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Lagos, 20 states may join currency swap suit Wednesday

Lagos State is collaborating with not less than 20 other states to apply for joinder in the suit filed by Kaduna, Kogi and Zamfara to demand the review of the currency re-design policy of the Federal Government to extend the use of old notes until new notes are sufficiently available when the case comes up WEDNESDAY February 15. The original suit filed by three of their peers-Nasir El-Rufai, (Kaduna) Yahaya Bello (Kogi) and Bello Matawalle (Zamfara) when the case resumes at the Supreme Court on February 15.

Towards this goal, the states have mandated their attorney generals to prepare joinder processes and file as early as possible.

The states include Lagos, Oyo, Borno, Katsina, Ondo, Sokoto, Kano, Yobe, Kwara, Ekiti, Ogun, Jigawa, Imo, Kebbi, Nasarawa, Rivers, Ebonyi, and Niger.

Over the weekend, six states - Kano, Ekiti, Ondo, Rivers, Bayelsa and Niger- have confirmed their plans to sue the Federal Government.

The lawyers working round the clock to put the joinder together on behalf of the state governors are based in Lagos.

Although the Council of State met Friday February 10 and resolved to advise President Muhammadu Buhari to direct Central Bank Governor Godwin Emefiele to keep the old notes in circulation until there is sufficient new notes to meet the huge demand of the public for cash transactions, the resolution does not compel the president to comply.



New Naira Notes

Besides, the decision of Attorney-General of the Federation Abubakar Malami to challenge the original suit asking the court to set aside its order on the CBN to suspend its February 10 deadline for the use of old notes made it necessary to obtain the order from a source of authority that the executive arm must obey.

This is the argument made by the proponents of the suit to keep the litigation in court and obtain a clear judgment that will give the Presidency and by extension, the Central Bank no place to hide.

Meanwhile, the petroleum

products distribution arm of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation has directed filling stations to accept point of sale and transfer payment options to reduce difficulties arising from the cash crunch caused by inadequate currency notes in the economy.

We are ready for the polls- INEC

Umpire of the February 25 presidential and National Assembly polls and March 11 governorship and House of Assembly polls, the Independent National Electoral Commission has assured Nigerians that it is prepared to conduct the

polls.

Making the presentation before the Council of States Friday February 10, INEC chairman Professor Mahmood Yakubu told members that INEC has made contingency plans for locations where its offices were attacked and had custody of the equipment and was on top of logistics.

INEC is also encouraged by reports of high collection rate of the permanent voters cards showing that Lagos, which has 7.1 million voters recorded 87.8% collection rate.

The results of the mock voter accreditation exercise

conducted February 4, this year also assured the electoral umpire of the acceptance of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System, BVAS by Nigerians.

The BVAS is bimodal because it has two modes of recognising the voter for accreditation- the face and the fingerprint.

According to reports of the mock, persons who failed Fingerprint recognition were able to use facial recognition.

INEC chairman Professor Yakubu said the mock will enable the body ascertain if the BVAS machines are working maximally.



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Your vote is your power, PDP reps candidate, Osolana tells electorate

By Motola AbdulGafar

The House of Representatives candidate in Agege Constituency under the platform of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Hon. Sola Osolana has told the electorate across the council area to guard their votes, saying their votes are their power. He encouraged them to participate in the election, saying their votes will count this time around as there is a new wave in the electoral process that will make it happen.

Osolana, who visited

some areas in Agege, promised that part of the PDP's agenda will be targeted at recovering and redeeming of the lost economic boom in the country.

He appealed to the electorate to vote for him to have opportunity to make his constituency part of the new development.

"With my S.E.E.D.S Agenda, I promise to deliver the dividends of democracy to the people. From Sound Primary Health Care Services to empowerment, Education to Development of

infrastructural facilities and many more. As par education, I have resolved to make the lives of our school pupils in public schools in Agege and Orile-Agege a major priority when we get to power in 2023.

