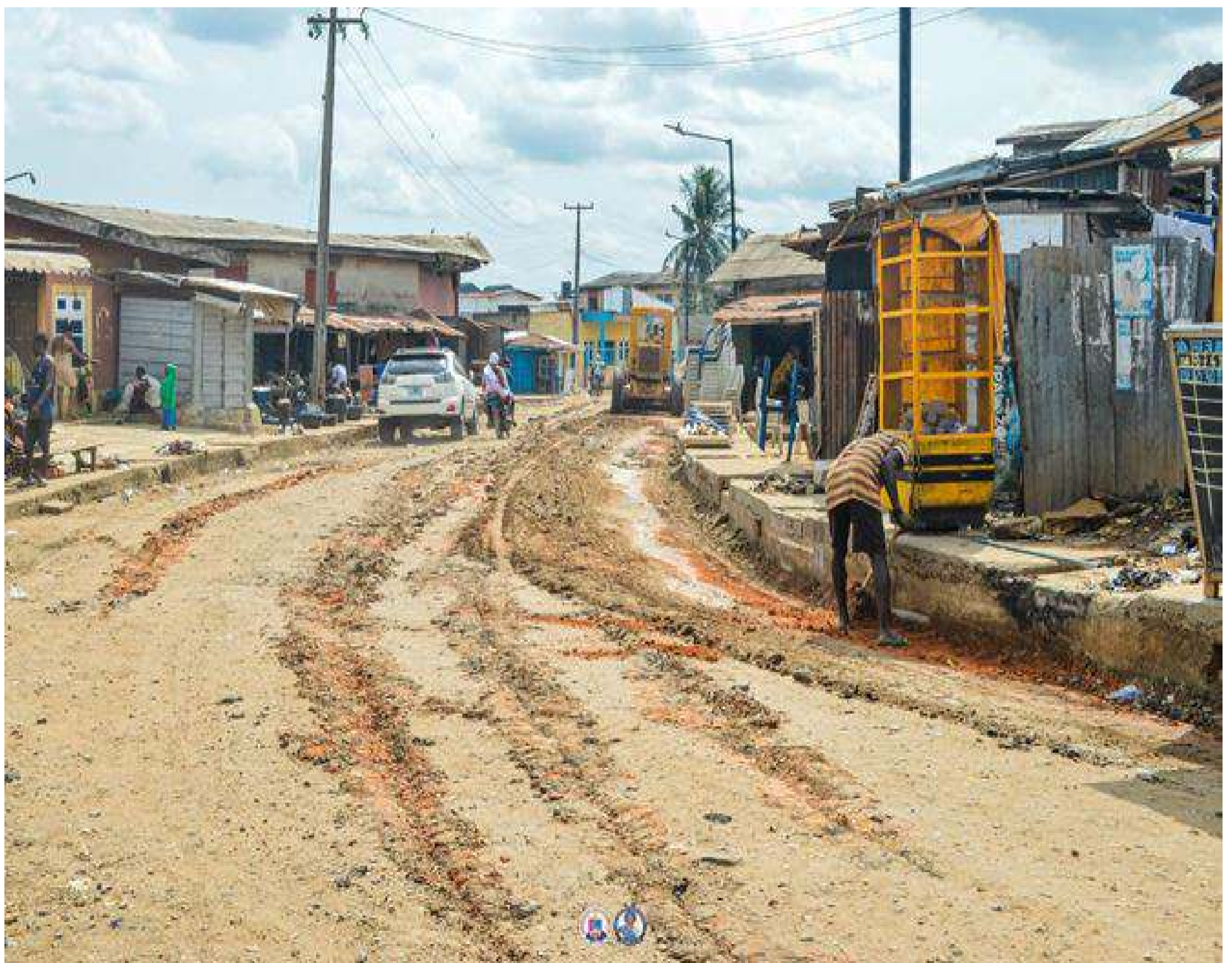
Residents and business owners along Itoki Compound Road are beginning to experience relief as long-awaited construction work on the road continues, bringing hope for easier movement and better living

conditions. For years, the road had been a major challenge, especially during the rainy season when flooding and poor drainage made it difficult for commuters, traders, and schoolchildren to move around

safely. Now, with visible construction activities ongoing, many residents say their daily struggles may soon become a thing of the past. "This road has been a problem for a long time. When it rains, everywhere becomes muddy and almost

impassable. What we are seeing now gives us hope," a resident shared. The project, initiated by the Chairman of Igando-Ikotun LCDA, Lasisi Ayinde Akinsanya, is expected to improve access within the

community, expressed optimism that improved access will lead to more economic activity, helping them grow their businesses. As work continues, residents say they are hopeful that the transformation of Itoki Compound Road will not only ease movement but also improve their overall quality of life.



City Boy Movement: Egbe-Idimu Leads Grassroots Engagement Drive

Kehinde Adeleye



Residents of Egbe-Idimu LCDA and the wider Alimosho Federal Constituency are set to benefit from improved grassroots engagement following the launch of a new outreach initiative aimed at bringing leadership closer to the people.

