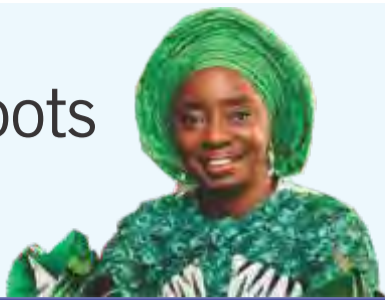


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Fuel Price Hike: Experts Rate CNG Converted Cars Safer, Cheaper

By Kunle Awosiyan

With the continual increase in the pump price of Premium Motor Spirit, petrol, auto-experts are calling on motorists to embrace the Compressed Natural Gas conversion technology.

Mr Micheal Akanbi, an expert on Petrol/gas engine conversion told Echonews that for every converted vehicle, the owner will be saving about N9,000 that should have been spent on petrol for every 10 Standard Cubic Metre of gas bought.

According to him, one SCM of CNG is sold at about N110 compared to a litre of petrol that now sells at over N1000. Invariably, you are saving about N900 on every one SCM of CNG,"he said.

On how much it costs to convert a petrol vehicle to CNG's, Akanbi said that it varies from as low as N400,000 to about N1 million depending on the prices of the conversion kits and the company that handles it.

Akanbi's explanation is not so different from that of Mr. Brian Amonu, an Oil and Gas Expert, and the Managing Director of Gas Analytics and Solution. He told Echonews that CNG has been operating successfully in Edo State since 2007.

However, the removal of fuel subsidy with its far reaching impact beyond increasing cost of transportation is making more people to embrace CNG conversion and



in a way has expanded the business of conversion.

"We have over 30,000 filling stations we are working with now to provide CNG for converted vehicles,"he said.

Amonu explained that his company has a sustainable energy access project, which is being supported very strongly by African Development Bank with partnership with NNPCI Gas And Power Investment Company to make the new technology work effectively.

When we started, we were charging N295,000 for conversion and there is also loan facility.

"We are partnering with the Nigeria labour Congress to deploy a pre-loan qualification loan form to all the workers in Nigeria. We are working with eight local banks

supported by AfDB. We are providing loans to vehicle owners and mass transit vehicles and state government to finance the conversion of their vehicles. We've given them three to five years to pay it off. By creating a large pull of converted CNG will justify investment along the CNG investment value chain.

To a CNG engineer, Masud Ya'U, N4000 CNG will travel 150km and it is safer because the cylinder is bullet proof and does not leak.

A visit by our correspondent to Autogig International Resources Ltd. in Gbagada, one of six centres selected by the PCNGi revealed a growing number of car owners who came around to convert their petrol cars to CNG.

Speaking to Echonews, one of the customer service

personnel who identified himself as Joseph said at least four serious customers come around daily to make inquiries, adding that

the conversion process begins with an inspection to determine the vehicle's eligibility. "Any vehicle with an internal combustion

engine, which operates on the fire triangle—spark, fuel, and air—common to most two-stroke and four-stroke engines, is eligible," he noted.



Michael Olugbemi

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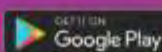
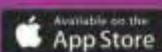
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Fuel Price Hike: Experts Rate CNG Converted Cars Safer, Cheaper

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Once the vehicle is cleared, conversion takes one to three days. "The steps include mapping the vehicle for the best positioning of the CNG kit, installing it, and programming the Electronic Control Unit (ECU) to ensure smooth operation," Joseph added.

The process ends with a test drive to confirm the system works.

He clarified that converting to CNG does not remove the petrol or diesel engine. "The vehicle becomes a hybrid, capable of switching between petrol/diesel and CNG," Joseph explained, highlighting the flexibility



Brian Amonu, Managing Director of Gas Analytics and Solution

this offers.

He noted that once the vehicle is converted, it can switch between CNG and petrol or diesel.

Joseph explained that the switch occurs after the engine starts, with two key modalities in the ECU.