"The S.E.E.D.S programmes tend to provide the essential needs for the youths, women, school children and the aged ones. It is captured as S – Sound primary health services, E – Educational support for all, E – Empowerment of youths and women, D – Developmental support initiative for



Hon. Sola Osolana

maintenance of our neighbourhood infrastructural facilities, S – Sports Talent and Social Development."

He also canvassed for the other PDP flag bearers in Nigeria for smooth governing of the nation.

Best students to get free JAMB forms

By Motola AbdulGafar

The students who emerge best in a test to be conducted by the organiser in Agege will be awarded free Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) UTME forms.

The forms are facilitated by a non-governmental organisation, Agbelebu Foundation to eligible students in the area.

The Director of Education, Agbelebu Foundation, Mr. Oyedeji AbdulRasaq informed that the students would be strictly examined and selected by education experts from different fields of the teaching profession to ensure transparency in selecting students.

The foundation had conducted the first round of the screening on February 4, while considering a second batch in weeks to come.

The screening is said to take place at Diary Farm Primary School for easy accessibility to all and sundry.

The Coordinator of the Screening exercise added that the initiative is part of the mission and vision of the foundation while noting that other scheduled programme covers all the strata of human endeavours, from education, humanitarian, health, and social services among others.

The prospective Jamb Students were screened on their Secondary School Certificate Examination results (SSCE) with a minimum of 5 ' 0 level Credit, including Mathematics and English Language, National Identification Number (NIN) and some other basic requirements.

APC supporter sensitises residents on election

By Motolani AbdulGafar

A supporter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Agege Local Government Area, Hon. Lateefat Tadenikawo has begun a sensitisation to guide the electorate in the

community on what is expected of them.

She said the enlightenment would be a form of awareness that would direct them to independently vote for their preferred candidates without any assistance which would not make them vulnerable to being

cheated by others.

Tadenikawo embarked on house-to-house sensitisation to ensure proper dissemination and appropriateness passing of message to the residents.

She said: "I want residents of Agege to vote for all APC candidates in Agege for progress and development

in Agege and Orile-Agege.

Your voters' card is the only tool you can use to ensure progress, development and people-oriented representation in Agege. It's a task for every progressive resident of Agege and Orile-Agege.

"Our candidates and party remained the only driver of

Infrastructural development in Agege. It's an opportunity we must not miss as the election draws closer."

She further encouraged all party loyalists to continue with the spirit of togetherness and unity so that the party can emerge victorious in the election.

Beneficiaries commend chairman for facilitating ITF training

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The beneficiaries of the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) training and supporting entrepreneurial equipment in Badagry West LCDA have applauded the council chairman, Hon. Joseph Gbenu for facilitating the equipment.

One of the beneficiaries, Daniel Kehinde appreciated Gbenu for his financial assistance, shelter and fatherly role throughout the training period.

Another trainee who majored in hairstyling, Gbenu Senami noted that it would not have been possible for her to purchase such qualitative and expensive equipment without the support of the chairman.

ITF gave twenty starter packs to twenty youths who graduated under the National Industrial Skill Development Program (NISDP).

Twenty trainees were posted to Badagry West Skill Acquisition Centre to be trained in areas under plumbing and hairstyling.



Hon. Joseph Gbenu

Ndigbo declares support for APC

By Motola AbdulGafar

Few days to the 2023 general elections, the Ndigbo group in Agbado/Oke-Odo LCDA, has declared support for the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and all its candidates.

The Patron of the group, Chief Livinus Chukwudi, donated campaign materials to the party to disclose the political stance of the group.

Materials such as customised caps, calendars, T-shirts, and writing materials among others were donated.

Chukwudi, who is the Chairman of Rimax Institute of Computer

Studies, noted that the group's commitment towards APC was bore out of the privilege given by the party for the free engagement of other ethnic groups in Nigeria aside from just saying or documenting such rule without putting it in use.