The Chairman of Egbe-Idimu LCDA, Idris Balogun, unveiled the City Boy Movement Bus as part of efforts to deepen political awareness and strengthen communication between government and residents. The initiative is expected to make

it easier for people at the community level to access information, engage with leaders, and participate more actively in governance. For many residents, the new platform represents an opportunity to have their voices heard and their concerns better

addressed, especially in areas that often feel disconnected from decision-making processes. The event was attended by Adamson Imole, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Industrial Training and Development, whose presence

highlighted growing collaboration between grassroots leadership and the Federal Government. Stakeholders noted that beyond politics, the outreach bus is designed to foster unity, promote awareness, and support

community-driven development across Egbe-Idimu and Alimosho. The initiative reflects a broader commitment to ensuring that governance is not distant, but accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the everyday needs of the people.



Hunpe Pledges Compassionate Healthcare for Badagry Residents

Badagry Local Government Chairman, Mr Babatunde Hunpe has pledged to hasten the pace of medical healthcare to residents as he received the newly appointed Medical Director and Chief Executive Officer of Badagry General Hospital, Dr. Adesola Oluseyi, in a strategic meeting aimed at strengthening collaboration between the Local

Government and the hospital for the benefit of residents.

He council boss described Badagry as Dr Oluseyi new home and assured him of full support from the Local Government. He further emphasized that the General Hospital remains a critical lifeline for thousands of residents who rely on it for quality healthcare.

Hunpe urged the new Medical Director to ensure

that all referrals from primary health centres are treated with speed, urgency and empathy especially emergency cases. "Our residents deserve prompt attention and dignity whenever they walk into any health facility," He said.

He acknowledged that operational challenges exist in every institution, but stressed that no resident should suffer unnecessary delays or disrespectful

treatment, as such experiences erode public confidence in the health system.

Hunpe made it clear that his administration has always prioritized healthcare and will continue to provide necessary support and interventions just as he did throughout his time as Member of the House of Representatives. He assured Dr. Oluseyi that the Local Government stands ready to

work with the hospital management to deliver better health outcomes for residents in Badagry.

Dr. Oluseyi lauded the council boss and shared ongoing initiatives already being implemented at the hospital, including dedicated phone lines for senior doctors to improve emergency response.

He also announced plans to convene a major

By Saheed Afolabi

stakeholders' forum involving youth groups, Community Development Associations, artisans, primary health workers and other key community representatives. The forum will focus on improving human relations and service delivery so that residents receive the compassionate and efficient care they deserve.

Hunpe Charges Junior Staff On Efficiency, Professionalism

Chairman of Badagry LG, Mr Babatunde Hunpe has charged all junior staff across departments of the council to embrace efficiency, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to service delivery. Speaking during a one-day capacity-building workshop organised exclusively for junior and middle-level officers, Hunpe declared

that the time for mediocrity in public service is over. He stated that efficiency is not optional but the minimum standard expected of every staff member under this administration. Every file handled, every citizen attended to, and every task executed must reflect speed, accuracy, and excellence. The workshop, which focused

sharply on workplace ethics, effective communication, public service standards, and productivity improvement, was deliberately designed to equip participants with practical tools to deliver results faster and better. Three impactful sessions were delivered by seasoned resource persons: Dr. Olaolu Adewunmi spoke on The Local Government System in the 21st

Century: An Overview and Functions of Clerical and Middle-Level Officers; Mr. S. M. Hundeyin presented on The Effective Functions of the Registry; and Mr. Babs Akinyanmi lectured on Work Ethics. Drawing from his own humble beginnings at the LASU Guest House, through his rise to Chief Protocol Officer at Lagos State University,

and into public service, Hunpe told the staff that personal growth does not happen by chance. He explained that he did not get to his position by luck but through continuous learning, deliberate self-development, and a refusal to accept average performance. He therefore charged the participants to take the knowledge gained

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from the workshop and immediately translate it into visible efficiency in their daily duties. The Chairman emphasised that the public should begin to experience a new Badagry Local Government where junior staff respond promptly, treat citizens with respect, and deliver services without unnecessary delay.

He stressed that the attitude and efficiency of staff are what shape the image of the council and that he would not tolerate laziness or poor service delivery under his watch.

Council Manager, Mrs. Avoseh Senami Oluwakemi, commended Hunpe for his unwavering priority on staff development. She noted that only a competent and efficient workforce can successfully implement the council's policies and programmes.



2027 Election: Badagry LG Chairman Urges Residents to Revalidate Voters Cards

Badagry Local Government Chairman, Mr. Babatunde Hunpe, has called on all eligible residents of the area to revalidate their voters cards and take full advantage of the ongoing Continuous Voters Registration (CVR) exercise by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Accompanied by the Chairman of Olorunda LCDA, A Jose Peter Kumayon, Hunpe personally led the way by revalidating his own voter's card at the Badagry Grammar School centre, which is hosting the Lagos West Senatorial District Mega Registration exercise. Speaking directly to the people of

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Badagry after completing his revalidation, the Chairman stressed that revalidating one's voter's card is not optional but a sacred duty every responsible citizen must perform without delay. "Your voter's card is not just a document; it is your voice and your power in

shaping the future of our community. I strongly urge every eligible resident to come out now and revalidate your voter's card. Do not wait until it is too late. This is your opportunity to secure your place in the democratic process." He emphasised that active participation by citizens is the bedrock of good

governance and true democracy. "As leaders, we must lead by example, and that is exactly what we have done today," he added. "Participating in this CVR exercise is a simple but very crucial step in ensuring that our people are not left out of the democratic process. Every

single vote counts, and every revalidated card strengthens our collective voice." The Chairman further appealed to residents who need to transfer their voting details or update any information on their cards to seize the opportunity now, assuring them that INEC has made the entire process simple,

fast, and accessible at the centre. Hunpe made it clear that the time to act is now, urging all eligible voters in Badagry and across the Lagos West Senatorial District to visit the registration centre without further and revalidate their voters cards for a stronger, more inclusive democracy.