Speaking, a commercial driver who benefited from the Federal Government free conversion initiative, Mr. Olatunji Bolatito,

said, "It is easy because it saves me money. It's my friend that called me that I should come here that the government is

offering Free CNG Conversion For Vehicles and surprisingly it was done for me. I use N4000 for three days."

According to the experts CNG is safer than LPG, regular cooking gas and safer than petrol in the sense that it is lighter than air and stored under high pressure. It is contained in steel cylinder. And in case that the gas leaks, the gas quickly dissipate into the air. For natural gas to combust, it must have a ratio five to 15 per cent and because it is lighter than air, it doesn't hang around to get to that ratio. Inherently, natural gas is safer than petrol, LPG and cooking gas in the case of any accident. There have not been any explosive incident since CNG has been in use in Edo since 2007.

Speaking, the Program Director, Presidential

How Safe Is Converted Vehicle

Compressed Natural Gas Initiative, Mr. Michael Olugbemi, said that there are now 125 conversion centres across the country, which has provided 20, 000

jobs. According to him, last year, the country only had seven conversion centres but as at October 2024, there are 125 centres and more are still coming.

Olugbemi called on private companies and state government across the country to tap into the technology, saying that it is going to be more beneficial

to them. "States should do it for their civil servants by converting all their vehicles to CNG. Ordinarily this can cost about N1.2m to car owner but the FG

is running this free for commercial vehicles to reduce cost of transportation. There are 125 centres across the country and more are still coming.

There are six locations in Lagos and these include; Femadec, Km 4.2, Lekki-Epe Expressway, Majek Second Gate Stop, Abiju Ibeju, Lekki, Lagos; Portland No. 1, Ojota Interchange Terminal, Bayo Shodipo, Ojota, Lagos; Mezovest, KM 2.3, Lekki-Epe Expressway, Ajah, opposite Kilimanjaro, beside Libmat Motors, by Abraham Adesanya Bus Stop; Dana Motors, Dana Motors Ltd Kia Plaza, 117 Oshodi-Apapa Expressway, Isolo,

Where To Do CNG Conversion In Lagos

Lagos; MBH Power, Km 5, Ikotun Road, Itamope, Ikorodu, Lagos; Autogig Plot 144b Gbagada Expressway, Gbagada, Lagos.

In August 2023, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu launched the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas Initiative (PCNGI) to transform Nigeria's transportation by introducing over

11,500 CNG-enabled vehicles and 55,000 conversion kits for petrol vehicles.

However, many of those who spoke to Echonews said that as good as the conversion may sound, the price is too high for them to bear.

Mr. Tayo Olatoye said he had visited one of the conversion centres and was asked to go and prepare for about 1 million. "Where will I get such amount in this bad economy," he said.



Beneficiary, Mr. Bolatito

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LASPARK, LAGFERRY, LASCODA Lead Tree-Planting Campaign

In a bid to promote environmental sustainability and meet climate change targets, the Lagos State Parks and Gardens Agency (LASPARK), in collaboration with the Lagos State Ferry Services (LAGFERRY) and the Lagos State Coconut Development Authority (LASCODA), has championed a symbolic tree-planting exercise at the Ferry Terminal in the Mile 2 area of Lagos. The initiative saw the planting of 57 trees, symbolising the state's ongoing commitment to greening its urban spaces.

Adetoun Popoola, the General Manager of LASPARK explained that the agency is exploring diverse strategies, including involving top government officials, to significantly increase the number of trees planted across Lagos before the next Tree Planting Day. This effort is in line with the directive of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, who, during the last Tree Planting Day at Lagos House, Marina, challenged LASPARK to plant more trees within the next 12 months as part of efforts to combat climate change and achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Popoola stressed the importance of inter-agency collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders to ensure the success of this initiative. She expressed gratitude to LASCODA for its support, specifically for planting 20 coconut trees at the terminal. Highlighting the importance of coconut trees to the state's economy, she noted their potential to boost coconut production in Lagos and across Nigeria.

To ensure the survival of the planted trees is critical, Popoola assured that LASPARK would provide adequate maintenance, including watering and general care.