He stated the group's support for the Presidential candidate and the return of the Lagos State Governor; Asiwaju Bola Tinubu and Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu as their preferred choice while also encouraging all residents to vote for all APC candidates as the uniformity of this group will help enhance the workflow while executing their duties.



Donated campaign materials

Enilolobo preaches unity among ethnic groups

By Motola AbdulGafar

The Alimosho All Progressives Congress (APC) Apex Leader, Alhaji Abdullahi Enilolobo has urged all ethnic groups in the council area to allow unity among them for success in the coming elections.

He enjoined the groups to do away with nepotism and tribalism, urging them to vote for a patriotic and genuine leader who has the interest of the general public at heart.

The groups consist of the Igbo, Hausa, Arewa and South-South who were encouraged to support all candidates of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Nigeria at the Alimosho APC leadership stakeholders meeting with the groups at Ayobo-Ipaja LCDA.

Enilolobo cited the personality of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu as not being a tribalistic leader, saying he accommodates everyone, irrespective of

their ethnicity and religious background which is an indispensable fact in history.

The party leader and Coordinator, Sanwo-Olu/Hamzat Re-election Mobilization Committee, said the nation's present economic challenges are not peculiar to any tribe but everybody, noting that our support and vote for Asiwaju Tinubu will change all situations and improve people's standard of

living.

He said the uniformity of electing all APC flag bearers would bring about a replication of developmental projects carried out in Lagos in other States while including projects that suit the people depending on their needs in the State.

He, therefore, assured that Nigeria would in years to come begin to compete fairly with other nations at the international level in all aspects.



Alhaji Abdullahi Enilolobo

A non-governmental organisation (NGO), Progressive Women Foundation, has given a new laptop to a student (name withheld) in Badagry Local Government Area to assist him in his education pursuit.

According to the Foundation, the laptop will also help the student in self-development.

The leader of the Foundation, Hajia Kudirat Gidado, noted that the assistance was a

NGO fetes student with new laptop

result of the Foundation's vision to increase the standard of education in the council coupled with the fact that the boy had reached out to the Foundation for assistance.

She advised him to utilize the opportunity given to him, saying the Foundation will be glad seeing him become a better person in life.

She assured residents of their continuous support, saying the Foundation

would continue to see to the affairs of the people. Gidado further stated that the Foundation will strengthen its bond with

the government to contribute to the development of the council area in its little way.



Foundation while awarding student new laptop

LAHA member appreciates constituency

By Motola AbdulGafar

The member, Lagos State House of Assembly representing Alimosho Constituency II, Hon. Kehinde Joseph has applauded the commitment of residents and political loyalists in his constituency for their support in canvassing for him ahead of the 2023 election.

He said their physical and moral supports have become a means of encouragement for him to be more diligent in formulating bills that are favourable to his people.

He appreciated the council chairman, Hon. Jelili Gbadamosi for synergising with him all through his administration, noting that his support has helped to bring to life some state projects in the council as he did the needful in working with the Legislative Chambers.

Joseph added that with the turn-out so far, it is becoming clear that Nigerians are in support of a consolidating rising Lagos and a renewed hope to emerge, with inclusive and equitable development that will be beneficial for all.

He promised to stick to his mandate and ensure dividends of democracy when elected.



Hon. Kehinde Joseph

APC reps candidate, Olabinjo seeks CAN's blessing

The House of Representatives candidate in Ifako-Ijaiye constituency II under the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Hon. Benjamin Olabinjo (BAO) has taken his political campaign tour to the Christian community in Ojokoro, seeking the blessing of the religious body.

The Christians Association of Nigeria (CAN) led by Pastor C G Coker affirmed that the leadership of Christian community and the party share a long existing relationship. The association offered prayers for Olabinjo's

victory and to all the party's candidates.

In response, Olabinjo appreciated the body for the love and support and its special coordination of yearly prayers at his residence.

He solicited votes for Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Babajide Sanwo-Olu, himself and Hon. Emmanuel Olotu who was also in attendance.

