

# Lagosians, Re-elect Sanwo-Olu

March 18, of Assembly seats in and other candidates achievements: 2023, the new Lagos State should be a flying the flag of the All emergency response, date for the walk-over for Babajide Progressives Congress infrastructures and elections into the Olusola Sanwo-Olu, the (APC) based on three leadership style. governorship and House governor of Lagos State key sectoral For the mass of 25

million citizens living in the smallest state by area in Nigeria, the relentless battle to keep the city on the move 24 hours a day has made transportation a critical index of performance.

*Continued on page 3*



www.echoneews.ng

# Echoneews

## LAGOS COMMUNITIES EDITION

A publication of Echoneews Newspapers Limited

Monday 13th March- Sunday 19th March 2023

# LAGOS 2023: 6M VOTERS SET TO DECIDE NEXT GOVERNOR, 40 ASSEMBLY MEMBERS



Mr. Babatunde Sanwo-Olu



Hakeem Olaogun-Dickson



Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour



Adediran Azeez Olajide

Train-Bus Accident: Sanwo-Olu leads blood donors **PG.4**

House of Assembly Election: Lagos Speaker, Obasa Engages Youth In Agege **PG.16**



# Igbo Group Dissociates Self From 'Lagos Is No Man's Land' Position

Lagos Govt Feeds 5000 Indigent Pregnant Women **PG.12**

Raheem's Death: Lagos Court Fixes 3rd April For Drambi Vandi's No-Case Submission **PG.14**

Health tips to lower blood pressure **PG.24**

Sexual And Domestic Violence: Lagos Agency Secures 70 Convictions **PG.13**

# Lagos 2023: 6m voters set to decide next governor, 40 assembly members

By Rasaq Adebayo

**O**n March 18, 2023, the next governor of Lagos State will be elected by about 6 million registered voters in the State. The 40 members to represent each political constituency in the state at the State House of Assembly will also emerge.

No fewer than 16 candidates were registered by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to contest for the coveted seat of the Lagos State governor but only four of them are prominent. Those are the incumbent governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), Olajide Adediran (Jandor) of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Hakeem Olaogun-Dickson of Accord Party (AP) and Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour of Labour Party (LP).

The four candidates will be jostling for highest vote counts expectedly to be cast by over six million voters.

According to the INEC, Lagos has the highest registered voters with 7,060,195, surpassing Kano (5,921,370) and Kaduna (4,335,208).

The Commission also revealed that Lagos State has the highest number of collected Permanent Voters' Cards (PVC), a total of 6,214,970.

However, out of about six million voters with their PVCs, less than two million participated in the last Presidential/National Assembly in the state. The election results indicated that many eligible voters especially the APC supporters refused to go out and cast their votes.

The turnout was very low, only 18.92 per cent of the total eligible voters participated in the presidential poll. LP got the highest vote counts -

582,454 (45.81%), APC - 572,606 (45.04%), PDP- 75,750 (5.96%) while other political parties got 38,431 votes (3.05%).

Though Lagos is said to be home to APC, it came as a shock to many observers why and how the party lost to a less known LP party in the presidential poll.

Peter Obi, the Labour Party candidate, won the state by nearly 10,000 votes, a 0.77% margin, in a massive upset over former state Governor Bola Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress. The other two major contenders, Atiku Abubakar (Peoples Democratic Party) and Rabiu Kwankwaso (New Nigeria Peoples Party), trailed with just 5.96% and 0.66%, respectively.

Although Lagos State is the home state of Tinubu, both Abubakar and Obi pushed to make the state competitive by targeting certain demographics and using the downballot candidates of their respective parties to lead the grassroots campaign. As a state in the ethnic Yoruba homeland of Yorubaland, most of Lagos State's indigenous population are ethnic Yoruba but over a century of internal migration led to a significant minority of non-Yoruba non-indigenes. These differing ethnic dynamics greatly affected the presidential election for the APC.

The result of the presidential poll in the state has since given the governorship candidate of LP, Rhodes-Vivour more confident to ride on Obi's triumph in Lagos. First, he made an attempt to go into alliance with the PDP to oust the ruling APC.

Rhodes-Vivour, in a chat with ECHONEWS, was so confident that he said the PDP will have to collapse its structure for his own party. He said forming alliance with the PDP became necessary and that he has been discussing with the



**Mr. Babatunde Sanwo-Olu**



**Hakeem Olaogun-Dickson**



**Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour**



**Adediran Azeez Olajide**

leadership of party to forge a common front against the APC in the governorship election to be held this week. He said: "Yes, we are in talk with the stakeholders and owners of PDP to work together to take APC out of this government.

"We are determined to emerge victorious during the coming Saturday gubernatorial election. We have made plans to ensure everybody comes out to vote. We will not be cheated twice, INEC has promised us that there would be electronic transmission of the results; they deceived us because that was not what happened during the last election, but we will not be deceived again. So, we are encouraging all our members to come out massively and we have made sufficient security plan to ensure everybody is safe."

Though he did not disclose whether the PDP has agreed with his alliance motive, when asked whether his own party will collapse its

structure into that of the PDP to form the said alliance, Rhodes-Vivour quickly said his own party cannot collapse its structure, explaining that his LP party has more followers than PDP, adding that his party has become stronger than the PDP.

"How is that possible, Labour Party is strong, we got 900+ thousand votes and have higher votes than both APC and PDP, so it is not possible for us to collapse our structure for the PDP. We're working with the party and they are collapsing their structure for us so that we can deliver Lagos State."

Rhodes-Vivour has also planned to leverage on what played out during the presidential election, believing that the Ndigbo in Lagos will also vote for his party and that their votes would give him victory.

He reportedly quickly added an Igbo name to his name to show the Ndigbo that he is their kinsman, hence, his name was re-written as

Gbadebo Chinedu Rhodes-Vivour as shown on Wikipedia.

Rhodes-Vivour was said to be trying to remind the Ndigbo that though he is a Yoruba man, his maternal lineage is in the Igbo origin as his mother, Mrs. Nkechi Rhodes-Vivour was from the Southeast while he also married from the same region.

He also believed that the youths, who are the majority, would vote en masse for him, appealing to them to vote for his party as they did during the last election.

Though the PDP seems to have been weakened by the emergence of LP at the Presidential poll, the PDP governorship candidate said his party is not ready to go into alliance with LP based majorly on the court case surrounding the LP candidate.

Since the result of the last presidential election came as a shock to the ruling APC, the party has retraced its mistake and has started to

put everything in order ahead of the Saturday gubernatorial election.

Political observers traced the downfall of APC to many factors which they said must be corrected within the few days to the governorship election.

They were surprised that the party was unable to record more than two million votes during the last election despite the fact that it has over two million registered members in Lagos State. It was said that the members of the party were angry with the leadership of the party for not funding them.

ECHONEWS gathered that the party set up about 1,500 canvassers in each ward and were promised N5,000 each weekly as incentive, but they were only given the money once. The political observers said the canvassers and members were not motivated and encouraged even to do the door-to-door campaign. They further noted that the local council chairmen compounded the issue by not funding the campaign in their various localities.

They suggested that each local council chairman should be charged to mobilise voters in their domains to deliver a number of vote counts in their various localities.

With this and other strategies being devised by the party, it is believed that the ruling APC will coast home with landslide victory at the forthcoming governorship and state assembly elections.

Meanwhile, the extension of the gubernatorial election by one week gives political parties opportunity to mobilise more voters and convince them to troop out to exercise their civic right. It is expected that million of voters in Lagos State will participate in the Saturday election.

# Lagosians, Re-elect Sanwo-Olu

*Continued from cover*

After many years of switching policies from one lane to another, the birth of the Lagos State 25-Year Development Plan enabled a vision of urban mass transportation befitting a megacity. In 2000, the construction of medians to discipline its seemingly uncontrollable motorists led to the dualisation of roads to enable more vehicles to ply them simultaneously. A significant milestone is the introduction of the Bus Rapid Transportation system that flagged off the gradual phase-out of the yellow rickety Molue buses from the city centres.

The undeniable contribution of the Sanwo-Olu administration to this dynamic progress is the completion of road projects initiated by his predecessor, Akinwumi Ambode. These include the Pen Cinema Flyover, the Oshodi-Abule-Egba BRT route, a network of 31 roads in Ojokoro and the Aradagun-Epeme-Iworo-Ajido, Bridge. In line with his THEMES manifesto, Governor Sanwo-Olu responded to the clamour of Lagosians for transportation infrastructures by initiating and completing ramp and road works on Ikorodu Road, Lagos-Ogun Boundary roads Phase II, Lekki Oniru Traffic Circulation Projects, a network of four roads in Ikeja, comprising Oduduwa Way, Oduduwa Crescent, Oba Dosunmu and Sobo Arobidu Streets in Ikeja, Lateef Jakande/McDonald, Milverton and Thompson Avenue road, Ikoyi. Over 1,150 inner-city arterial roads covering about 251

kilometres across the 20 local governments were fixed by the Lagos State Public Works Corporation.

This administration also displayed vision by flagging off the construction of new bridges- the Agege Motor Road-Ikeja Flyover and the Opebi-Ikorodu Road Flyover- to cut the travel time of commuters. Bigger and more daunting projects such as the Lekki Regional Road expected to connect VGC, Ikate Elegushi, Ikota, Chevron Drive, Ajiran, Pinnock Beach Estate, Gracefield Island and Orange Island up to Freedom Road and serve as an alternative to the Lekki-Epe Expressway are going on. Funding for the Fourth Mainland bridge, the next big bang in Lagos' ever transformational road map has been concluded.

Beyond these, the administration inherited a legacy of putting in place rail as the

signature of modern megacities. It consolidated the Blue Line project by purchasing the coaches, the power and the signal system. The Line, which is currently on test is set to run fully before May. Simultaneously, work on the Red rail line running for 37 kilometres between Agbado and Oyingbo is in progress. Ahead of the completion, the administration is building a massive rail terminus in Ikeja, a seamless tri-modal experiment of road, rail and air travel in the capital city.

The expenditure on land transportation is followed by water transportation. Considering its prominence in national affairs, it is so easy to forget that Lagos' 3,577 square kilometres are only 0.39 per cent of Nigeria's 923, 773 square kilometre land mass. Maximising the water bodies, which constitute 22 per cent of

the state for transportation is one of the legacies that the Sanwo-Olu administration has done a lot to consolidate by fixing 15 jetties and putting seven high-capacity boats on the four major routes linking Ikorodu, Badore, Marina, Victoria Island Ikoyi and Apapa, The transportation economic hub is so huge that it has ignited a controversy over the members of the road transport workers whose activities are perceived by citizens as impunity. Many fail to appreciate that the union they belong to is established by law and state governments must respect the labour laws that brought them into existence.

Sanwo-olu's enviable track record in transportation, also marked by the emergence of the Cowry card, a payment platform for all commuting operations, is matched by the emergency services,

another index of citizen care.