Lekki Residents React as 90-Minute Rain Sparks Flash Flooding

Atume Terfa

Residents of Lekki were left stranded and frustrated after a torrential 90-minute downpour unleashed widespread flooding, once again laying bare the area's persistent drainage challenges.

What began as a routine rainfall quickly spiralled into disruption, as parts of Lekki Phase 1 were overtaken by rising water, transforming major roads into streams and forcing commuters to navigate knee-deep floods. Movement slowed to a halt, businesses shut their doors, and several homes, especially in low-lying zones, were inundated within hours.

For locals, the incident is far from isolated. Many point to a recurring pattern driven by weak drainage systems, blocked waterways, and rapid urban expansion that



continues to outstrip infrastructure capacity. Across the Lekki corridor, similar flooding episodes have become increasingly common, often worsened by unregulated construction and poor waste management. The latest development

comes at a time when authorities have already warned that Lagos could witness above-average rainfall in 2026, raising concerns that such flash floods may become more frequent and severe.

Experts attribute the situation to a mix of natural and human factors.

Lekki's coastal terrain, rising sea levels, and intense rainfall patterns create a perfect storm when combined with inadequate drainage. In such conditions, water has little room to escape, leading to rapid flooding even after short periods of rain.

But for residents, the reality is

immediate and pressing. Beyond the environmental explanations, the floods are crippling daily life, damaging property, disrupting livelihoods, and increasing exposure to health risks associated with stagnant water.

As the rainy season intensifies, the

latest flooding episode serves as a warning signal: without urgent upgrades to drainage infrastructure and stricter enforcement of urban planning regulations, even a brief downpour will continue to bring one of Lagos' most upscale districts to a standstill.

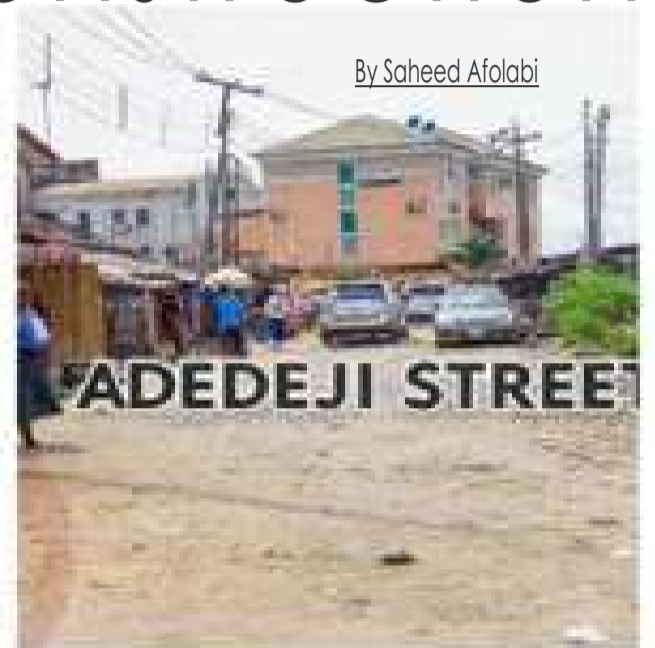
Epe Youth Council Demands Power Restoration