He encouraged the leadership of CAN not to entertain fear on the issue of Muslim-Muslim ticket that party has put forward.

He gave 100 percent assurance that the Christians' interest will

surely be protected.

With the same assurance, Ojokoro LCDA chairman, Hon. Hammed Tijani (HID) called for massive votes for all candidates of the party.

Olabinjo also sought prayers from the leaders and members of the Pentecostal Church Ifako-Ijaiye province.

He further promised to be available to the church members of the constituency in time of need.

The province PFN President, Rev. Olatunde Shoyemi expressed joy to receive the visitors for recognising the denomination.



Prayer session for Olabinjo

CDA rewards residents on performance

By Edith Igbokwe

Deserving residents of Harmony Estate Community Development Association (CDA) and distinguished personality in Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government were recognised with an award as the association organised its annual Thanksgiving service. The awardees include Ifako-Ijaiye LG chairman, Prince Usman Hamzat; the CDC chairman, Pastor Samuel Opajobi; HOD Agric & Social Services Dept., Mrs. Oyafunke Omolabake; and Ifako-Ijaiye Forum chairman, Ven. Lawrence Ogunsipe. The CDA chairman,

Engr. Isa Egbeyemi described Hamzat as a performer and an excellent leader in transforming the Local Government.

He said Opajobi's award was based on his good leadership style as the CDC chairman and dedication to the progress and development of Harmony Estate CDA. He also stated that Mrs. Omolabake's pragmatic actions in coordinating the affairs of the CDAs was awarded by the association, while Ogunsipe was recognised for his unwavering dedication towards the development of all the CDAs in Ifako-Ijaiye especially, Harmony Estate CDA.

He further commended the support of the Lagos State Neighborhoods Safety Corps (LNSC)

led by Onipede in ensuring that peace and harmony reign within the Estate.

He also appreciated

all the stakeholders, men, women, youths that were part of the Estate success.

Egbeyemi appealed to

Prince Hamzat to remember Harmony Estate in his development plans and pay the Estate a visit.



Work in progress

Revamped Apata PHC welcomes two babies

By Edith Obioma

The recently repositioned 24 hours operating Apata Primary Healthcare Center (PHC) In Oke-Ira of Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has witnessed birth of two babies. The two babies, one male, the other female got an undisclosed cash gift from the wife of Ojodu LCDA chairman, Mrs. Abimbola Odunmbaku. She advised the parents to take good care of the babies and to ensure that quality education is given

to them. She encouraged parents and other residents to take advantage of the post-natal services offered at all the health centers across the community. She further promised to always champion the welfare of women and children in Ojodu LCDA. Mr. and Mrs. Shobowale Joshua on behalf of the parents commended the administration of Hon. David Odunmbaku for 24 hours and free medical delivery services at Apata PHC. He also appreciated the Mrs. Odunmbaku for the

kind gesture and prayed that the administration would continue to achieve great strides. Mrs. Abimbola Odunmbaku visited the first set of newly born babies at the primary health center in the company of DOS Apex Women led by the Ojodu All Progressive Congress (APC) Women Leader, Alhaja Bukky Badmus expressed her delight toward residents taking advantage of the 24 hours services at the healthcare center and she commended the quality of service delivery.



Apata PHC delivered two bouncing babies

Ikeja residents honour Faleke with game activities



Gala night organised for Falake

By Edith Obioma

The Ikeja games organised to celebrate the grand finale of sports event in honour of the Ikeja Federal House of Representatives Member, Hon. Abiodun Faleke has ended. The ten competitive games had participants across the constituency competing in various sporting events as winners were rewarded with prizes ranging from trophies, medals and cash prizes at the Gala night. The wife of the rep, Mrs. Bukunola Faleke was

present as guest of honour. The chairman, of Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. David Odunmbaku commended the organisers and participants for the feat. He encouraged development of young talents and the spirit of sportsmanship, as he implored the people of the constituency to vote massively for the All Progressives Congress (APC) party and its candidates for continuous quality governance and representation.