She also called on Lagos residents to get involved in tree planting, underscoring its numerous benefits for both the environment and the beautification of the state.

On his part, Hon. Abdoulbaki Ladi Balogun, Managing Director of LAGFERRY emphasised the role of tree-planting in advancing Governor Sanwo-Olu's THEMES Plus agenda, particularly in the areas of Traffic Management and Transportation, as well as Health and Environment.

He assured that LAGFERRY's sustainability department would maintain the trees planted at the terminal and encouraged the public to participate in the initiative, emphasising its long-term benefits for the environment, climate change mitigation and future generations.

Also speaking, Mr. Damilola Emmanuel, General Manager of the Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA), commended LASPARK and LAGFERRY for their commitment to environmental sustainability.

He noted that tree planting plays a vital role in saving



lives and maintaining a clean, safe environment. Emmanuel also praised LAGFERRY for providing space for the exercise, a crucial contribution to LASPARK's environmental goals.

In his remarks, Ajele Abayomi, Chairman of the

National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Amuwo Odofin Branch, lauded LAGFERRY and LASPARK for their environmental efforts.

He also urged LASPARK to extend its tree-planting initiative to parks within the union's jurisdiction to

promote a comprehensive environmental makeover

Other prominent figures who participated in the event included Mrs. Adekanbi Adenike (General Manager, LASIAMA), Fatai Onafowote (Director-General, Lagos State Public Procurement Agency), Bilikiss Adebisi

(General Manager, LASRRA), Babalola Obilana (Director-General, Lagos State Pension Commission), Olumuyiwa Oshin (Executive Director, Lagos State Pension Commission), and Doyin Akinyanju (Managing Director, IBILE Oil and Gas).

LASRRA partners NIMC to boost database

In a significant step towards enhancing the synergy between National and State Identity Management systems, the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) recently hosted Principal Officials of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) on a courtesy visit to (LASRRA) at the Agency's Office at Agidingbi, Ikeja.

Welcoming the team, the General Manager of LASRRA, Bilikiss Adebisi-Abiola expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration and acknowledged the fact that LASRRA is NIMC's super-agent. She emphasised that a unified approach to identity management would significantly improve service delivery and enhance security across the State.

"By working together, a strong partnership is

built and having access to NIMC's database makes us more robust. Our collaboration will underscore our commitments to fostering a seamless identity management process that benefits all Nigerians", she said. Adebisi-Abiola further explained that meeting is critical as Nigeria continues to strengthen its digital identity framework. The collaboration will aid authentication and verification of residents.

The State Coordinator of National Identity Management Commission, Lagos East, Mr. Olumide Aremu, who led the delegation, said, apart from the Principal Officials of the two Agencies familiarising with one another, the visit aims to explore collaborative opportunities under



NIMC's new card regime, which intends to streamline and enhance the process of identity verification across the country.

He highlighted the importance of integrating efforts to ensure that both Organisations work hand-in-hand to improve the accessibility and efficiency of identity services for all residents.

Aremu also emphasised the need to leverage technology, share data and create awareness about the new card regime, adding that 13 million residents of Lagos are on NIMC's database.

Other members of the visiting include Engr. Ajibade Ayeni, State Coordinator Lagos Central; Lasis Oladele,

State Coordinator, Lagos West; Mike Adebayo, Head Admin and Human Resources and Amao Motunrayo, NIMC's System Engineer.

NIMC is responsible for the National Identity Management framework in Nigeria, a foundational identifier while LASRRA focuses on maintaining a reliable database of residents in Lagos State.

The Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) has again won the Edge Outstanding Health Management Agency of the Year 2014 Award making it a consecutive honour for LASHMA having won the same award in the Year 2023.

The Publisher and Chief Executive Officer, Marketing Edge Publications Limited, Mr. John Ajayi, in his address at the Edge Year 2024 Awards ceremony held recently at Sheraton Hotel, Ikeja, said that individuals, agencies including LASHMA and other brands that were recipients at the event, won the awards based on data, statistics, content reviews, analysis and market insights gleaned from robust investigative journalism conducted by the organisation. He said that the achievements of individuals, brands and products as well as their impacts on the people, national growth and development, have also made the recipients to be considered winners of the various award categories.