Atume Terfa

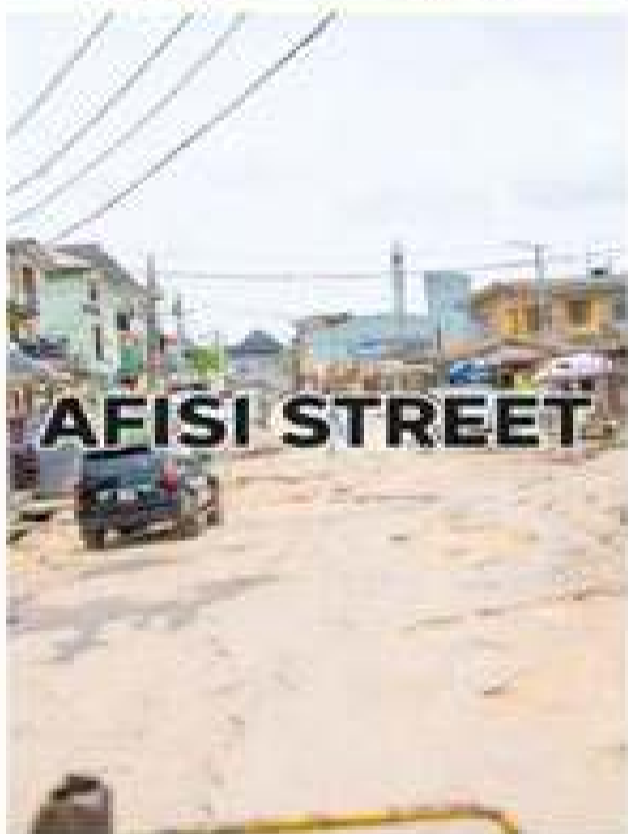


Tension is mounting in Epe as worsening electricity outages push young voices to the forefront, with the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Epe chapter, stepping up pressure for the immediate restoration of power across the community. What began as quiet frustration has evolved into a coordinated push for change. At a recent youth dialogue, residents and stakeholders laid bare the harsh realities of life without steady electricity, small businesses operating on the brink, students grappling with disrupted learning, and households stretched thin by the rising cost of alternative energy sources. The council did not mince words, calling for urgent intervention from both government authorities and electricity distribution companies to address what it described as an unsustainable situation. Epe's ordeal mirrors a wider crisis across Nigeria, where the power sector continues to struggle with instability. Recurrent grid disturbances, most notably the nationwide blackout earlier in 2026, have exposed the fragility of the system, leaving many communities vulnerable to prolonged outages. Against this national backdrop, youth leaders insist Epe cannot be overlooked. They warn that the ongoing power disruption is choking economic activity and deepening social challenges, particularly for entrepreneurs and students whose productivity depends heavily on reliable electricity. Now, the NYCN is pushing for decisive, coordinated action, urging relevant agencies to accelerate infrastructure repairs, stabilise supply, and establish a more dependable power framework for the area. The council also emphasised the need for sustained dialogue between authorities and residents to ensure lasting solutions. For the people of Epe, the message is clear: electricity is no longer a luxury, it is a necessity. And until power is restored, the call for action will only grow louder.

Mushin Residents Commend Aruwe On Road Reconstruction



By Saheed Afolabi



Residents of Mushin Local Government have showered commendation on council chairman, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe for the reconstruction of Afisi and Adedeji Streets. Community leader in Ilasamaja, Alhaji Sikiru Balogun is delighted by the council initiative to

rebuild the road which he believes will improve commercial business in the community. "This is a long-awaited intervention that will greatly improve movement and boost commercial activities in the area. We have suffered enough. We are

commending Chairman Aruwe because he has shown that he truly cares about the grassroots." A trader on Afisi Street, Mrs. Funke Adeyemi, who has operated her business there for over 15 years, broke into smiles as she shared her past experiences with the poor state of the road and how

the rehabilitated road will bring relief to traders. "For years, the poor state of this road has affected our businesses, especially during the rainy season. This project brings hope and relief to us. We are commending Aruwe he has done what previous leaders only talked about."

Comrade Tunde Lawal praises the council boss for responding to the needs of residents. "This is the kind of leadership we want one that listens and responds to the needs of the people. Chairman Aruwe has proven once again that he is the People's Chairman. We are solidly behind him."

The Chairman reiterated his commitment in providing succour and improving roads accessibility to residents. "We are not just constructing roads; we are building pathways to progress, improving accessibility, and creating a better future for our people."

Residents of Anipele, Aregbe, and Kusseyi communities in Mushin LG has lauded the Chairman, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe, following the successful installation of solar-powered streetlights across the communities. The project, which has transformed previously dark and unsafe neighbourhoods into brightly lit and secure areas, has brought immense relief and joy to the people. Many residents say the new lights have not only boosted security but have also revived night-

Street Light: Residents Laud Aruwe

By Saheed Afolabi

time economic activities and made daily life far more comfortable. A visibly elated shop owner, Mrs. Adebayo said the street lights have made night trading safer. "Before these lights, we were afraid to open in the evenings. Now, business is better, and we feel safer walking

home at night. We are truly grateful to Chairman Aruwe for this wonderful gift," she noted. Another resident, Mr. Olumide, joined the chorus of appreciation, describing the initiative as an expected change from the council boss in keeping communities safe. The streets are brighter, and the area feels more

alive. We thank the Council Chairman for all the development he has been doing in Mushin Local Government. We hope he continues with more projects like this," he added. Residents now walk freely at night, children play safely under the lights, and traders stay open

longer, enjoying improved sales. The solar-powered lights, which come on automatically at dusk, have also reduced the fear of crime and accidents that once plagued the communities after dark. During an inspection of the project, Aruwe reiterated his commitment to providing

conducive and safe environment for the residents. "A secure and well-lit environment is the foundation of a thriving community. We are committed to ensuring that every street in Mushin Local Government is safe, accessible, and conducive for our people to live, work, and thrive," he stated.



Retiring Principal Moved to Tears as Benson Commissions New Classrooms

There were smiles, applause and quiet moments of emotion on Tuesday as classrooms were not just opened, but hopes renewed for hundreds of students across Ikorodu.

In a move described by residents as timely and impactful, Rep. Babajimi Benson facilitated the commissioning of modern classroom blocks in two junior secondary schools within Ikorodu West and Ikorodu North LCDAs — a development many say speaks directly to the future of children in the constituency. At Isawo Junior High School, the atmosphere carried a deeper meaning. As a new block of six classrooms was unveiled, the school's principal, Mrs. Ladega Abiola Rukayat, stood before staff, students and community members marking her final day in service. For her, the project was more than infrastructure

— it was a symbolic send-off. Visibly emotional, she described the classrooms as a "parting gift" that would outlive her tenure and continue to benefit generations of students.

Representatives of the Jimi Benson iCare Foundation, led by Director-General Mayor Deen Sanwoola, carried out the commissioning on behalf of the lawmaker, reinforcing what many attendees described as a sustained commitment to

education and human capital development in Ikorodu.