CDA appreciates Ojodu council chairman, Odunmbaku for support

By Edith Obioma

Titilayo Adedoyin Community Development Association (CDA) in Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has appreciated the council chairman, Hon. David Odunmbaku for his support to the community. The CDA, which

clinched the 14th position in the recent Lagos Community Day event, said it got half a million naira for as prize for the position. The CDA chairman, Pastor Olusegun Fayemi, made the commendation while leading other executive members on a courtesy visit to the council boss who was presented the N500, 000 cheque

award received at the Lagos State Community Development Day ceremony. He expressed his deep appreciation to Odunmbaku for the support, cooperation, guidance and assistance rendered to the CDA which he said enabled the association to clinch the 14th position award out of 4,460 CDAs in the

state. Responding, Odunmbaku appreciated the tenacity of the CDA leadership as he promised to give more support and partnership with the 32 CDAs in the LCDA. He assured that his government will listen to them more and get them involved in the decision making.



Cheque presentation to Odunmbaku

Ijede LCDA, in partnership with the Lagos State Health Management Scheme (LASHMA), has flagged off Eko Social Health Alliance (EKOSHA) for residents.

EKOSHA is a programme initiated by the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu tagged Ilera-Eko Health Insurance Scheme to provide qualitative and affordable healthcare service to indigents and residents of Lagos State.

Speaking at the event, the council chairman, Hon. Motunrayo Gbadebo-Alogba, who was represented by the Vice-Chairman, Hon. Kareem Femi Kabir, said it was not the first health care intervention for Ijede residents, informing that the council will enrol 250 people for the Health Insurance scheme (Ilera-eko) for one year.

Ijede LCDA flags off social health scheme

By Saheed Afolabi

One of the LASHMA board members, Dr. Tunji Akintade, applauded the council boss for investing in quality healthcare services for her constituents.

The Head of Business Development and Marketing at Ilera Eko Referral Programme, Mr. Olatunji Rotimi educated the beneficiaries on the benefits of the health insurance scheme and the need to inform their families and friends about the programme.

While advising the aged to visit the hospital of their choice whenever they are unwell and take their drugs as

prescribed appropriately, the General Manager of LASHMA, Dr. Emmanuella Zamba also listed the benefits of the Health plan to include the treatment of ailments such as malaria, typhoid, hypertension, diabetes and asthma to mention a few as well as provision of free drugs, laboratory test, blood test, x-ray, surgeries and admission for up to 15 days in a year.

The elderly ones, who were among the beneficiaries, were full of gratitude and heaped prayers on Governor Sanwo-Olu and the Ijede council chairman for the relief.



Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu

Banjo signs 2023 appropriation bill to law

The chairman, Ikorodu North LCDA, Builder Deola Banjo has signed the year 2023 appropriation bill which he submitted to the legislative arm for its consideration and ratification into law.

Ikorodu North legislators led by the leader of the House, Hon. Ayo Adekoya visited the chairman to present the budget to him for his assent to become law.

The council chairman thanked the legislators for the

By Saheed Afolabi

speedy discharge of their duties on the budget so that work could commence in earnest in delivering more dividends of democracy to the good people of Ikorodu North LCDA.

The legislators also commended the chairman for his support and exemplary leadership qualities which has guaranteed the peace the Tower of resources has been enjoying in the past six and half years.



Deola Banjo signing the 2023 appropriation bill to law

Ikorodu LG to complete water project by April

The authority of Ikorodu Local Government has promised that the ongoing water passage project across the central part of Lagos's waterbed region will be completed by April 2023.

It stated that the project which began in November, 2022 is nearing its completion stage.

According to the council chairman, Hon. Wasiu Adesina, the project should be finalised by the end of first quarter of 2023.

He said it is the lengthiest drainage project executed by a Local Government in Lagos State.