Viewers of Safe Lagos, a weekly television programme chronicling how the state's Emergency services network of fire and rescue, ambulance services, and another para-medical respond to Save Our soul calls from citizens whose homes are gutted by fire or collapse wonder at the speed and professionalism of the officers.

They saw Lagos in action in the heat of the COVID-19 pandemic when Governor Sanwo-Olu, as Incident Commander responded promptly to save lives in a way that impressed the private sector so well that they decided to collaborate with the administration.

Sanwo-Olu has achieved this remarkable record, among so many others, without, as they say, losing his cool. There is not one instance of anger, emotional outburst, or indiscretion that could indicate arrogance of power. His leadership style is to consult and listen to act

in the best interest of the citizens and in line with the oath he swore to serve without prejudice. With the ease he has managed Lagos State, it is easy for ambitious politicians throwing their hats into the gubernatorial contest to think running Lagos is like eating a piece of cake. It isn't. Sanwo-Olu has performed well because he has been groomed for the job. He was in the executive council headed by Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu as Governor of Lagos State between 2003 and 2007 and was deployed to several ministries as commissioner.

Until he ran for the governor, he was the Managing Director of the Lagos State Property Development Corporation. A surveyor and banker by profession, expertise, and experience have combined to put him ahead of the inexperienced in the forthcoming elections. He is the best man for the job. Vote him as Governor of Lagos State on March 18, 2023.



Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu



# Train-Bus Accident: Sanwo-Olu leads blood donors

By Rasaq Adebayo

To lay an example of good leadership for over 20 million Lagosians, the State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu lead in the donation of blood to rescue the victims of the Train-Bus accident that occurred on Thursday at the PWD – Shogunle axis of Ikeja.

The bus, conveying staff of Lagos State Civil Service, was reportedly rammed into a moving train. The driver of the staff bus was blamed for the incident for ignoring signals from the officials of the Nigerian Railway Corporation and driving into the rail track when a train was fast approaching. The bus

driver was said to have overtaken vehicles waiting for the train to pass and was hit by the passenger train before it could cross the track.

It was also gathered that the bus was overloaded, carrying more than its capacity due to cash scarcity which forced many workers to opt for the free bus.

It carried 108 passengers instead of its sitting capacity of about 85.

Following the incident in which six lives were lost and about 85 others sustained various degrees of injury, there was an appeal to the residents to donate blood to rescue the victims.

The data obtained by ECHONEWS revealed that hitherto, about 256 units of blood have been

donated by Lagos residents. Governor Sanwo-Olu's prompt response to the donation prompted other political leaders in the state including the former Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Kehinde Bamigbetan, and others who have also made their donations.

It was also gathered that 32 victims have been discharged from three Lagos State public health facilities after quality medical care and management. Also, 40 units of blood were transfused to stabilize patients who required blood transfusion while the Lagos State Blood Transfusion Service (LSBTS) was able to collect 256 units of blood from voluntary donors

who heeded the call for blood donation for victims of the accident.

The Commissioner for Health in Lagos State, Prof. Akin Abayomi explained that 19 of the 102 accident victims were discharged from the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH); five from Accident and Emergency Centre at the Toll Gate, and eight from the Orile-Agege General Hospital.

He disclosed that LASUTH received additional 17 victims of the accident on Friday after the initial 85 that were recorded, bringing the total number of injured persons associated with the accident to 102.

"What we have recorded here in the hospital

(LASUTH), is 102 injured persons associated with the train-bus accident, we believe most of these would have been inside the bus, but because the bus was dragged for a long distance by the train, we are also aware that there were persons that were injured outside of the bus. So, this is probably responsible for the higher number of persons that were brought to LASUTH for treatment.

"It is a bit too early to get full details from most of the passengers or injured persons because a lot of them are in pain due to the moderate and severe injuries, so it is not a time to overstress them, but as they get better, we are going to collect more information from them."



Governor Sanwo-Olu's visit to the victims of the Bus-Train crash at LASUTH

## Orile-Agege LCDA chairman denies affiliation with LP, affirms support for APC

By Motola AbdulGafar

The chairman of Orile-Agege LCDA, Hon. Johnson Babatunde has debunked the rumour of associating with members of Labour Party in the council. He said he would on no account associate with the opposition party as he confirmed his loyalty to his All Progressives Congress (APC) party while urging members to desist from actions that would tag them as supporters of the opposition party. He said one of the

ways of showing their support is to mobilise people to vote for the APC candidates in the area. Babatunde also charged his people to perform their civic responsibility diligently, saying their efforts are also a form of contribution in support of the party which will make their governance at the grassroots level democratic as it ought to be. He, therefore, urged residents to avoid spreading the rumour which he described as a tactic of opposition to confuse his people.



Hon. Johnson Babatunde

## Bamigboye urges LG staff to vote Sanwo-olu for second term

By Motola AbdulGafar

The chairman of Mushin Local Government, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye has urged the staff members of Mushin Local Government to vote for Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his second term. He stated reasons which should resonate vibrant actions from the Governor towards Lagos State civil servants as rewards for loyalty and stewardship. He stated that the election is for the benefit of all Lagosians including servants, as it will promote adherence

to the template of developmental programme of Lagos State that will transform the lives of Lagosians. The council boss stated that the creation of additional 37 Local Council Development Areas by Asiwaju Bola Tinubu has yielded development and employment opportunities for Lagosians to propel the progress of the state. The Council Manager, Comrade Osikoya 'Sogo' emphasised on the need for the staff to vote the governor to continue the works he started in his first term in office, by voting him for the second term.

## Egunjobi commiserates with council leader over father's death

By Motola AbdulGafar

The chairman of Agege Local Government, Hon. Ganiyu Egunjobi has commiserated with the council leader, Hon. Olohuntoyin Alliu, over the demise of his father, Alhaji Alliu Akanni Lasisi Odemuyiwa. The council boss described the late father as a leader of virtue who nurtured great men of like

minds before his demise. He claimed that the impact of Odemuyiwa was greatly felt in the development of the community even in old age as he gave advice and contributed towards the development of the community. Odemuyiwa was announced dead on the March 4, 2023 at 88 years in his place of residence and buried according to

Islamic rites on the same day. Egunjobi also commiserated with the entire members of the family over the demise. The council boss, on behalf of his family, council cabinet, management and staff, and the people of the council area prayed to God to grant the departed soul eternal rest, and give the entire family the fortitude to bear the loss.



Alhaji Alliu Ajanni Lasisi Odemuyiwa



Hon. Ganiyu Egunjobi while assuring

## Kendoo describes women as society pillar

By Motola AbdulGafar

The chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Otunba Kehinde Oloyede (Kendoo) has described women as the pillar of society as he celebrated them on International Women's Day. He stated that women's role in nation building can never be underrated, saying they are

like a solid rock that supports the development and growth in any society. He said his administration will continue to support and empower women to thrive in all aspects of their endeavours. He encouraged them to be more involved in active politics as they have important roles to play in the development of the country.

"Since assumption of office, we have been working assiduously to progress the women in all fronts because, without them, no society thrives. We will continue to support and empower them to succeed in life. "I encourage the women to be more involved in active politics because they have important roles to play in making sure our society moves forward successfully."



Otunba Kehinde Oloyede (Kendoo)

# Court accused of slow dispensation of justice

By Saheed Afolabi

**A** Magistrate Court in Apapa has been accused of slow dispensation of justice over the judgement of a theft case.

The case involves a trader, Livinus Ireka and his subordinate, Chinaecherem Afunanya, who was alleged to have stolen N1.2 million from his boss's shop. According to Ireka, the police had in 2021 charged Afunanya at the Magistrate's Court, Apapa, for the alleged offence but since then the case has continued to be delayed.

In his narration, he said he kept over N30,000 in the shop which went missing together with the reduction of his goods worth N1million bit by bit and subsequent missing which amounted to a total of N1.2 million.

He explained that the defendant did not deny the allegation levied against him by the complainant which prompted his arrest while charged with a single offence of stealing before Magistrate, L.O Kazeem of the Magistrate's Court, Apapa.

Ireka further appealed for the revisitation of the case for proper dispensation of justice.



## NURTW commends member for commitment

By Saheed Afolabi

**T**he chairman of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) branch C Amuwo-Odofin Local Government, Prince Ajele Abeyi Abayomi (Ikomodina) has commended the commitment of one of his members, Comrade Michael Adewale, for his commitment towards mobilising other members to vote during the last presidential election. Adewale, popularly known as Hotwater, is

the second in command of the branch.

Ikomodina noted that Adewale made rigorous efforts in checkmating all members and encouraging them to vote during the last election, adding that beyond the election obligations, Adewale has also proved himself as a good subordinate to work with, saying his attitude towards the development of the branch has been positive.

He described him as a man with a committed passion for community

growth and development as proved through his contributions in times of crisis when members have a clash with members of other associations in his absence.

In light of his commitment towards the branch, Ikomodina further celebrated his successful transition into a new age, saying he expected him to put in more effort by synergizing with him in building a good reputation for their branch among all others.



Hotwater

## Youth leader encourages door-to-door campaign strategy

**T**he All Progressives Congress (APC) National Youth Leader, Dayo Israel has encouraged youths in Amuwo-Odofin Local Government to intensify their door-to-door campaign strategy in the area.

Israel made the call following the postponement of the State election till March 18th, 2023.

He stated that no opportunity should be left unused, saying the postponement is a privilege for them to put in more effort in their call.

He demonstrated his idea as he took to the streets of the council and began to campaign for the party's flag bearers in the various communities.

He urged the youths to sensitize the elderly ones and enlighten those who are ready and willing to vote for the party to minimise void votes during the coming elections.

He, therefore, appealed to all the residents to go out en mass to vote, saying the state is expected to get more votes than the presidential election.

## Alli-Macaulay advocates for more women participation in election

By Saheed Afolabi

**T**he Member, Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Mojisola Alli-Macaulay has advocated for the participation of a more women of Amuwo-Odofin Local Government in the election process. She said their participation should be

consistent and go beyond mere talk in practical use to ensure equity of human rights in the nation.

Alli-Macaulay said an environment free of bias and discrimination will birth a community that is equitable, diverse and inclusive to all its residents no matter the gender.

She advocated for the

celebration of women's achievements in the council as a means to raise awareness about their thought and discern discrimination among the opposite sex.

She also called for up-to-date information among women while encouraging them to collaborate and brainstorm with people of like minds about the

path to move forward in life.

The gender advocate further encouraged capable women in the community to learn about the pervasive challenges affecting women folks to know how to be of help to relieve them from their independent struggle and give them a confidant to meditate with.