Speaking at the event, Alhaja Ajibike Rukayat Salau, who represented the council leadership, noted that quality education remains one of the strongest tools against poverty and social challenges. She emphasised that the new classrooms were not just buildings, but a pathway to better opportunities for young learners. The facility, equipped with improved

ventilation, furniture and sanitary provisions, was welcomed by teachers who say poor infrastructure had long affected effective learning. For students, the excitement came with a reminder of everyday struggles. Master Okotie Prince, a Junior Secondary School 2 student, expressed appreciation but also highlighted the difficulty of getting to school during the rainy season due to poor road conditions. His concern resonated with parents and community members, many of whom called for

further intervention in access roads to support school attendance.

The Head Girl, Miss Ogunbowale Azeekat, also shared her gratitude, offering prayers for continued support for education in the community, while parents and local groups presented tokens of appreciation, reflecting a shared sense of ownership of the project.

At Gbagga Community Junior High School in Olorunda, Ikorodu North LCDA, a similar scene unfolded as another six-classroom block was commissioned to serve multiple communities. The event attracted traditional rulers, council officials and residents, including the Executive Chairman, Mayor Ola Ameen Apanishile, who commended Benson's continued investment in education and described the intervention as impactful and timely.

Education stakeholders at the event noted that the facility would significantly improve teaching

and learning, especially in a community where access to quality infrastructure has been limited. Community leaders and residents alike expressed optimism that such projects would continue, stressing the importance of sustained investment in education.

Both classroom blocks, delivered with features such as staff rooms, ceiling fans, electrical fittings and smart boards, have been described as meeting modern learning standards. Beyond the physical structures, many observers say the projects represent a deeper investment in the future of young people across Ikorodu.

For the retiring principal, the students eager to learn in better conditions, and communities hopeful for more development, the new classrooms stand as a reminder that meaningful interventions can shape lives and create lasting impact.



Group Donates Computers to Igbogbo Schools

What could have been just another birthday celebration turned into a moment of impact for students in Igbogbo, as a support group, HOA Addicts, donated computer sets to two public schools in honour of the Executive Chairman of Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA, Hammed Olalekan Aroyewun.

The beneficiary schools — Methodist Primary School and Zumratul Islamiyyah Secondary School — both hold a special place in the Chairman's story as his alma maters, making the gesture not just symbolic, but deeply personal. For teachers and students, the donation was more than a celebration; it was a much-needed intervention. School administrators described the arrival of the computer sets as timely, noting that access to digital tools has remained a major challenge in many public schools.



"This will change how our students learn," a staff member said, reflecting the excitement among educators who believe the new systems will improve both teaching delivery and students' engagement. Speaking on behalf of the group, Coordinator Adeleke Aroyewun explained that the initiative was inspired by a

desire to give back to institutions that helped shape the Chairman's early years. According to him, the schools have played a longstanding role in building the intellectual foundation of the Igbogbo community. "These schools raised generations of leaders and professionals," he said. "This is our way of appreciating that legacy and investing in the next generation." Beyond

appreciation, the group noted that the donation is also forward-looking, aimed at equipping students with essential digital skills in an increasingly technology-driven world. For many of the pupils, it will be their first real interaction with structured computer learning within the school environment. The initiative, however, does not

end with the donation. HOA Addicts revealed plans to further strengthen digital education by renovating the schools' ICT facilities in partnership with the Ikorodu Diamond Leo Club, a move expected to expand access to modern learning infrastructure. Community members who witnessed the presentation described the gesture as a

reflection of a broader culture of giving back and grassroots development. By channeling a birthday celebration into an educational project, they said, the group had set an example of purposeful impact. Both schools, which serve a large population of students within Igbogbo and surrounding areas, are expected to benefit significantly from the new equipment — not only in improving digital literacy but also in easing administrative processes within the school system. The presentation was attended by school staff, community members and representatives of the donor group, all of whom shared a common hope that such interventions would continue and inspire similar efforts across the division. For many of the students, the computers are more than machines — they represent opportunity, exposure and a step closer to a future where they can compete in a digital world.

Residents Embrace Healthy Living as Igbogbo-Baiyeku Marks World Health Day



From early morning fitness walks to free medical screenings, residents of Igbogbo-Baiyeku LCDA stepped out in large numbers to take charge of their health as the council joined the rest of the world to mark World Health Day.

The 2026 celebration, themed "Together for Health: Stand with Science," reflects a global call led by the World Health Organization for communities to embrace evidence-based healthcare and

rebuild trust in science.

In Igbogbo, the message was brought closer to home through a series of grassroots activities designed to meet residents where they live and work. The day began with an early morning fitness walk led by Council Manager Afolabi Babatunde, alongside health officials and members of the LCDA management team, setting the tone for a day focused on prevention and wellness.

As the sun rose, health workers fanned out across busy public spaces — from market squares to BRT waiting areas and motor parks — engaging traders, commuters and okada riders in conversations about everyday health choices. For many residents, it was a rare opportunity to ask questions and receive guidance directly from professionals.

"We often ignore small symptoms until they become serious," a trader at one of the markets said. "Today, they

explained things in a way we understand."