Mr. Ajayi said, "As brands, agencies and personalities navigate the complexities of the

LASHMA wins Edge Health Award back to back

Nigerian market and society, balancing traditional values with cutting-edge technology, the EDGE AWARDS, will continue to offer a prestigious platform to celebrate those who successfully merge innovation with strategic, tactical and insight-driven initiatives.

The Publisher applauded all the awardees for their

outstanding contributions, adding that they have not only performed creditably well in public offices or private enterprises but that they have also built a brand equity for themselves, which remains admirable and remarkable.

Receiving the Award, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health

Management Agency (LASHMA), Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, represented by the Head, the Business Development, LASHMA, Mr. Olatunji Rotimi, appreciated Marketing Edge for deeming it fit to notice the laudable achievements and impact of the Agency in the health insurance space as well as rewarding

LASHMA with the award.

Promising that LASHMA would continue to work hard and create more innovations for people in the health insurance space to build on, the Permanent Secretary said that the Agency would not relent in its efforts to ensure that every resident including the vulnerable in the

State has access to affordable and quality healthcare services.

Dedicating the award to the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, who is the ILERA EKO Grand Ambassador and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Champion, as well as all other ILERA EKO Ambassadors including the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Obafemi Kadri Hamzat, Zamba called on the residents in the State who are not yet on ILERA EKO, to immediately register and enrol their family members on the Scheme.

The Permanent Secretary said that their enrolment on ILERA EKO, would reduce their out-of-pocket payment of huge medical bills and give them peace of mind. She added that such extra savings could be used for other important needs of the family.

This year EDGE award marked the celebration of the 21st anniversary of the company and 12 years of organising the award.



Lagos Set To Conduct Year 2024 Trade Test For Artisans

The Lagos State Government has declared readiness to conduct the Year 2024 Trade Test for Artisans in the State on the 15th and 17th of October, 2024. A statement signed by the Director, Lagos State Examinations Board, Mr. Adebayo Orunsolu, affirmed that the dates earlier fixed for the conduct of the Test remain

unchanged.

The Director further revealed that the Theoretical Aspect of the test will be conducted in two different centres: Government Technical College, Odomola, Epe and Government Junior College, Agege.

He added that affected Artisans in Epe, Ikorodu and Ibeju Lekki Local Government Areas will sit for the

Theoretical Aspect of the test at Government Technical College, Odomola, Epe while those in Agege, Ifako-Ijaiye, Alimosho, Amuwo-Odofin and Ikeja Local Government Areas will sit for the test at Government Junior College, Agege on Tuesday, 15th October, 2024.

According to the statement, the

Practical Aspect of the test will be conducted on Thursday, 17th October, 2024 at the different designated centres in the State. Some of the centres are Lagos State Examinations Board, Agege; Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA), Falomo Jetty, Ikoyi and Government Technical College, Ikotun. Other centres for the

practical tests include Skills Acquisition Centre, Egbeda; Grano Institute at Orimolade, Haruna, Ifako Ijaiye; De Food Institute, Seliat Bus Stop, Abule Odu, Idimu and Government Technical College, Odomola, Epe. Orunsolu urged all concerned candidates to take note of the dates, adding that their participation in the two tests will determine

their overall performance in the examination.

Mr. Orunsolu also pointed out that the essence of the Trade Test for Artisans in the State is to make their certificates more meaningful to their professions and also add value to them.

About 350 duly registered Artisans are expected to take part in the Trade Test.

Oyede wins N5m in Lagos Flavours contest

Lagos State Government has reiterated the Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration commitment to food security in the State, as well as empowering the creative youths to showcase Lagos projects to the global map. The State Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Systems, Ms. Abisola Olusanya, spoke during the final of the Eko Flavours food competition held at the Fresh Food Hub Idi Oro, Mushin area of Lagos State.