Hon. Ali Macaulay

# Council chairman commends retiree

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The chairman of Badagry West LCDA, Hon. Gbenu Joseph Henugbe has commended a retiree in the council, Mrs. Mariam Attah over her industrious nature with the capacity to manage people towards achieving set goals. Attah who has been in service for 35 years was said to have contributed immensely to every project assigned to her department without delaying the work progress of the council. Henugbe said Attah has added value to the local

government system, especially in Badagry West, within the shortest period of her deployment to the area. He said she had a dynamic style of leadership as she conforms with the various council-managers and chairmen in power without bridging the requirement of the government. He encouraged young management staff members to emulate the retired member who he said was able to maintain good relationship with the political and civil servants in the council.



Mrs Mariam Attah receiving her award

## Ogunlende supports fishermen in Badagry

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Special Adviser to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Special Duties and Inter-governmental Relations, Mr. Mobolaji Ogunlende has empowered residents of Jegeme, a riverine community in Ajido, Badagry Local Government with standard fishing equipment to aid their activities. He said his donation was to contribute to the agricultural development of the council and applaud their massive turnout during the presidential election. Equipment such as fishing nets, lifejackets,

and power banks were distributed to working elders and youths to help increase their productivity in the area. He encouraged them to as well come out in mass to vote for Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu as their turnout is worth reckoning with. He boasted that Sanwo-Olu has not only developed Lagos State but had ensured absolute commitment to hidden areas for them to enjoy the dividends of democracy. He also sensitized them on voting procedures as he noted that many void votes were not counted because voters were not properly oriented on how to cast their votes.



Fishermen and Mr Mobolaji Ogunlende in Badagry

## APC LAHA candidate, Tijani facilitates the construction of a pedestrian bridge in Ojo

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Lagos State House of Assembly candidate under the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ojo constituency II, Hon. Surajudeen Tijani has facilitated the construction of a pedestrian bridge

linking Ese-Ofin, Origele, Origbongbo, Iganmo, Irewe, and Itogbesa riverine communities in Ojo Local Government. The road was reported to have been in a very bad state, slowing down socio-economic activities as pedestrians took more time before passing through the

area before its reconstruction. Tijani said the bridge was done to create awareness of the working government in Lagos State and to encourage the residents to vote for APC during the election. He appealed to the community for the pains the

damaged bridge would have cost them during construction, saying he has tasked the engineers to complete the construction within three days. He promised to aid the less privileged with projects that would enhance their standard of living if re-elected.

## Group makes case for Sanwo-Olu's re-election

By Motolani AbdulGafar

An independent political group in Badagry Local Government, the Mobolaji Ogunlende Campaign Organization has sensitized various communities in the area on why they should vote for Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

The spokesperson of the group, Mr. Wande said the re-election of Sanwo-Olu will bring about a government of continuity as there will be order in the development of Lagos State without disruption from other parties. He said Sanwo-Olu has so far portrayed a leadership of listening ear as the idea of



Awarding cooking gas to residents during campaign

the voice of the people has been instilled in his THEMES agenda which has been executed in various Local Governments without political benefit. Wande said the Governor has implemented state laws and oversaw the

operation of the State executive branch by encouraging and assisting the grassroots on their duties and subsequently executing various projects at the state level. He cited the various empowerment programs that have been conducted

saying Sanwo-Olu has empowered numerous youths in the State without knowing their origin or having any connection with them except for the fact that they reside in the State and meet the requirement of engaging in the empowerment activity.

## Bolowotan solicits votes for Sanwo-Olu in Ikorodu

By Saheed Afolabi

The Director-General of Lagos State Sports Commission, Toyin Bolowotan, has intensified the campaign for the All Progressives Congress ahead of the March 18 governorship election. The sports administrator and brand expert, over the weekend, activated a Get Out The Vote (GOTV) movement to achieve 120,000 votes for the party in Ikorodu. Accompanied by his support group, the DG met with the representatives of North Central indigenes living in Ikorodu to canvass for Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and other APC candidates.

The leader of the group, Chief Gideon Boar who spoke on behalf of his people promised that they would vote massively to support Sanwo-Olu and other candidates of the APC in the Ikorodu Division. Bolowotan further took the campaign message to the grand finale of the Renewed Hope Football Challenge organized for the APC presidential, gubernatorial, Senatorial, and House of Assembly candidates at the Police barracks field, Igbogbo road, Ikorodu.

The football challenge which was sponsored by Bolowotan had six clubs drawn from the 5 Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) participate, namely; Team Bola Ahmed Tinubu (Team BAT), Team Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Team Tokunbo Abiru, Team Babajimi Benson (Team JB), Team Gbolahan Ogunleye (Team OGA) and Team Aro Moshood

Abiodun (Team AMA). The finale also had in attendance Rep Babajimi Benson who urged everyone to give their votes to the APC.

Meanwhile, the Get Out The Vote (GOTV) movement met with market leaders in Ikorodu West LCDA, where Bolowotan urged the market men and women to support the efforts of the government in doing more for the people.

He disclosed that the process starts with the re-election of Governor Sanwo-Olu and ensuring that the lawmakers that would represent Ikorodu at the state assembly are also the APC candidates.

The team further met with leaders of the Nigerian Automobile Technician Association at the Mechanic Village, Agric, Ikorodu where the artisans were urged to give their support to the APC by coming out en-masse to vote for Mr. Governor and the assembly candidates.

Bolowotan and his team further moved to Ajaguro in Ikorodu West

LCDA to meet with Grinders' Association (Egbe Elero), CDA leaders, youths, and other concerned voters. He also appealed to the people to come out in their numbers to vote for the APC on Saturday so there will be continuity in the good governance currently being enjoined in the state.

The GOTV team ended its movement at Majidun where it met with representatives of localities including Ewenla, Oshodi, Loya, Ayagbo, Araromi, Olufunke, and Kunle Dipo communities.

While they all had requests ranging from drainage issues to electricity and water challenges, they also pledged to give their votes to the APC.

In response to some of their requests, pledged to donate a borehole to the community and immediately made plans for the commencement of work.

The excited people further prayed for Governor Sanwo-Olu



Director General, Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC) canvassing votes from the masses

while promising to troop out on Saturday to vote for the APC candidates.

The Lagos Sports boss led his team to meet with the leaders of the Professional Carpenters and Furniture Makers Association of Nigeria. At the meeting were the zonal chairmen, ex-

chairmen, Ikorodu branch governor and his executives as well as the President of PCFA in Lagos who incidentally hails from Ikorodu.

The PCFA team welcomed Bolowotan and his campaign crew with a rousing hospitality while thanking him for

previous support given to the association.

They further pledged to get all their members across the Ikorodu division as well as their families to vote the Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the two APC candidates for the state house of assembly elections.

## Residents commend Benson on the project

By Saheed Afolabi

The residents of Ikorodu have commended the re-elected member of the House of Representatives representing Ikorodu constituency for embarking on road projects and other projects.

The lawmaker promised to complete the reconstruction and upgrading of roads in the Agbede community after commissioning the Paul Palmer Street project in Igbogbo Baiyeku LCDA.

The cross-section of the neighborhood, under Ikorodu local government Ward F, received the lawmaker with praises and excitement, with Apex Leaders; former deputy governor of Lagos State, Prince Abiodun Ogunleye, Chief Asipa Kaoli Olusanya, Alhaji Basorun Babatunde Rotinwa, Prince Kunle Aduborisa, women leaders, ward councilors, party members, youth leaders, and other notable personality.

Special guest at the flag-off of the new

projects, Mr. Dayo Israel, who is the All Progressive Congress (APC) national youth leader, extolled the performance of Benson, urging him to continue a good job.

He stated: "Ikorodu stands to gain more than what it has benefited from Governor Sanwo-Olu if he's re-elected to the Statehouse. One cannot describe the development coming our way if we have our leaders at the federal, state, and local governments.

"This is why we're



Hon. Jimi Benson

expecting nothing less than 200,000 votes in Ikorodu this Saturday. Lagos State must deliver a re-election victory to Governor

Sanwo-Olu, allowing his excellent performance to continue in infrastructure and other areas."



The member representing Kosofe Federal Constituency at the House of Representatives, Prince Rotimi Agunsoye, has started gathering massive support for the re-election of the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu across Kosofe Federal Constituency with a BATCO Mandate rally. Agunsoye spearheaded the rally in across the Constituency with thousands of mandate group members going to the nooks and crannies of the constituency, canvassing support for the Lagos State Governor. The BATCO Mandate organised a rally starting from Emmanuel High Street Ojota with thousands of Mandate members in branded

# Agunsoye combs Kosofe for Sanwo-Olu's re-election

By Edith Igbokwe

yellow T-shirts and caps of the Lagos State Governor moving through the streets, major roads and markets in Kosofe, Agboyi-Ketu and Ikosi-Isheri in a very long procession. The group also visited Ojota chemical market, Ogudu road, Ojota motor garage, Ikorodu road, Ketu Mottor garage, Mile 12 international market, Ikosi road, CMD road, Shangisha and Magodo Estate. Agunsoye interacted with constituents one-on-one appealing to them to re-elect Sanwo-Olu for a second term in office.



Agunsoye canvases for Sanwo-Olu

He visited the international market, who assured of the Community for the Chairman of Mile 12 Alhaji Shehu Jubril support of the Arewa Lagos State Governor.

## APC stakeholders solicit votes for Sanwo-Olu's re-election

By Edith Igbokwe

The Minister of Science Technology and Innovation, Sen. Adeleke Mamora and the former senator, Sen. Olugbenga Ashafa and other stakeholders have solicited votes for the re-elect of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu. The made the appeal

during a meeting aimed to re-strategize for the forthcoming gubernatorial election. Ashafa appealed to All Progressives Congress APC party members to put aside their differences and work towards the total victory of the party. He urged members to sensitise their neighbours to exercise their civic

responsibility by voting for APC. Mamora reiterated that Lagos State is the heart of Nigeria as he canvassed for APC candidates to sustain the synergy between the executive and the legislators. He promised to provide logistics for the members to carry out their duties effectively without limitations.



Cross section of APC members at the meeting

## ATCIS donates food items to APC members

By Edith Igbokwe

The President of the Association of Telephone Cable Internet Subscriber (ATCIS), Hon. Sina Bilesanmi has donated bags of rice and 300 packs of table water to support All Progressives Congress (APC) members across Kosofe Local

Government. The donation cut across Aboyi-Ketu and Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs). Bilesanmi disclosed that the donation was part of the group's support to give succour to the party members. He further stated that it signifies a way of giving back to the people to cushion the effect of cash crunch issues in

the community. He encouraged all eligible voters to go out and cast their votes in multitude to re-elect Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for the completion of ongoing infrastructural development in Kosofe and across the state. He also sensitised the women to participate actively in the forthcoming gubernatorial election.



Food item support to kosofe

Thousands of All Progressives Congress (APC) women wing and supporters in Somolu have carried out campaign rally for governorship and House of Assembly support for Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu's re-election for a second term in office and to elect Hon. Biodun Orekoya to represent Somolu constituency I at the Lagos state House of Assembly.