The outreach focused on encouraging people to take advantage of the services available at Primary Health Centres, including free immunisation, antenatal care, delivery services and family planning. Residents were also sensitised on the importance of enrolling in the Ilera Eko Health Insurance Scheme, aimed at making healthcare more accessible and affordable.

The conversation continued on air, as a radio programme on IKD FM created another channel to reach a wider audience. Speaking on behalf of the Executive Chairman, Hamed Olalekan Aroyewun, the Supervisor for Health, Miss Okosodo Patricia, stressed the importance of trusting medical science and seeking help early. "Standing with science means choosing proven

healthcare solutions," she said, urging residents to avoid self-medication and rely on trained professionals.

She noted that the council's ongoing efforts under its development agenda are focused on making healthcare accessible and people-centered, highlighting interventions such as the rehabilitation of Bayeku Primary Health Centre, support for immunisation drives, and regular wellness checks for staff.

Plans are also underway to introduce solar-powered electricity in phases across health centres, a move expected to improve service delivery, especially in underserved areas.

By afternoon, the council secretariat had turned into a hub of activity, as residents queued for free wellness checks. From blood sugar tests to screenings for hepatitis B, syphilis and HIV, many took advantage of the opportunity to

better understand their health status.

For some, it was their first medical check in years.

"I just came to check my blood pressure, but they tested other things too," a resident said. "It's a good thing because now I know where I stand."

Health officials say such outreach programmes are crucial in bridging the gap between communities and healthcare services, especially in areas where awareness and access remain challenges.

Beyond the day's activities, the event reinforced a broader message — that healthier communities are built not just in hospitals, but through everyday choices, informed by knowledge and supported by accessible systems. For residents of Igbogbo-Baiyeku, the commemoration was more than a global observance; it was a reminder that good health begins with awareness, action and trust in the right information.

Patient Referrals : Igbogbo-Baiyeku Health Team Visits Ikorodu General Hospital

Efforts to improve how patients are moved between primary and secondary healthcare facilities received a boost on Tuesday as a health delegation from Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA paid a working visit to Ikorodu General Hospital. The visit, led by the Supervisor for Health, Miss Patricia, brought together frontline health officials from

the LCDA and key personnel of the hospital in what many described as a practical step toward fixing everyday challenges faced by patients. For residents who rely on Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs), referrals to general hospitals can often mean delays, confusion, or difficulty accessing care. It was these real-life experiences that shaped the

conversation during the meeting.

The LCDA team, which included the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Amanda Gideon, Apex Nurse Ogunbiyi Olayinka and a representative of the Ward Health Committee, Mrs. Onifade, was received by senior hospital officials, including Dr. Kareem and Dr. Onaolapo of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology

department.

At the heart of the discussion was how to make the referral system faster, clearer and more responsive, especially for urgent cases. Hospital officials raised concerns about the nature of some referrals, noting that certain cases arriving at the facility could have been better managed at the primary care level. "There are times when the hospital is overwhelmed, and

bed space becomes a real issue," one of the officials explained, pointing to the pressure on available resources.

However, the LCDA team maintained that healthcare workers at PHCs understand referral guidelines and act in the best interest of patients, especially in emergencies where delays could be dangerous.

"Our priority is always the patient," a member of the visiting team noted. "When cases are referred, it is to ensure they receive the care they need without delay."

Despite differing perspectives, both sides agreed that stronger communication is key to reducing misunderstandings and improving outcomes for patients. To bridge the gap, the teams exchanged contact details and created direct communication channels, particularly within

the O & G department, to allow for quicker response when referrals are made. For many health workers, this simple step could make a significant difference. "Sometimes, just being able to reach someone directly can save time and even lives," a nurse said after the meeting.

Dr. Kareem assured the visiting team that the hospital remains committed to collaboration and would escalate the issues discussed to higher management for further action.

By the end of the visit, there was a shared understanding that better coordination between PHCs and hospitals is essential, not just for efficiency, but for the people who depend on the system every day.

For residents across Igbogbo and surrounding communities, the outcome of such engagements could mean shorter waiting times, quicker access to care and ultimately, better health outcomes.



Igunnuko Festival: Yalaa Connect Honours JTF Commander Igbasan

Culture, drew community members and cultural enthusiasts, saw the Lagos Joint Task Force (JTF) commander presented with an honoured Dare Award of Excellence and 2026 Yalaa Connect Day, held alongside the colourful Igunnuko Festival. The event, which

influence both in security and community development. For many in attendance, the recognition went beyond titles. Club members described Igbasan as a leader whose impact is felt not only in maintaining security across Lagos, but also in

his quiet support for grassroots initiatives. "He is someone who shows up for the people," a member of the club said. "Not just in uniform, but in the way he gives back to the community." The presentation took place against the backdrop of

the Igunnuko Festival, with traditional drums and cultural displays adding energy to the moment. As the award was handed over, cheers from the crowd blended with the rhythm of the festival, underscoring the deep connection between leadership and cultural identity. Speakers at the event commended Igbasan's leadership style, noting that his approach combines discipline with a strong sense of humanity — qualities they say have earned him respect across different communities. By conferring the title of Life Patron on him, the club signalled its intention to draw from his experience and guidance in shaping its future

activities, particularly in areas of philanthropy and community engagement. Observers noted that honouring the commander during a culturally significant festival added deeper meaning to the occasion, highlighting the importance of celebrating individuals who contribute to both the safety and social fabric of society. For residents of Igbogbo, the moment was not just about recognition, but about reaffirming shared values — service, culture and collective progress. As the celebrations continued, many expressed hope that such gestures would inspire more leaders to remain connected to the communities they serve, ensuring that impact is felt not only in offices, but on the streets and in everyday lives.