Olusanya applauded the participants for their creativity and innovative ideas in bringing their culinary skills to the fore, noting that the competition is in line with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's THEMES+ developmental agenda for a Greater Lagos.

During the competition, a male chef, Isaiah Oyede, won the N5 million cash prize in the Lagos State

Government culinary food-cooking competition tagged Eko Flavours. He defeated 150 other participants to become the Eko Flavours Champion and Ambassador of the Lagos Food System in the competition organised by the Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture and Food Systems in conjunction with the Tantacom Group. Omobonike Awosanmi and Oreoluwakitan Badejo emerged as first runner-up and second runner-up respectively, during the final of the competition held at the Fresh Food Hub Idi Oro, Mushin area of Lagos State. They won N3 million and N1 million cash prizes, respectively. Ibidun Layade and Enitan Akorede, who came fourth and fifth, were also rewarded for their efforts with N600,000 and N400,000 only.

The Eko Flavours Project is a culinary platform for food vendors and chefs to showcase their talents in

making delightful meals at a budget and interact with food enthusiasts, starting with the shopping process at an organised market. Speaking during the event attended by Lagos State First Lady, Dr. (Mrs.) Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu; wife of Lagos State Deputy Governor, Mrs. Oluremi Hazmat; Special Adviser to the Governor on Agriculture, Dr. Oluwarotimi Fashola, and his Arts, Culture and Tourism, Mr. Idris Aregbe, as well as many government officials, sponsors from private organisations and large crowds from different sectors, Lagos State Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Systems, Ms. Abisola Olusanya, commended all the participants for putting in their efforts in the competition, saying they are all winners.

"We must say a big thank you to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for the vision and support and for giving us the room to fly. We also

appreciate him and his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hazmat, for all they have done. We also appreciate their wives, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu and Mrs. Oluremi Hazmat, for their physical presence during the competition. We say a big thank you to Lagos State and Nigeria," she said.

Also speaking, the Chief Executive Officer of Tantacom Experiential Projects, Mrs. Olufunke Adu, said all the contestants lived up to expectations, and the most creative among them emerged as winners.

Adu also commended the Nigerian youth for displaying their talents and praised the Babajide Sanwo-Olu for their commitment to youth development and food security in Lagos State.

She said, "The most creative of the contestants won the Eko Flavours 2024 Food Competition. The person who won is someone who puts in

effort in all that he did. The judges did a wonderful job.

"We also commend Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture and Food Systems for the good job they did. I believe the Eko Flavours food competition will help the upcoming chefs realise their aspirations."

The winner of the Eko Flavours food competition, Isaiah Oyede, said he is excited to win the first cooking competition he attempted in his life, saying the victory has given him all the validation that he is seeking for.

He said, "I am so glad because winning the Eko Flavours food competition is a dream come true. I have been on this cooking journey for so long, and I am so grateful that I am being celebrated and that I got the validation that I have been seeking. I am grateful to the Lagos State Government for organising

the Eko Flavours food competition."

Also speaking, one of the judges, a Nigerian actress, Bimbo Ademoye, praised the commitment and creativity of all the participants throughout the competition. She also commended the Lagos State Government for organising the food competition.

Another judge, who is a certified chef, Mr. Adeyinka Arije, commended the participants, who are mostly youths, for their tenacity and encouraged them not to lose focus but to garner the knowledge gained from the competition to break barriers in the culinary industry and be self-reliant.

All the participants in the competition, apart from winning cash prizes, will also enjoy free products from many reputable organisations for months. They also went home with some consolation prizes from different sponsors.



Sanwo-olu listens assists 175 citizens



In a continuous demonstration of its unwavering commitment to the welfare of Lagosians, the Lagos State Government, through the Office of Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement, has presented cheques to another 175 beneficiaries of the Sanwo-Olu Listens social intervention programme. Addressing the beneficiaries during the event held recently at the Office of Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement, the Secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja, the Special Adviser to the Governor, Dr. Afolabi Abiodun Tajudeen stated that the present Administration is committed to listening to the cries of Lagosians.