According to the ward E Women leader who doubles as the leader of Orekoya Babes, Hon. Mrs. Bisola Adenola, the move became necessary to support All Progressive Congress (APC) candidates; Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu/Hamzat and Hon. Biodun Orekoya for them to continue the good work they started. "As for Sanwo-Olu, he has done so well that he deserves the second term in office for him to complete the projects he started. "He's a trusted man of honour that'll further

# Somolu women rally support for Sanwo-Olu, Orekoya

By Edith Igbokwe

give the Lagosian the laudable infrastructural development that many will benefit from.

"And this is the time to vote for articulate, trusted, and experienced Hon. Biodun Orekoya to represent Somolu Constituency I at the Lagos State House of Assembly," she said.

Adenola poured encomium on the Chairman of Somolu Local Government, Hon. AbdulHamed Salawu for his support that All Progressive Congress (APC) candidates have been enjoying since the campaign started.

She described the chairman as a worthy and exemplary leader.

She said the chairman deserves every accolade that comes his way.

She enjoined the



Somolu women campaign for Sanwo-Olu

women folks to come out en mass on Saturday, March 18 to vote for Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Orekoya, stating that women play significant roles in the growth and development of the society and that such should be replicated in democratic governance.

## NRM candidate, Adewunmi seeks Somolu youths' support

By Edith Igbokwe

The Deputy Governor candidate in Lagos State, under the platform of National Rescue Movement (NRM), Dr. Mrs. Azeekat Adewunmi has reiterated her party's commitment towards making youths employment as its priority if elected on March 18, 2023.

According to her, other priorities of the party include development of small enterprises for new wealth creation, social services, and autonomy of Local Government for rapid socio-economic development in the state.

She disclosed that the

suffering of the masses prompted her joining politics to enable her to salvage the situation which she sees as a clarion call to serve her people and humanity as a whole.

"Honestly, if we're given the chance, replication of what the First Executive Governor of Lagos State, late Chief Lateef Jakande did 40 years ago will not be a bad idea to harp on.

"Where he offered free education, free health care delivery, made provision for low-cost housing for low-income earner and other infrastructural development to his people. All these things, we want it happening again in Lagos.

"My Principal, Mr.

Akinwunmi Braithwaite made the 4 points agenda clearly earlier to find a lasting solution that will checkmate youth restiveness in the society through youth employment.

"Don't forget that many of these youths are graduates but have no work doing which has caused a lot of setbacks in society but if they're gainfully engaged, it'll go a long way in reducing the crime rate and as well boost the economy geometrically."

She explained that some the professions such as photography, fashion design, hairdressing, catering, and the others should be included into the school curriculum to be

learned at the higher institutions.

She said women empowerment remains a necessity that must be provided as they play significant roles in governance.

"Women empowerment must not be overlooked because I see them playing significant roles in nation building through small enterprises fully supported for wealth creation which'll project the nation to the next level.

"In our plan, we know it's the responsibility of the government to make provision for all these for the citizens of the state and we are ready to execute all our campaign promises to the fullest when



Azeekat Adewunmi

elected." She, however, enjoined the electorate to come out en mass to cast their votes for the National Rescue Movement Governorship

candidate, Hon. Akinwunmi Braithwaite/Dr. Azeekat Dabiri Adewunmi and all NRM House of Assembly candidates throughout the state.

# Lagos Govt Feeds 5000 Indigent Pregnant Women

Kunle Awosiyon

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has, since the launch of the Mother Infant Child Health Development (MICHHD) Programme, fed about 5,000 indigent pregnant women registered in Public Healthcare Centres (PHC) across the 20 LGAs and 57 LCDAs of the State.

The Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi disclosed this in his address during Phase IV of the Mother Infant and Child Development programme organised by the Office of Civic Engagement for another set of 570 indigent pregnant women in the State, held at the Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium, Alausa, Ikeja, The Commissioner stated that the MICHHD, launched by Mr. Governor on the 22nd of September, 2021, is a component of the Office of Civic Engagement's "WOMB TO SCHOOL INITIATIVE", designed as a preventive rather than a curative security measure geared towards making Lagos safer by the year 2050.

While commending the effort of the State Government on the initiative, the Commissioner said Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu is determined to ensure that all children in the State have access to good health, food, education and ample opportunities to excel. He added that eating healthy during pregnancy helps foetal development while



Pregnant women receiving food items

also eating healthy after pregnancy helps the mother to lactate very well and give the children the necessary breast milk that is required for child brain development.

Earlier, the Special Adviser on Civic Engagement, Princess Aderemi Adebawale said the Mother Infant and Child Development 'MICHHD-2050' programme is an initiative that looks at security from conception, to birth, to adolescence and into adulthood.

She explained that a nutritional link to the security of Lagos State, is the belief that the best time to plan for "A Rising Greater Lagos" is today. Hence, the MICHHD-2050 Project is driven by the notion that when a child's brain is fully formed, both the child and the State will benefit from adequate and sustainable human capital investment towards

having "CIVICALLY RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS" who will contribute positively to the socio-economic development of the State.

Princess Adebawale averred that the programme is dedicated to providing weekly nutritious food packs and pregnancy education to aid proper foetal brain development and safe delivery by focusing on the brain development of the child while in the womb.

She added that from the first phase of the MICHHD Programme piloted in the year 2020, 2,000 indigent pregnant women benefited; the second Phase, had 1,140 comprising beneficiaries divided into 20 control and experimental groups to measure the impact of the food on the mothers and their babies while the third phase had another 570 women who

received food packs which contained all the required nutrients to help in proper brain development of the foetus for 24 weeks starting from their second trimester till delivery.

"Aside from the plan to provide food packs containing daily nutritious food and supplements for 570 pregnant women and nursing mothers, this fourth edition also showcases 228 nursing mothers who had earlier benefitted from the postnatal programme, that will now get a maternity box containing baby clothes and baby care articles", she said.

General Manager, Lagos State Health Management Agency, LASHMA, Dr. Elizabeth Zamba said her agency has been on the MICHHD journey with the Office of Civic Engagement for three years since it was first conceptualised.

In her words: "it is a

programme that we are fully aligned with because we are all about improving the quality of life of Lagos residents, especially Mothers and Children. Even the ILERA-EKO plan, the way it is designed, favors mothers and children and offers them the best health care.

She said the agency will be enrolling 570 mothers on the ILERA-EKO plan for the next year, while those previously on it, will be renewed, so that they can continue to have qualitative health care.

"This is a passion of Mr. Governor and also the Commissioner for Health as we journey towards universal quality healthcare", Dr. Zamba reaffirmed. The Chief Executive Officer, Gero Care, a consulting firm working with the MICHHD programme, Dr. Ajibola Meraiyebu said "With this remarkable journey, we have seen all the changes and help that this project has brought to all the women. We have records of these women and we have been tracking and monitoring them throughout this journey".

"These records are there to help the Ministry so that artificial intelligence can be introduced in the care of the women and children in Lagos and I know that there is an intention to touch every woman across the State", he added.

Dignitaries present at the event include Permanent Secretary Primary Health Commission, Dr. Ibrahim Mustapha; the Technical Adviser to the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Olamide Okunlaja and the Supervisors for Civic Engagement for Local Government and Local Council Development Areas among others.

# Sexual And Domestic Violence: Lagos Agency Secures 70 Convictions

Kunle Awosiyan

The Lagos State Domestic Violence Agency has secured over 70 court convictions ranging from life imprisonment to 60 years in jail in the last two years.

The Executive Secretary of the agency, Mrs. Titilola Vivour-Adeniya said this, adding that the state also rendered over 10, 000 services in its efforts to curb sexual and domestic violence across the state. Vivour-Adeniya

who is also a sibling of the Labour Party gubernatorial candidate, Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour said that the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of the All Progressives Congress had done a lot and should be voted for to

continue its good works. She said, "Under the government of Babatunde Sanwo-Olu we have been able to provide 10,000 services for domestic violence survival. These survivors had been able to access free health care and access to

free Lagos services and access to free justice." There is zero tolerance to all forms of sexual violence and this is happening under this administration. It is for these reasons that I will be voting Babajide Sanwo-Olu."



# Lagos Govt Sympathises With Victims of Fire In Ajegunle And Train Accident In Ikeja

Kunle Awosiyan

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has commiserated with the traders who lost their goods in the Akere Spare Parts Market in Ajegunle. The governor said he was shocked to hear about the incident. Mr. Governor, on behalf of the government, genuinely shares their grief. He has ordered a probe into the fire, which emergency workers have put out. Besides, Mr

Governor implores Lagosians to desist from attributing the unfortunate incident to any political party or its agents. Those who are struggling to make political gains from the incident are being mischievous. It is shameful to take advantage of the misfortune of others to feather some political nests. The governor also sympathise with victims of the train accident that occurred on Thursday morning.

Two people were confirmed dead while an unspecified number of people were injured after a passenger train crushed a Lagos State Government

staff bus on its way from Ikotun enroute Alausa, the state secretariat, at the PWD area of the state. The accident happened around past 7am on

Thursday. In a message on his Twitter account, Sanwo-Olu prayed for families of the victims and appreciated the efforts of the rescue team



Lagos Govt Sympathises With Victims

# Road Rehabilitation: LASURA Sensitises Bariga Residents

Kunle Awosiyan

The Lagos State Urban Renewal Agency (LASURA) visited Bariga area of Lagos to sensitize the residents on the plan of the government to build some roads in the place.

He said that government was ready to upgrade some roads and had to quickly address grey areas that could hamper project execution and solicited for residents' support. Reacting a resident who simply identified herself as Adaeze Orimili said that

Before now, many residents of Ajayi Olaiya, Obadia and Alhaji Yunusa Communities in the Bariga Local Council Development Area of the state had raised the alarm that the state government was planning to demolish their houses in its plan to rehabilitate some roads.

flood had destroyed many of the roads in Bariga as she called on the government to create quality drainage while building the roads. Meanwhile the State Government has stated that road rehabilitation in Igbo Olomu Community in the Ikorodu West Local Council Development Area is included in the priority road projects within Ikorodu Local Government Area to be executed by the State.

However, on Tuesday a sensitisation team led by the representative of the General Manager, Tpl. Adebola Owokade, Director Research, Statistics and Evaluation was in the LCDA to educate the residents that the government had no plan to throw them out of their homes.

The General Manager of LASURA, Tpl. Ajibike Shomade made this known during an engagement held on Monday, with residents and stakeholders of the Community.



Sensitizing exercise

The Lagos High Court Sitting at the Tafawa Balewa Square on Lagos Island has reserved third April, to rule on a "no case submission" filed by the suspended Assistant Superintendent of Police, ASP, Drambi Vandí, who allegedly killed a Lagos-based lawyer, Omobolanle Raheem, twenty-fifth December 2022.

Justice Iboronke Harrison reserved the date after defence counsel, Adetokunbo Odotola, adopted his final written address on behalf of his client, on a no-case submission application filed before the court twentieth February, 2023.

In the application, Vandí asked the court to dismiss the suit and discharge him claiming that he has no case to answer.