Adesina stated that the drainage was constructed

during the Late Lateef Jakande's governorship tenure between 1979 and 1983, and has since been dilapidated.

"I saw the need to restructure the drainage, and make it elevated to ease the passage of water, plus a slab on top of it, serving as a walkway because the passage is very narrow.

"It forsook worsened state resulted in gutter blockage which causes homes to drench in water during the rainy season".

"But now, with this avant-garde upgrade and adequate channelling, the ancestral axis of Ikorodu Local Government will be safe from water smog," he explained.

Councils collaborate to construct link road to ease gridlock

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The leaderships of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government and Eti-Osa Local Government have collaborated to facilitate the construction of Monastery -Mopo Ogombo road which links both council areas. The collaboration was made with a non-governmental organisation, Medallion Data Centre Limited which fully funded the project as a Corporate

Social Responsibility (CSR) in the local communities.

The chairman of Ibeju-Lekki LG, Hon. Abdullahi Olowa noted that the idea was borne out of the consideration of the masses as both councils are making efforts to ease gridlock in their respective areas. He said they hope that the link road would be passed whenever there is gridlock which will reduce the congested state of the main road and give commuters

access to accomplish their aim in a short while.

The 4.2km road project which has been flagged off was awarded to Skyline Builders Limited to take 6 months duration for construction.

Olowa urged residents around the area to cooperate with the workers and adhere strictly to whatever rules they make as their adherence is majorly to ensure the safety of life and property.



Olowa with site engineers

Olowa approves reconstruction of council secretariat

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The chairman of Ibeju-Lekki LGA, Hon. Abdullahi Olowa has approved the reconstruction of council secretariat at Igando-Oloja in the council area. The secretariat was said to have been dilapidated following the End SARS protest in 2020. Olowa noted that the reconstruction is to create a serene environment for workers to boost their efficiency and willingness to work for the council. He said different offices would be added in the

reconstruction to give in more space to workers for better service delivery.

He added that it is also in fulfilment with his promise after the incident which shows that he would make sure to achieve all promised projects before the end of his tenure.

The still-to-build sophisticated building is said to take 18 months to reconstruct after being awarded to Sultradoc Construction Limited under the leadership of the site Engineer, Engr. Olawale Oloyede.



Hon. Abdullahi Olowa

The chairman of Ibeju-Lekki LG, Hon. Abdullahi Olowa has constructed a Fire Service Office in the council, warning the residents to be cautious of fire outbreak.

He urged them to avoid all acts that can cause fire outbreak, saying the office is for emergency situation.

He said the construction is only to prepare for unforeseen circumstances as the council does not pray for

Ibeju-Lekki LG builds fire station, cautions residents

By Motolani AbdulGafar

any mishap that would endanger the lives of their beloved residents. Olowa appreciated the Lagos State House of Assembly Member representing Ibeju-Lekki Constituency II, Hon. Raheem Kazeem Adewale, for facilitating the project, saying the

council will give maximum support till its completion.

The Deputy Head of the Lagos State Fire Service, Mr. Olajide Ogabi on his part briefed that the approval of a Fire station within the Council by the Lagos State Government is to forestall emergencies

that might arise due to the existence of mega business activities and the influx of heavy-duty trucks in the Lekki Free Trade Zone, Dangote Refinery and organisations in the environs.

The emergency helpline 112 was instructed to be called on such occasions.

Ege promises market women favourable trading system

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Lagos State House of Assembly candidate in Ojo constituency 1 under the All Progressives Congress (APC) party, Hon. Olusegun Ege has promised market women in the Ojo Alaworo market to pursue the law that would be in favour of the market system in the constituency.

He said there should be certain benefits the traders enjoy as they are part of the crew that increases the internally generated revenue (IGR) for local council.

He stated that his promise is not based on a thirst for power but the interest to be a part of those who would develop Nigeria from the grassroots level.