Court Jails Commercial Biker 21 Months For Drug Trafficking

A commercial tricyclist, Usman Musa, has been sentenced to 21 months in prison for being in possession of illicit drug.

Justice Friday Ogazi, at the Federal High Court sitting in Ikeja Lagos, sentenced Musa, 22, after pleading guilty to a three-count imposed against him by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA.

The prosecutor, Juliana Negedu, told the court that the offender, on February 20, at the Ajegunle-Apapa area, was caught



By Felix Kuyinu

with 618 grammes of cannabis sativa, 55 grammes of Rophynol, a psychotropic and 46 grammes of

Tramadol and other narcostic substances.

Negedu also informed the court that the convict used an unregistered high

grade motorcycle with Chassis no: Sj25pb104233, to peddle the illicit substances, adding that the acts contravened Section 11(c) of

the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act Cap N30 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004.

The prosecutor urged the court to sentence him based on his guilty plea, confessional statement and the exhibits tendered and also forfeit the motorcycle used as an instrumentality of the illicit acts to the Federal Government.

However, the defence counsel, Kate Igbo, in her allocutor, prayed the court to temper justice with mercy

in sentencing her client, and also pleaded with the court to give her client a non-custodian sentence or a fine option in lieu of the jail term.

In his judgment, Justice Ogazi, sentenced him to seven months imprisonment on each of the counts, adding that the jail term should run concurrently.

She also ordered final forfeiture of the unregistered high grade motorcycle to the Federal Government.

Businessman Jailed Over N28M Fraud

The Lagos State Special Offences Court in Ikeja has jailed a businessman, James Onyejekwe, three years, for indulging in fraud to the tune of N28 million.

Justice Mojisola Dada sentenced Onyejekwe and his firm, Kainos Exploration and Producing Company Limited, ordering it's wound up, with its assets forfeited to the Federal Government following an arraignment by the Economic and Financial Crimes



By Felix Kuyinu

Commission, EFCC, on a five-count amended charge bordering on stealing, issuance of dud cheques, and obtaining money by false pretence. According to the EFCC, the convict, sometime in

February 2018, obtained the sum of N10m from the complainant, Augustina Ofoegbu, under the guise of an investment in the company, with a promise of a 250 per cent return within 60 days which later proved

to be a false presentation.

The Commission also stated that the offender and his company, sometime in May 2018, dishonestly converted N10m, also belonging to the complainant to their personal use.

35yr Old Man In Police Net Over Attempted Theft

One Robert Tobiloba has been put in custody over allegations of attempted theft in Ikorodu, Lagos.

Robert was arraigned at the Ikorodu Magistrates' Court where he was on trial over charges of felony and stealing for entering into the office of a complainant, Gbolu Olabode, with intent to steal. The police prosecutor, Adeghin Famuyiwa, told the court that the defendant committed the offence on April 3,

at about at building number one, Alhaji Sule Maito street in the area.

Famuyiwa mentioned that the offence contravenes the provisions of Section 406 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

The court granted the defendant bail in the sum of N50,000, with one surety in like sum and ordered that the address of the surety must be verified.

The matter was adjourned till May 5.

Organisers Call Off Wireless Festival Over Kanye West Entry Ban

Kehinde Adeleye

Organisers of the Wireless Music Festival have announced the cancellation of this year's event following the decision by the UK government to bar American rapper Kanye West from entering the country.

In a statement shared on Instagram, the organisers said the development left them with no option but to cancel the festival. They explained that all ticket holders would receive full refunds following the

cancellation. Kanye West had been billed to headline all three nights of the festival scheduled to hold at Finsbury Park in London in July, as part of what was expected to be his European return to major performances. The decision

comes after growing criticism from political leaders and advocacy groups over the rapper's past controversial remarks, including accusations of antisemitic comments and actions.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer described the booking as deeply concerning, while Health Secretary Wes Streeting

criticised the organisers, saying the decision reflected poor judgment.

The controversy surrounding West has also included backlash over previous public statements and actions, which led to the termination of several corporate partnerships.

Despite the backlash and the entry ban, West

recently expressed willingness to engage with members of the Jewish community in the United Kingdom and discuss concerns surrounding his past actions.

The cancellation of the festival marks a major setback for organisers and fans, effectively bringing an end to one of London's anticipated summer music events.



Wizkid Slams Burna Boy Following Incident Involving DJ Tunez

By Felix Kuyinu



Afrobeats star Wizkid has criticised fellow artiste Burna Boy following a reported altercation involving his official DJ, DJ Tunez. According to reports, DJ Tunez was allegedly attacked at a Lagos club on Monday night by Burna Boy and members of his team after a disagreement over music

selection. The incident reportedly left the DJ injured. Following the incident, the Nigerian DJ Association announced a ban on Burna Boy's music from playlists across the country in protest. A video later surfaced online showing Burna Boy in a towel, which many interpreted as a response mocking the situation involving DJ Tunez.