In his arguments, the defence counsel told the court to note among other things that none of the eyewitnesses saw the defendant shoot and that the ballistic report of the gun allegedly fired expressly stated that the bullet cannot be linked with any of the

## Raheem's Death: Lagos Court Fixes 3rd April For Drambi Vandí's No-Case Submission

Kunle Awosiyan

firearms recovered from the police officers at the scene.

Odotola also urged the court to note the testimony of the pathologist who confirmed that the death of the deceased was a result of a gunshot injury at the left axillary fold and the bullet moved from a posterior to anterior and the bullet pierced through the chest. The pathologist had also testified that it was not his duty to know who shot the deceased, but his duty was to determine the cause of death and the trajectory of the injury.

Based on what he described as the "inconsistency and contradictions of the prosecution witnesses "from top to bottom," Odotola urged the court to quash the charge against the defendant and discharge him accordingly as the prosecution had failed woefully in its attempt to make a prima-

facie case against him.

The defence counsel also argued that the evidence led and the documents tendered do not present a compellable case of suspicion, however, minute to enable the court to order the defendant to enter his defence.

The prosecution led by the Justice Commissioner and Attorney General, Moyosore Onigbanjo, SAN, however countered the arguments and urged the defendant to defend himself insisting that the prosecution has successfully made its case against him

After listening to the arguments of both parties, Justice Harrison adjourned the matter till third April for ruling.

The Lagos State Government had sixteenth January, commenced the prosecution of ASP Drambi Vandí by calling its first witness, Inspector Matthew Ameh, a police Officer, who



Late Omobolanle Raheem

was present at the crime scene.

Before then, the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice who personally led the prosecution had arraigned Vandí on a one-count charge of murder.

The charge, which was filed

twenty-eighth December, three days after the incident alleged that Vandí killed Raheem by shooting her in the chest, an offence contrary to Section 223 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

ASP Vandí pleaded not guilty.

On Feb. 15th, the prosecution closed its case against the defendant after calling eleven witnesses which included police officers, the husband and sister of the deceased, the ballisticsian and the pathologist, Dr Oluwaseun Williams.

## Easter Holiday: Federal High Court Appoints Vacation Judges

Kunle Awosiyan

The Federal High Court has released its 2023 Easter vacation and roster for vacation Judges.

A circular signed by the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, Justice John Tsoho, said the court shall commence its Easter vacation from Friday, March 31, 2023, to Monday, April 17 2023.

"This is pursuant to the provisions of Order 46, Rule 4 (b) of the Federal High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules, 2019 (as amended). The court resumes sitting on Tuesday, April 18

2023 Judicial Divisions in.

"During the vacation period, the Abuja, Lagos and Port-Harcourt Judicial Divisions shall remain open to the public only for cases of extreme urgency", the circular sent to journalists by the Assistant Director of Information,

Federal High Court of Nigeria, Dr Catherine Oby Christopher, said.

The Abuja Judicial Division will cater for cases from the Federal Capital Territory, North Central, North Western and North Eastern parts of the country.

The Lagos Division will cater for cases



from all the South Western States, while the Port-Harcourt Judicial Division will cater for cases from all states within the South-South and South-Eastern geo-

political zones.

The following Judges, according to the circular, will serve as vacation Judges.

While Abuja Division would be handled by

Justice A. R. Mohammed and Justice Donatus Okorowo, Justice T.G. Ringim.

Justice A.O. Awogboro would take charge of

the Lagos Division.

Justice A. T. Mohammed and Justice S.I. Mark have been assigned vacation Judges in Port Harcourt Division.

The vacation Judges and Heads of Divisions are as usual advised to promptly refer to the Hon. Chief Judge for all matters that they believe may require His Lordship's urgent attention and directives.

"The Chief Judge of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, Honorable Justice John T. Tsoho, wishes his fellow lordships a wonderful vacation in advance," the circular said.

# Easter Holiday: Federal High Court Appoints Vacation Judges

Kunle Awosiyan

The report by the Nigeria Bar Association has rated the conduct of the presidential and national assembly polls satisfactory.

Tagged the "INTERIM REPORT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL & NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA", the association says that the 2023 Election NBA Interim Report rated 8.2% of the election poor or very poor, 64.6% were somewhat satisfied while 27.1% were excellently impressed. In a letter addressed to his colleagues by the National Publicity Secretary of NBA, Akorede Habeeb Lawal, the association observers expressed some satisfaction with the conduct of the election on 25th February, 2023 but have also identified major challenges that should be addressed for future elections. These include the late arrival of INEC officials and ballot materials at the polling stations, malfunctioning BVAS machines, limited or non-transmission of the results from the polling units to the INEC Results Viewing Portal (IReV), insecurity at some polling units including violent attacks on voters and

officials.

**The Letter in Full.....**

Distinguished Colleagues,

On January 12 2023, the President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Yakubu Chonoko Maikyau, OON, SAN constituted the NBA Election Working Group (NBA-EWG), chaired by Mrs. Linda Rose Bala, the 1st Vice President of the NBA. The NBA-EWG eventually deployed over 1000 INEC accredited observers drawn from the 128 Branches of the NBA. These lawyers-observers observed the 2023 Presidential and National Assembly

elections which held on 25th February, 2023 and which continued in some parts of the country until 26th February, 2023. The NBA-EWG's observation of the electoral process continued until the final collations and declarations of the results. The NBA President, Yakubu Chonoko Maikyau, SAN was also physically present to lead the observations of the elections in FCT, Abuja.

Aside the toll-free lines and NBA social media handles, the NBA-EWG for the first time utilized online forms and analytics tools to collect real-time data from the field during the elections process. This application can

identify the geo-location of the observer. With this, reports received in pictorial or video forms were verifiable and confirmed using the app's features. The form and questions that were filled out by NBA observers can be found in the link here: . Also, the NBA President set up the NBA 2023 Election Situation Room at the NBA Headquarters to receive and harmonise reports of the NBA Election Observers from across the country on the conduct of the 2023 General Elections.

In the main, the NBA Observers expressed some satisfaction with the conduct of the election on 25th

February, 2023 but have also identified major challenges that should be addressed for future elections. These include the late arrival of INEC officials and ballot materials at the polling stations, malfunctioning BVAS machines, limited or non-transmission of the results from the polling units to the INEC Results Viewing Portal (IReV), insecurity at some polling units including violent attacks on voters and intimidation, snatching and destruction of voting materials, significant cases of vote-buying and limited access facilities for persons living with disabilities. All the comments from the

NBA Observers can be viewed here: .

Generally, findings from the observation process "indicated that only a quarter of the electorate were excellently impressed with the conduct of the ballots (27.1%) while majority of the voters (64.6%) were somewhat satisfied, only 8.2% rated the election poor or very poor." The dashboard with full reports can be accessed here: .

Kindly find attached for your reference the full NBA-EWG's Interim Report of the 25th March, 2023 Presidential and National Assembly Elections.

Thank you and do have a fulfilling day.  
Akorede Habeeb Lawal  
National Publicity Secretary, NBA



The Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt Hon. Mudashiru Ajayi Obasa engaged the Youth in Agege in post presidential election meeting in order to gear them up towards a better and improved performance in the forthcoming Gubernatorial/State House of Assembly elections.

The Speaker appreciates and commend the Youth for their role in the last Presidential election, though Agege was able to deliver, but more work still needed to be done as it was evident that the party was unable to obtain the desired Score in the State in the last Presidential election.

He urged the Youth to keep up the momentum and mobilise their colleagues in order to make a remarkable statement with their numerical strength in the coming election, because it is an established fact that

## House of Assembly Election: Lagos Speaker, Obasa Engages Youth In Agege

Kunle Awosiyan

the youth hold the sway in this political dispensation with their numerical size, they determine where the pendulum swings.

The DG of Obasa Youth Alliance (OYA), who is also the Deputy Coordinator of National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Lagos West Comrade Jamiu Ademosu, appreciate the Lagos Speaker for

deeming it fit to identify with and engage the youth, he promised on behalf of the youth to mobilise support for the Party as he established various programmes and plans they have initiated in ensuring

this immediately after the Presidential election.

Present at the meeting were: Lagos Speaker, Rt Hon Mudashiru Ajayi Obasa, Hon Gbenga Abiola, OYA Convener, Hon Wale

Fayemi, Ademosu Jamiu, OYA DG, OYA Ward and Zonal Coordinators, as well as the leadership of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Agege and Orile Agege.



RT. Hon Mudashiru Obasa

## General Elections: IGP Alkali Assures Nigerians of Adequate Security

Kunle Awosiyan

The Inspector General of Police, Usman Alkali has assured Nigerian citizens of adequate protection in the forthcoming governorship and house of assembly elections.

Alkali said this in a statement signed by the CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, mnipr, mipra, the Force Public Relations Officer on Thursday.

The statement reads in part, "In furtherance of the meeting held with Strategic Police Managers to discuss and review topical issues and strategies for a more secured electoral process, the Inspector-General of Police, IGP Usman Alkali Baba,

psc(+), NPM, NEAPS, fdc, CFR, has directed all Commissioners of Police and Strategic Commanders posted for the Gubernatorial and State Houses of Assembly election duties to mobilize all resources at their disposal to defend electorates, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) officials and sensitive materials, as well as the electoral process during the conduct of elections on 11th March 2023." According to the statement, the IGP ordered strategic deployments in accordance with the developed standard operating procedure for polling units to ensure

maximum protection against intimidation, harassment, and assault on law-abiding citizens during the electoral process. He equally charged all election commanders in various states to take up complaints of intimidation, harassment, and assault reported by individuals/groups for proper investigation.

The Inspector-General of Police, therefore, assures all Nigerians, particularly electorates and INEC officials that the Nigeria Police Force is in synergy with other security agencies to ensure adequate security and protection of fundamental rights nationwide.



Usman Alkali

# Lagos lawmaker urges Lagosians to vote APC candidates

Kunle Awosiyan

**A** Lagos lawmaker representing Agege Constituency II has urged Lagosians to vote for all the candidates of the All Progressives Congress in all the 40 constituencies in the state. He also called on the residents to vote for the

state governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, adding that the present development in Lagos is a result of mutual understanding between the executive and the legislative arms of the government. According to him, the duo of governor Sanwo-Olu and his deputy, Dr. Babafemi Hamzat had raised the bar of governance in the state

and should be allowed to consolidate the jobs they had done. Ogundimu noted that the present administration is being led by dynamic young governor and his deputy, urging the residents to return them for second term. "Their is a symbiotic relationship between the assembly and the executive, which has

helped the successive administrations in Lagos to do better than other states. There is no doubt about it that Sanwo-Olu has recorded some developmental strides since he came on board. We must repay these duo of leadership because a vote for them is a vote for a better Lagos,' Ogundimu said.