He said as part of the stakeholders in the community, they would be allowed to voice their opinion as to the needs of the people to create a

cordial relationship with the government.

He promised to keep up with his approachable attitude even after the election.

Ojelabi asks residents to hold him accountable for flag bearers' inefficiency

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The All Progressives Congress (APC) party chairman at the State level, Pastor Cornelius Ojelabi has requested the accountability of all party's flag bearers in Ojo Federal Constituency if they fail to fulfil their promises.

He said as the state chairman, he should be responsible for ensuring reliability within the party irrespective of the position

whichever candidate is assigned.

He, however, noted that he is full of confidence that all the APC candidates would fulfil their promises as the party would never support anyone who is not efficient to make Nigeria better.

He added that the reward

system in Ojo Federal Constituency has taken a new turn as the number of votes presented in each political ward would be the direction of allotting benefits in due time.

He encouraged all residents to multiply their voting strength to contribute hugely to the 5 million votes expected in Lagos come February 25th.

Standing ovation for Bolaji Adebisi at 60

By Ladapo Kolade

Bolaji Adigun Adebisi, the Marxist ideologue, prolific journalist and jolly good fellow who was hosted by friends to mark his 60th birthday almost lost his life to the Covid-19 pandemic two years ago.

His survival is one major reason why he changed his attitude to birthday celebrations as a way to appreciate life and living.

Responding to the torrent of tributes from media gurus and legal luminaries that assembled at the Chinese restaurant of Mega Kitchen in Agidingbi, Ikeja on Sunday, Bolaji recounted how he had always dismissed the celebration.

According to him, a decade ago, it was iyobosa Uwagiaren, the current secretary of the Nigerian Guild of Editors, who expressed surprise that he didn't make an event out of such a remarkable milestone.

This time, Bolaji had no opportunity to agree or disagree as his ideological fellow travelers of over four decades, Lanre Arogundade was already ahead of him by planning the get-together.

The impressive roll -call: Mallam Mustapha Isa, president, Nigerian Guild of Editors; Lanre Aminu, general manager, Telegraph Newspapers, Eze Anaba, Editor, Vanguard Newspapers; Mike Dada, Managing Director, Chief Executive, PRM Africa; Steve Nwosu, publisher, News Express; Ayo

Aluko-Olokun, Chief Consultant, Tribond Company; Semiu Okanlawon, publisher, PoliticsOnline, Kehinde Bamigbetan, publisher, Echonews; Tony Iyareh, development consultant and Barrister Tess Adewuyi of Citipoint Chambers.

Others are Habib Aruna, publisher, ThePledge; Bamidele Johnson,

Chief Operating Officer, Strategic Outcomes; Aliu Mohammed, veteran journalist; Tolani Abati, veteran journalist; Wale Adeoye, human rights activist and Moji, Bolaji's son.

It was not an all-male affair. Patience, Bolaji's better half was generously appreciated for her patience in managing the

"democratic-dictator" at home. Mrs. Sola Lanre Arogundade and "mother of the boys", Mrs Tony Iyareh attended.

Over dishes of Chinese cuisine, champagne and wine, eulogies flowed, the bottles became empty and the plates had very little left of their sumptuous contents.

There was a general consensus of the

birthday boy's humility, generosity, discipline, comradeship and intellectual rigour.

Arogundade, Adewuyi, Aluko-Olokun, Bamigbetan and Iyareh discovered these traits in his character during his activist days in the Nigerian student movement over 40 years ago. Others observed them in their encounters

in journalism.

A standing ovation marked the rendition of the conventional Happy Birthday. As the celebrant prepared to cut the cake, someone broke the news: the celebration has an extended version on Thursday evening at Aruna's Papa's Corner. The celebration continues.