Reacting on social

media platform X, Wizkid expressed anger over the incident and criticised Burna Boy, accusing him of acting aggressively with a group against the DJ. In his post, Wizkid used strong language to condemn the situation and described Burna Boy's actions as unacceptable. The situation has sparked reactions across social media, with fans and observers weighing in on the controversy involving the two prominent music stars.

I Prefer Dating Directors and Producers, Not Actors - Teniola Aladese

Kehinde Adeleye

Nollywood actress Teniola Aladese has shared her thoughts on relationships, revealing that she prefers dating film directors and producers rather than fellow actors. Speaking during an interview on the I Said What I Said podcast, Aladese described the dating scene in Lagos as stressful, saying it can be overwhelming due to the constant attention she

receives.

She noted that her direct messages are often filled with messages from suitors, describing the situation as chaotic. Despite this, she said her personal experiences with dating have been positive overall. "I have never had a terrible date," she said, adding that she usually knows early when a relationship is not going to work. "After the first

date, I already know that you will never see me again." The actress, who transitioned from movie production management to acting, gained recognition for her role in the Africa Magic drama series Jemeji and won the Trailblazer Award at the 2022 Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards. Speaking on her preferences, she said, "I don't want to date an actor." She explained that

she is more comfortable with individuals in higher positions within the industry,

such as directors and producers. She did not provide further reasons for

her preference but maintained that her choice is deliberate.



I Rely on Juju for Success - Saheed Osupa

Kehinde Adeleye



Popular Fuji musician Saheed Osupa has spoken openly about his use of traditional spiritual practices, saying they play a role in his personal life and career growth. He made the comments during the 52nd birthday

celebration of veteran actor Fatai Odua, popularly known as Lalude.

In a viral video from the event, Osupa said, "Somebody told me one time to grant an interview, denying that I'm a fetish person, but I told him that

I am, and why should I deny it. I didn't kill anyone with my juju or commit evil with it. I am only looking for how to progress. Nothing more."

He further explained his daily practice, saying, "That's why anytime I wake, I always pay

obeisance to my Ifa. I don't know the deity beyond it, because it is worth paying homage to."

Osupa also questioned the mindset of relying only on conventional solutions, stating, "If I don't engage in voodoo, what else should I have

employed? Is it Phenico or Panadol that will make me successful?"

He added that success should come with a good quality of life, saying, "It is not good to be poor and still not live a good life. Even if one is not enormously rich,

one should enjoy comfort."

The Fuji star concluded by saying that many people practise similar beliefs but choose to keep it private, adding, "Everybody practises voodoo. While some hide behind the scenes to do theirs, I do mine in the open."

Ikorodu City FC: A Fast-Rising Force in Nigerian Football

Ikorodu City Football Club has quickly established itself as one of the fastest-rising teams in Nigerian football, drawing attention within Lagos and across the country for its rapid ascent and competitive

performances. Founded in 2022 and based in Ikorodu, the club—popularly known as the "Oga Boys"—currently competes in the Nigeria Premier Football League, with home matches played at the Mobolaji Johnson

Arena. Despite its relatively recent formation, Ikorodu City FC has recorded significant milestones in a short period. The club began its journey in the lower-tier Nigeria National League before securing promotion to the NPFL in 2024 following a successful playoff campaign.

In its debut season in the top flight, the team impressed observers by finishing as high as fourth position—an uncommon feat for a newly promoted

side in Nigeria's premier division.

The club's rise has also been marked by early success on the domestic scene. In 2023, Ikorodu City FC won the Lagos FA Cup, becoming the first club from Ikorodu to achieve the feat.

Beyond on-field performance, Ikorodu City FC has positioned itself as a community-driven club with a strong focus on youth development.

The club's philosophy centres on identifying and nurturing grassroots

talent, providing structured pathways for young players, and creating opportunities for Nigerian footballers to compete on the global stage.

Football analysts say the emergence of Ikorodu City FC reflects a broader shift toward privately funded, professionally managed clubs in Nigeria.

The club's rapid progress has contributed to Lagos' increasing presence in top-flight football and is seen as a potential

model for sustainable club development, combining competitive ambition with social impact.

With its blend of youthful energy, structured development, and early success, Ikorodu City FC is widely regarded as one of the teams to watch in Nigerian football.

Its continued growth could further reshape the football landscape in Lagos and strengthen the pipeline of talent emerging from the state.

Fulham Move To Seal Chukwueze Deal After Impressive Loan Spell

Fulham F.C. are stepping up efforts to secure the permanent signing of Samuel Chukwueze from AC Milan following an impressive loan stint at Craven Cottage. The Nigeria international has made a strong impact since joining the Premier League side last summer, contributing three goals and four assists in 17 league appearances under manager

Marco Silva. Encouraged by his performances, Fulham are now poised to activate the €24 million purchase clause included in the winger's loan agreement, signaling their intent to make the move permanent. Chukwueze's pace, creativity, and attacking threat have added a new dimension to Fulham's forward line, with the club viewing him as a key part of their long-term plans



Morocco Could Soon Host Our League Matches —La Liga President

Spanish league president Javier Tebas openly said. Speaking about La Liga's international expansion plans in an interview with MAP, Tebas suggested that Morocco stands out as one of the most viable destinations

for official Spanish league fixtures outside Spain. That's the clearest public indication yet that the Spanish league is seriously considering bringing competitive matches to the Kingdom.

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