Ogundimu

## Igbo Group Dissociates Self From Lagos Is No Man's Land" Position

Kunle Awosiyan

**A** group of Igbo ethnic group in Lagos has dissociated self from the "Lagos is no man's land" position of some ethnic nationalities living and working in the metropolis. The group, which identified itself as concerned Igbo stakeholders said at a news conference in Lagos said is Yoruba land and would not join anybody to say anything contrary to that position.

The group, led by Messrs Peter Claver Oparah, Kelvin Nwoha and Chima Ukwandu stated, "Lagos is neither an Igbo State nor a no-man's land, as some provocatively state. Although Lagos was a former federal capital, it wholly belongs to Yorubas. We therefore dissociate ourselves from any claim that contravenes the fact that Lagos is a Yoruba state and emphatically state that Igbos are not subscribers to the weird position, marketed by mischief makers that Lagos is a no-man's land. And we pray that we may never use our mouths to say that Lagos is no man's

land because Lagos is not a no-man's land. It is Yoruba land."

We, as Igbos living in Lagos made up of traditional rulers, market leaders, Market women, youths, civil society organizations, town unions and other categories of Igbo population in Lagos state as follows"

The group who used the opportunity to endorse the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his second term bid pledged its support in the forthcoming election.

"Our support for him is anchored on his performance, competence, cordial relationship with Igbos and his grand vision for Lagos, which has greatly favoured Igbos in the last four years. Among all contestants for the tasking office of Lagos state Governor in the coming election, Sanwo-Olu is the best; tested and capable so we urge all Igbos to vote for him on Saturday for the continued benefits of Ndigbo," the group said.

According to the group, a lot is at stake given the investment of Igbo people in Lagos, adding that only a thoughtless tribe without minds of their



own will toil with their destiny. "Ndigbo will never toy with their destiny, their interests, their investment and their security in Lagos by going into any needless confrontation with the Yorubas who have been very accommodating, very hospitable and very cosmopolitan to Igbos in Lagos. While we thank the Yorubas for their understanding, we ask them to see those who want to instigate a fight between Yorubas and Igbos for their devious and selfish political interests, as not representing the

Igbos as we urge Igbos to reciprocate this tolerance by voting for Sanwo-Olu and APC House of Assembly candidates this Saturday.

We want the Yorubas to Equally understand that In last week's presidential election, our son Peter Obi was on the ballot and that this generally drew the sentimental support of many Igbos, who voted for him. The result has shown that while majority Igbos voted for their son, majority Nigerians voted for our President-Elect. Asiwaju Bola Ahmed

Tinubu. While this is understandable, we urge the Yorubas not to see the voting pattern last Saturday as an act of hostility but of democratic choice. This Saturday, Nigerians will vote on the governorship, election and we see it as a great opportunity for Igbos in Lagos to show that we are not political enemies of the Yorubas by voting en mass for Gov. Sanwo-Olu as no Igboman is contesting for the governorship of Lagos. Igbo should show love to Yoruba by voting Gov Sanwo Olu," it stated.

We note that our South East region is troubled and has become a hotbed of insecurity and not safe for Ndigbo for a long time now. In this period, Lagos has absorbed millions of Igbos and their businesses fleeing from the insecurity in the South East. Gov. Sanwo-Olu has been particularly accommodative and the Yorubas have been magnanimous in taking in these Igbos. The governorship election is a payback time and Igbos should be careful not to show themselves as hostile and aggressive guests to Yorubas as that will spell doom for

millions of Igbos, living peacefully and safely in Lagos and doing their businesses without let or hindrance. Let us vote Sanwo-Olu because he represents the interests of all Lagosians.

"We want to assure the Yorubas that Igbos are not greedy as to plot to take over Lagos as some miscreants and hoodlums intent on causing crisis, are saying. We want Yorubas to know that those provocative statements and boasts are not by true Igbos. That such expression of ingratitude is made to drive wedges between the harmonious understandings Igbos enjoy with Yorubas in Lagos for over a century now. We want to assure Yorubas that Igbos are very much committed to this beneficial relationship and would do nothing to harm it. We will use the next Saturday election to demonstrate our commitment to this understanding and further cement our relationship with the Yorubas by voting massively for Sanwo-Olu who we project to enjoy massive victory in the gubernatorial election this Saturday."



# Lagos Free Health Outreach Programme Targets 30, 000 Riverine People

Kunle Awosiyan

The Lagos State Ministry of Health is targeting about 30,000 riverine people in the state for its free medical outreach.

Senior Special Assistant to the Lagos State Governor on Health, Dr. Oreoluwa Finnih disclosed this at the Palm Avenue Primary Health Centre, venue of the free medical outreach programme for residents of Mushin Local Government Area and environs.

She said, "We are looking at seeing by the end of this outreach between 25,000 to 30,000 people both on Lagos Mainland, Island, Riverine Communities, Hard-to-Reach areas, slums, market, worship centres.

"All services at this medical outreach mission are absolutely free to citizens. It is to encourage people to seek better healthcare, when you are not feeling fine, go to a health care facility rather than a chemist. Go to a health care facility where they may pick up some other things that are wrong with you and they can quickly treat before it becomes more expensive, complicated or lead to permanent injury, disability or death", She said.

Finnih stated that no fewer than 8,000 people who reside in riverine, hard-to-reach and rural communities across Lagos State had benefitted from a free medical outreach programme sponsored by the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

She explained the free medical expedition programme was organized at the behest of the Governor to improve access to quality and efficient health care delivery at the grassroots as well as achieve universal health coverage particularly in



A beneficiary receiving treatment

communities with less significant health coverage. Speaking further, Finnih disclosed that over 30,000 people residing in rural, riverine and hard-to-reach communities are expected to be reached with free basic health care services during the pilot phase of the ongoing programme which started late last year.

According to her, the free medical services offered during the outreaches include blood pressure check, free blood sugar check, medical consultation, eye care services, breast and cervical cancer screening, vaccination and immunization services, free medication, health education and counselling services.

She said: "Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu is highly committed to the health of the Lagos people, as daunting as that task may seem, he has taken it head on and even done the unusual because He's Mr. unusual as well. Beyond standing in Mushin today, this Sanwo-Olu free medical outreach mission

has gone into the hard-to-reach areas of Lagos State.

"The Governor through this medical intervention has provided free blood pressure check, free blood sugar check, we are also going to know the weight and height of our patients, so we can advise some of them on perhaps lifestyle changes they need to make in terms of their diet and other things they are doing.

"Furthermore, we have doctors and other medical personnel to offer consultation and medical checks that will often lead to prescription, and we have those prescriptions, meaning people are going to get medications for free here. For those who have complaints with their eyesight, they have the opportunity of seeing the opticians and perhaps get free eye glasses if required. For our women folk, we are providing free breast and cervical cancer screening as well. And for those whose medical needs cannot be met at an outreach such as this, it is an opportunity to link them up with the closest primary, secondary

or tertiary healthcare facility in their vicinity". While noting that the free medical outreach services are in continuation of efforts to increase access to health services and complement existing basic health care service provision at communities visited, the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Health stated that the free medical outreach programme is also geared towards encouraging people to seek health.

"Generally, our people in the country, not just in Lagos have poor health seeking behaviour, they don't seek healthcare until sometimes it is too late, so we thought it wise to bring healthcare to their door steps, to their markets, worship centers and communities so that they can access it while going about their routine activities.

And then, a lot of the diseases that would have taken long and perhaps would have proven fatal, we can catch quickly and make sure that we have a healthy population. So that's what we are doing with these interventions, to encourage the people to come, get health care and also be aware of the services that are going on in their primary health care centres", Finnih said.

She explained that the Governor has procured water ambulance to ease the provision of health care services to riverine dwellers adding that medical infrastructure upgrade and capacity of health workers especially at the primary care level are being accorded the priority they deserve.

"Remember that Lagos is an Island and therefore we have a riverine population that we have to cater to their health care needs, and the Governor has done so by ensuring we have a water ambulance. He is also supporting the various local government who have riverine communities by making sure they have access to quality and efficient health care services through the establishment of primary health care facilities manned by trained and well equipped staff who take

health care services to the population in the nooks and crannies of their various local government", the Governor's aide said.

Finnih stated that the free medical mission train has visited several local governments including riverine communities and hard-to-reach areas of the State adding that the outreach is going to be continuous exercise and will run as scheduled up until a day before the presidential election but to also continue thereafter.

"We have been to several local governments, yesterday were at Oshodi-Isolo, today we are in Mushin, previously we have visited Alaba-Rago in Ojo, Oyingbo market in Mainland, some riverine communities including Ibeshe in Amuwo-Odofin, Badadgry and Eti-Osa and Epe, and so far we seen over 8,000 people and we look forward to seeing at least double that number more. Speaking in the same vein, the Special Assistant to the State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Tunde Ajayi explained that the focus of the medical outreach mission is to catch the unreached; the people who do not have time to go to the health facilities and who haven't considered it important enough to take care of their health stressing that the goal is to catch them right at the place where they work; amongst their market spaces and public facilities.

"On the one hand of this outreach, we are doing a whole lot of work with health education, we are reaching out to children, women, talking to them about their health, making sure they have improved health seeking behaviour and how to seek attention and care when they need one.

# LASG Empowers 4,260 Filmmakers

Kunle Awosiyan

The Lagos State Government has partnered with Film Academies to train, upskill and empower 4,260 Filmmakers and Creative Practitioners in Acting, Editing, Cinematography, Directing, Lighting and Production Design among others. The Executive Secretary of the Lagos State Film and Video Censors Board, Mrs. Adebukola Agbaminoja stated this at the 2023 Summit of the

Legends of Nollywood held recently in Lagos with the theme: "Empowering the Nigeria Film Industry – Actualising Your Resources".

Mrs. Agbaminoja noted that the collaboration among the stakeholders in the Film Industry would help it to achieve more by focusing on local content to expose Nigerian culture to the World.

She maintained that producing films using local content for the younger generation would grow the local

value system.

Entertainment as one of the strong pillars of the present administration in the State, she said, informed the establishment of the Lagos Film City One-Stop-Shop at Epe to accommodate every genre of the Film Industry.

According to her, Nollywood has now grown to become the largest movie market in Africa in terms of the number of movies produced per year, revenue, popularity and job creation opportunity.



Adebukola Agbaminoja

# Group engages youths to campaign for Sanwo-Olu

By Saheed Afolabi

About 300 youths in Coker Aguda LCDA have been gathered to canvass for the re-election of Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu. Led by Amb. Saheed Balogun and his Progressive Coalition group, the youths were enlightened on misconceptions, half-truths, and fake news which they had been fed through various means including social media. They also used the opportunity to reel out the facts about the achievements of Gov. Sanwo-Olu's administration since 2019.

The 'Lagos Youth Dialogue' event also had representatives of the Arewa Community and Ndigbo youths. The panel session which had speakers such as Olaseinde Samuel, Amb. Moji Oyetayo, Mr. Olalere Samuel, Mrs. Zainab Shitta Bey, Fatai Aliu, Debo Daramola, and Comrade Adesina

was highly engaging.