Bolaji Adigun Adebisi



Isah Adebisi and wife



Arogundade and wife



Anaba



Mohammed, Aruna



Mr. & Mrs. Iyareh



Uwagiaren, Aminu



Iheanacho earns player of the match with impressive performance

By Saheed Afolabi

Leicester City forward, Kelechi Iheanacho have been voted the club's player of the match after his fantastic display against Tottenham. This was made known following a post from the club's official Twitter

handle. Leicester City urged Iheanacho to go on and keep delivering his best on the pitch of play. The Super Eagles forward have now netted two goals and three assists in his last two Premier League games. The 26 year old for

votes to defeat James Maddison who had 32 percent votes and Barnes who got five percent votes. Iheanacho goal and assists were instrumental for Leicester City as they got their third consecutive wins in the Premier League. In the 25 minutes, Iheanacho popped up to deliver a

sumptuous assist to Maddison which gave Leicester City a 2-1 lead in the game. Before the end of the first half, Iheanacho got on the score sheet to register his third goal of the season. The Super Eagles goal poacher is having a good season with the Foxes as they fight against relegation.



Kelechi Iheanacho

Rate Flying Eagles after their second game - Garba Lawal

By Saheed Afolabi

Ex-International, Garba Lawal has urged football stakeholders, fans and enthusiasts to start rating the Flying Eagles after their second game in the U20



Garba Lawal

AFCON.

The Nigeria legend rather wants Nigerians not to pile unnecessary pressure on the Flying Eagles but rather give them time to settle and face the business of the U20 AFCON squarely.

The former general manager of Kaduna United said he will always offer words of advice or success to the Flying Eagles coach because of their personal relationship.

"It is too early to say anything for now but it is very important to win the first game and the 2nd game before we start to rate the team.

"The coach is my personal friend if i observe something on technical issues i call his attention immediately."

The Atlanta 96 Olympic gold medalist added that the strength and weaknesses of the other U20 AFCON teams have to be assessed before necessary adjustment can take place.

"Let us wait and see the rest of the teams they will face at the at the Africa U20 competition, we cannot just jump into conclusions."

The Flying Eagles are presently in Morocco for a week training session where they will some friendlies to keep the players in shape before heading to Egypt.

The U20 Nigeria side will face Congo Brazzaville in a friendly game in Morocco on Sunday 12th of February 2023 by 6pm Nigeria time.

Shocking omission as Flying Eagles official list released

By Saheed Afolabi

The Flying Eagles official 21-man list to play for the country in Egypt was released as some key players were omitted. Remo Stars tricky forward, Olamilekan Adams leads the team to don the green and white jersey in the U20 AFCON in Egypt. Highly promising midfielder, Daniel Dogo, Nathaniel Basse and Haliru Sarki made the list. Others are: Nathaniel Nwosu, Augustine Njoku, Solomon Agbalaka, Daniel Daga, Abel Ogwuche, Daniel Bameyi, Rilwanu Haliru Sarki, Nicholas Jonathan, Ahmed Abdullahi, Muhammad

Aminu, Ibrahim Muhammad, Benjamin Frederick, Emmanuel Uchegbu, Onuche Ogbelu, Jude Sunday, Akanbi Saheed Jimoh, Ayuba Francis Abubakar, Samson Lawal, Olamilekan Adams, Caleb Ochedikwu, Chijioke Aniagboso.

The Flying Eagles will have a week training tour in Morocco before moving to Egypt to face their opponent squarely.

The U20 AFCON will take place from the 19th of February to March 11 2023 in Egypt.

The Flying Eagles are drawn in group A against host Egypt, Mozambique and Senegal.

The U20 Nigeria team will square up against Senegal

in their first game of the tournament on Sunday 19th of February 2023 by 6pm Nigeria time.

The Ladan Bosso tutored

side will trade tackles with host nation Egypt in their second game on Wednesday 22nd of February 2023 at 6pm

Nigeria time.

While the game against Mozambique will come up on Saturday 25th of February 2023.

The teams that make it to the semifinal of the U20 AFCON will automatically qualify for the U20 FIFA World Cup.



Flying Eagles



A NIGERIA SAFER WITHIN HER BORDERS

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