In his opening remarks at the 'Lagos Youth Dialogue', the convener of the 80-artiste-strong Progressive Coalition, Amb. Saheed Balogun said: "We organised this meeting for youths. We want them to speak about what they think is right and wrong. We want them to talk to each other. I was born in Enugu, grew up in the North, but I am a Yoruba boy and now in my 50s, I have seen it all. I understand that you are angry but please, there is a way to redirect your anger.

"When you are angry, use your sense ask questions, investigate to know what you are doing so that you won't bring the wrong people in. For us to be giant of Africa, the youths must be careful. The social media carries a lot of fake news, you have to investigate.

"My message to youth is that you should investigate before you act; know the law before



youths at the Progressive coalition youth event

you react; don't follow social media, ask for the antecedent. Gov. Sanwo-Olu completed the work of Babatunde Raji Fashola and Akinwunmi Ambode and did his own so I am wondering where the issue is."

The host of the program and Chairman of Coker-Aguda LCDA, Hon.

Rasaq Ibrahim, said: "We are bringing youths together to dialogue about our nation because when you build the youths, you build the nation. We discuss and look for way forward as a people in the grassroots. Lagos is our own, it is our house that we have to build."

On the 2nd term

mandate of the Governor, the council boss popularly known as RIO said: "I must thank Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu for what he has been doing. If you look at the projects he has rolled out from the beginning of his tenure, it is clear, it is something we can see. He deserves to go for 2nd term, he is

a smart governor, he is a capacity governor. I want to apologize to every youth that in every area that we might have failed to deliver, we apologize but we have to come together. We have to support him to build the Lagos of our dreams. Let us support him, let's push for him so that he can deliver."

# ASIWAJU: 10 Things before May 29

By Tunde IMOLEHIN

**F**irst, let me congratulate you, Your Excellency, for your well-deserved victory. You worked hard. You lived up to your famous statement that power is not served a la carte but through hard work. First shot at Presidency. Great outcome. History made. Kudos Sir.

I am particularly elated that my bragging rights are sustained. Three Presidential elections in eight years. Great to be actively involved in this string of achievements. Expectations are very high, Asiwaju. Many want you to succeed while not a few wish otherwise. The choice is yours. It is also our mandate. You have what it takes to be the best President Nigeria has ever produced. Going forward, I would like to submit 10 salient points (not in any particular order) you should not ignore before May 29, 2023 and even beyond.

## 1 MERIT FIRST

Merit is quality of being particularly good. In all that you will do as President, place merit above all. "By merit, not favouritism, shall we attain our ends" Plout remarked.

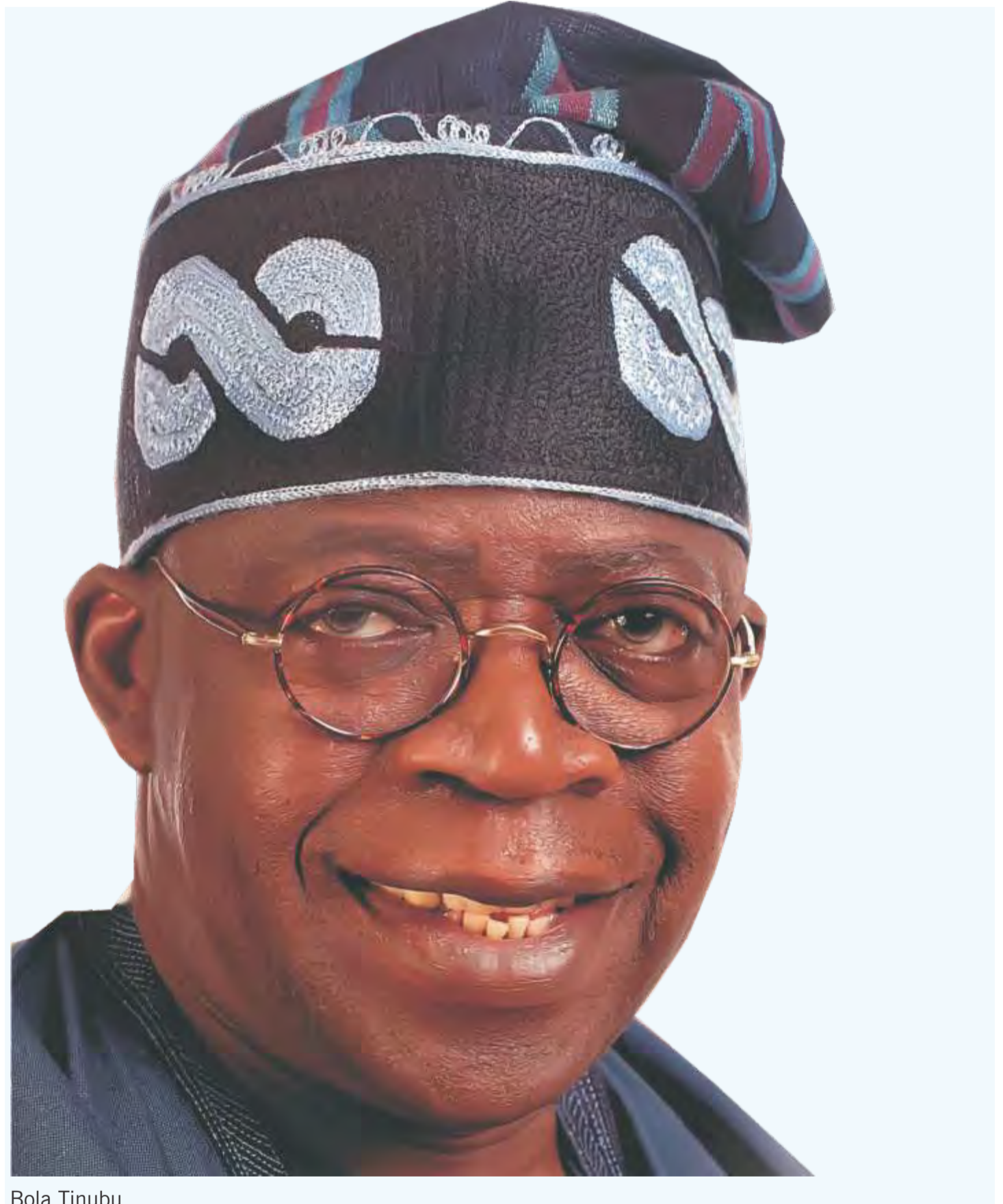
## 2 TAKING DECISIONS

You cannot make progress without making decisions. Life is determined by the decisions we make. With so many options available to us, making decisions can sometimes feel daunting and confusing. Like Napoleon Bornaparte said, "Nothing is more difficult and precious than to be able to decide. And in the words of Maya Angelou, "you may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them"

We have seen you demonstrate uncommon courage in decision making in the past. A particular case was the seizure of funds belonging to local governments in Lagos State by former President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2005. That action provided ample opportunity for Lagos to think like a sovereign state able to overcome its financial challenges. Remember the words of Roy Disney that "decision making is easy when your values are clear". To become a great President, count on the words of Wesam Fawzi who said "the quality of (your) life is built on the quality of your decisions". We are our decisions, Professor Salam Al Shereida slammed. Asiwaju, may your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears, in Nelson Mandela's unforgettable words of inspiration.

## 3 REWARD PHILOSOPHY

We are in a country where entitlement mentality is profound and scary. But you must not mix this with reward philosophy.



Bola Tinubu

Reward is based on internal relativities, commitment and loyalty to the institution. In our party, one of our weak points has been the lack of appropriate reward for loyal, hardworking, patriotic and highly resourceful party men and women. But given your pedigree as a thoroughbred democrat and party man, this should be a thing of the past. Not all (loyal and dedicated) members can and should be in office, however, we must find a way of boosting and keeping the rank of progressives by running an all-inclusive administration by making everyone to have a proper sense of belonging. Note that recognition is not a scarce resource, you can't use it up or run out of it, according to

Susan Heathfield. Kindly also note, Your Excellency, that many people work for money but go the extra mile for recognition, praise and rewards, in the words of Dale Carnegie. So, post 2023, we should rebuild our party because as Robert Mcnamara noted, brains, like hearts, go where they are appreciated.

## 4 LESS IS MORE

"Less is more" is about efficiency and optimum yield and value. It is the concept of minimalism popularised by the famous German-American Architect, Ludwig Van de Rohe. It is the value of simplicity and that by having less, you can actually create a life of more. In applying this philosophy in

governance, many have spoken of a smart/lean government that guarantees efficiency. Government of Quality and not Quantity. I know some will argue whether this is possible under our present political dispensation, I believe it is possible. One of the things that should define your government is to try things not because they are popular but because they are ideal and sustainable. We should restructure the system. The dead weight is immense and unsustainable. We should shed our weight else we perish in illusion. There is no gain without pain, remember! If government is lean resulting in a healthy and wealthy country, we all are.

## ASIWAJU: 10 Things before May 29

### 5 NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE PROBLEM

In 2015, one of the "mistakes" we allegedly made was to underestimate the rot left behind by the defeated government of the People's Democratic Party (PDP). Your Excellency, you should please avoid this. Go to Aso Rock with the mindset that all is not yet well in the polity...with the economy, that people are still not sleeping with their two eyes closed. And of course, you should arm yourself with the notion that the anthem of corruption is unchanged despite hard efforts. Like Robert H. Schuller said, never underestimate your problem or ability to deal with it.

### 6 THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

Modern times demand this especially in the face of scarce resources and global competitiveness. So, Your Excellency, you need to explore ideas that are creative and unusual and are not limited or controlled by rules or tradition (I am not asking the President to break the law). Results posted in the last 8 years have indicated that we need to think differently, unconventionally or from a new perspective especially in addressing the 3 cardinal points of the outgoing administration. The beginning of greatness is to be different and the beginning of failure is to be the same according to Roy Whittier.

### 7 LOW HANGING FRUITS

These are easy to accomplish tasks or easy-to-solve problems in a particular situation. For Nigeria, job opportunity ranks high. Anything that can bring down the embarrassing unemployment figures in the country within the shortest possible time and halt the growing restiveness of the youths should be explored. You will have to live up to your promise to make youths believe they can work with you and that they have a future in Nigeria. Of course, the ongoing stress induced by the mismanagement of the CBN money policy and the subsidy quagmire demand your immediate attention in office. However, you have to also remember that the higher hanging fruit is typically riper and more nutritious.

### 8 PROTECT THE WEAK

"Defend the weak, protect both young and old, never desert your friends. Give justice to all, be fearless in battle and



Bola Tinubu

always ready to defend the right"...The Law of Badger Lords. Brian Jacques.

Defending and protecting the weak is self-preservation. It is simply logical. One day, you and I might become weak and can expect others to help you do the same you did to them. Your Excellency, your government should take greater numbers out of poverty. Whilst you provide a suitable environment for the strong to get stronger, the weak and poor should also be strengthened. Do the strong have the obligation to help the weak? They are explicitly obligated to help the weak and they have to obey GOD who saved them and made them strong. Remember also the metaphor, EAT THE RICH?

### 9 LEAVE A LEGACY

You already made it clear in Abeokuta when you said "I don't want to be forgotten. Give me the Presidency. It is my turn" This implicitly means that you would like to live and be remembered. Leaving a legacy means giving something that will be valued and treasured by those who survive after your

passing. The one legacy that comes to mind is leaving a situation better than you met it- the best President Nigeria ever had. A more united, peaceful and secured nation. An industrialised and sustainable nation. But it takes hard work.

### 10 REBUILD PATRIOTISM

Can a random or average Nigeria die for his country today? BIG question.

Patriotism is the feeling of love, devotion and sense of attachment to one's country.

Over the years, the love for the Nigerian flag or passport has waned. Many Nigerians have lost their patriotic zeal and spirit for one reason or the other. Not a few are convinced they don't have a sense of belonging in the country. Apart from a strong and healthy economy, safety and security, inspirational leadership is key to sustaining the spirit of patriotism in an average Nigerian especially among the youths. The Nigerian Orientation Agency should be restructured and empowered to power an advocacy strategy that can make Nigerians to want to live, work and die for

their country if need be. Leadership by example should be the watchword. We need leaders and heroes who can inspire though admirable lifestyles. We all have to make the necessary sacrifice to achieve these just as Bob Riley noted when he said "I have long believed that sacrifice is the pinnacle of patriotism". Oscar Wilde also wrote: "Show me the heroes that the youth of your country look up to and I will tell you the future of the country"

Patriotism is a thing of the heart. A man is a patriot if his heart beats true to his country according to Charles E. Jefferson.

Tunde IMOLEHIN, an Architect, Environmentalist, Communications and Sustainability Expert is a member, All Progressives Congress (APC) and Founder, VANGUARD PROGRESSIVES FORUM & CHANGE VISION NIGERIA. He is currently the Senior Special Assistant {SSA} to the Honourable Minister of FCT on the Environment & Waste Management.

[www.tundeimolehin.com](http://www.tundeimolehin.com) 11032023

# Bayelsa Queens unveil Damilola Koku, Bah Penda

By Saheed Afolabi

Bayelsa Queens has unveiled its latest recruits in Damilola Koku and Bah Penda. Both players joined the Yenagoa-based side on loan from their parent club for an undisclosed fee. Announcing the arrival of the players on their official Facebook handle, Bayelsa Queens disclosed that they had reasons to smile with the acquisition of the two strikers.

"27 reasons to smile today," Bayelsa Queens wrote. Koku joined the Nigeria champions from Gintra on loan till the end of the season. Penda made the move to the Prosperity Girls from the Gambian side, Police Women FC on a loan deal. Second in the NWFL Premiership abridged group A with 15 points from eight matches, Bayelsa Queens trail table leaders, Delta Queens with two points.



L-R: Damilola Koku, Bayelsa Queens coach, Domo Okara and Bah Penda

## Collins Toshor dreams of Super Eagles cap

By Saheed Afolabi

Collins Toshor is hoping to wear the Nigeria national football team colors one day as he believes he has the potential to play for the country. Toshor has been an integral part of the TJ Banik Kalinovo team. He wants to continue his career with the club on a permanent deal. The 26-year-old midfielder is on loan from FK Kosicka Nova Ves as he is determined to prove his worth at TJ Banik Kalinovo. Toshor disclosed that he's presently in talks with TJ Banik Kalinovo to make his loan deal permanent and it has been smooth. The Nigeria player said he is enjoying a steady career at his new club and never regrets any decision in donning their

colors. "TJ Banik Kalinovo signed me on loan from a lower division club FK Kosicka Novas Ves in September 2022 until June this year but we are discussing a permanent deal because it has been going well since when I teamed up with them," he said. "I am enjoying steady

progress in my professional career and my new club has been most supportive. Since my arrival, I have not had any cause to regret my decision to play for them. "Therefore, I am trusting God that in June, the existing cordial relationship between my parent club and TJ Banik

Kalinovo will yield positive results for me to concentrate fully on rendering my professional services." The Benue-born midfielder is optimistic to wear the green, white, green one day. "I have the potential to play for the Super Eagles. I believe my time will come."



Collins Toshor

Rivers United Manager, Stanley Eguma has disclosed the winning strategy that has helped the club in the CAF Confederations Cup (CAFCC) this year. Rivers United defeated Congolese side, Motema Pembe 3-1 at the Godswill Akpabio stadium, Uyo to maintain the top spot in the CAFCC group B. According to a statement through Rivers United Twitter handle, Eguma gave Motema Pembe some respect as he believes the club did well but the Pride of Port-Harcourt's tactical

## CAFCC: Eguma discloses winning strategy

By Saheed Afolabi

approach to the game won it. "Our opponents played well today but our tactical plans gave us maximum points today," Eguma said. Despite starting the CAFCC on a losing note, Rivers United have been able to pick up from their blushes and have won their last three games in the continental championship. The Pride of Port-Harcourt top group B of the CAFCC with nine points from four matches with a goal

difference of plus three. The Portharcourt-based side will revert to the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) on the

15th of March 2023, as they play host to Enugu Rangers International at the Adokiye Amiesimaka stadium, Portharcourt.

On the 19th of March, Rivers United will welcome Diables Noirs to the Nest of Champions in the CAFCC.



Stanley Eguma

# Health tips to lower blood pressure

By Edith Igbokwe

Research has shown that certain foods such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, and oily fish can lower blood pressure. Combining these foods in the diet may lead to long-term health benefits.

One of the tools your doctor may use to dial back blood pressure is DASH – Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension.

It's not a diet but a way of eating. You cut back on salt, load up on fruits and veggies, and round out your meals with whole grains, fish, poultry, nuts, legumes, and low-fat dairy.

**Go Green (and Leafy)** Salt makes your body hang on to more fluid. That bumps up your blood volume and the pressure on your arteries, which make your blood pressure climb. Fill your plate with leafy greens like spinach, broccoli, kale, or collards for a potassium boost. The mineral helps flush sodium out of your body through your pee and relaxes your blood vessel walls.

**Berry: Good for You** The pigments that give blueberries, strawberries, and blackberries their rich colors also come with a benefit for your blood vessels: anthocyanin. It's a natural compound that can help artery walls become wider and more flexible to lower your blood pressure and improve your heart health.

**You need Yogurts** Calcium is a key player for good blood pressure because it

helps your blood vessels tighten and relax when they should. Plain, low-fat yogurt is a good way to add calcium in your diet without too much added sugar or fat. Looking for a flavor twist? Throw some berries in for some natural sweetness and even more blood pressure help.

**Fatty Fish** Another good source of calcium is bone-in fish, like canned salmon or sardines. Oily fish like mackerel and sardines also are flush in omega-3s, the fatty acids that boost health and help your heart. Studies

on fish oil supplements show they may lower your blood pressure, especially if your high blood pressure is moderate or severe.

**Sprinkling of Seeds** Add unsalted seeds like pumpkin, flax, and sunflower to salads, yogurt, or oatmeal to help lower your blood pressure. Seeds are a source of vital minerals like magnesium, which helps control your blood pressure and relax your blood vessels.

**Oatmeal** This whole grain is healthy, filling, and low in sodium. It's also full of fiber, which helps keep your weight and blood pressure under control. Cook your rolled or steel-cut oats with water or low-fat milk. Swap out the maple syrup or brown sugar with raisins or bananas for a touch of sweetness.

**Turn Up the Beet** A study shows that drinking 2 cups of a mix of three parts



beetroot and one part apple juice can make your systolic blood pressure (the top number) go down in just a few hours. Men may see a bigger benefit than women. High systolic pressure can raise your chances of strokes. Cooked beets and beet greens, which pack lots of potassium, are a good alternative.

**Garlic** Garlic can add more than just zest to your dishes. It may also have a hand in boosting your nitric oxide levels, which dilates blood vessels. The more relaxed your blood vessels are, the less your heart has to work to pump blood through them. That helps keep your blood pressure down.

**Pistachios** Tree nuts – hold the salt! – like walnuts and almonds can be a great source of healthy fats that help your heart. But for high blood pressure, your best pick is

pistachios. They seem to have the strongest effect on lowering both your top and bottom blood pressure readings.

**Pomegranate** Drinking pomegranate juice regularly may help chisel away at your blood pressure numbers. But watch out for the added sugar. Also, juices don't have the fiber you get from the fruit. So be sure to add fiber from other foods to help keep your heart healthy and your bowels regular.

**Olive Oil** The polyphenols, which are protective antioxidants, in olive oil give it a leg up over other oils. Polyphenols improve blood vessel health and help them stay elastic. It's a smart choice for a healthy fat. Use it instead of butter, vegetable oil, or canola oil in your cooking.

**Legumes and Beans** A daily cup of peas, lentils, garbanzo beans, or beans can

keep your blood pressure in check and even lower it. Legumes and beans are big on fiber and can help ward off coronary heart disease, too.

**Dark Chocolate** Don't get too excited. Turns out that dark chocolate (at least 50% to 70% cocoa) can give you a boost of a plant compound called flavanol. As with garlic, this antioxidant can raise your nitric oxide levels and widen blood vessels. That can make your blood pressure drop a notch. It goes without saying that a little bit of chocolate is all you need.

An occasional nibble. **Foods Are Not the Whole Treatment:** If you have high blood pressure or borderline high blood pressure, a healthy diet and savvy food picks can help you manage your condition or prevent it. But what you do off the plate matters, too. So lose any extra

weight, exercise, and take any medication your doctor prescribes.

**Foods to avoid** While some foods may relieve hypertension, others can increase the risk of the condition.

**Salt** Studies show that a modest decrease in salt intake over 4 or more weeks Trusted Source can significantly reduce blood pressure. The USDA recommends limiting sodium intake to a maximum of 2.3 g Trusted Source per day, or 1 teaspoon (5.75 g) of salt.

**Caffeine** Results of a 2011 review Trusted Source suggest that consuming 200–300 mg of caffeine may increase blood pressure by 8.1 mm Hg and diastolic blood pressure by 5.7 mm Hg within 1 hour of consumption. The rise in blood pressure lasted for longer than 3 hours. **Alcohol**

Regular consumption of alcohol can significantly increase the risk of high blood pressure. In females, even moderate consumption can have this impact. There is no evidence that a low to moderate intake has any benefits for heart disease or hypertension, according to a 2021 review Trusted Source.

The AHA Trusted Source recommends limiting alcohol consumption to no more than 2 drinks per day for males and 1 for females. The serving size of 1 alcoholic drink Trusted Source is 12 oz of beer, 5 oz of wine, or 1–1.5 oz of hard liquor.

**Processed foods** Processed foods often contain added salt and harmful fats. A 2021 study Trusted Source found that people with high consumption of processed foods were more likely to have high blood pressure.