“We understand that many of our citizens face challenges that require immediate attention. The Sanwo-Olu Listens programme is our promise to you that we are here to help. Today, we take a significant step forward in ensuring that your voices are heard and your needs are met”, he said. Reiterating Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's dedication to addressing the needs and concerns of the citizens, the Special Adviser averred that the Sanwo-Olu Listens Social Intervention programme is one of the various ongoing efforts of the Lagos State Government to foster an inclusive environment where every vulnerable citizens can thrive and better their lives

in the face of the present economic challenges. “The population of Lagos is growing every day and despite that, Mr. Governor is working towards putting smiles on the faces of Lagosians. Part of this is the re-opening of the Ounjé-Eko Market and the Sanwo-Olu Listens Social Intervention programme which we are having here today. More plans are already in the pipeline to further engage with citizens and address their concerns”, he affirmed. While highlighting the benefits of registering with ILERA – EKO Health Scheme, Afolabi noted that the price of the Ilera – Eko Health insurance scheme is very affordable and

subsidised by the Government to ensure that everyone can access premium healthcare and reduce huge payment of medical bills. Expressing his delight, one of the beneficiaries Mr. Odunuga Oladipupo, said he was impressed and overwhelmed with joy and will remain grateful for the support given to him, revealing that the fund will help in expanding his small-scale business. Mrs. Habiba Salamonu Musa, also one of the beneficiaries, said she applied for the fund to take care of her ailing heart and appreciates the Lagos State Government for the laudable gesture extended to her.

Pay Your Land Use Charge for Quality Development, Commissioner Tells Property Owners

The Lagos State Government (LASG) has appealed to property owners to voluntarily comply with payment of the Land Use Charge as a civic responsibility for the further development of Lagos State. The Commissioner for Finance, Mr Abayomi Oluyomi made the appeal recently during the Parkview Residents' Association's General Meeting in Ikoyi. The Commissioner advised the property owners in the estate on the need to pay the Land Use Charge (LUC), adding that the payment would enable the government to address all challenges that may arise in the State even within the community. Oluyomi urged residents to pay their LUC as a civic responsibility to support the state government's development initiatives, adding that a 15 per cent discount had been attached as an incentive to encourage payments. “So, I am just here to

appeal to you, compliance rate is too low for particularly elites. We shouldn't see that in elites”, he said. The Commissioner explained the legal implications of total refusal to pay the charges while listing categories of elderly citizens and conditions for exemption for them and a few other groups. He noted that the government decided to change its strategy to begin visiting residents' associations on the axis to boost compliance. According to him, the Ministry would prevail on residents' associations to appeal to property owners who refused to comply. If they still refused to comply, the Ministry would go further to publish the names of recalcitrant owners. The Commissioner for Finance averred that the government wanted to use sensitisation and awareness campaigns to improve voluntary compliance, before exploring legal options as a last resort.



Lagos First Lady Mobilises Grassroots Leaders For TB Prevention

... To Launch State's STOP TB Partnership, Inaugurate Local Health Advocates

Lagos State First Lady, Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu has announced a bold new initiative to strengthen grassroots advocacy in the fight against Tuberculosis (TB).

According to her, the initiative includes the investiture of Female Chairmen and Wives of Local Government Area (LGA) and Local Council Development Area (LCDA) Chairmen the official launch of the STOP TB Partnership, Lagos, and the inauguration of the Lagos State TB Steering Committee are pivotal steps in the state's aggressive campaign to eradicate TB, setting the stage for a grassroots-driven health movement. Speaking at a media briefing ahead of the two pivotal events scheduled to hold tomorrow at the Lagos House Alausa, Ikeja, the First Lady outlined plans to harness local leadership in driving TB awareness and prevention efforts across Lagos.

During the briefing, held at the Pavilion of the Lagos House, Dr. (Mrs.) Sanwo-Olu emphasised the critical role that grassroots leaders will play in the fight against TB. She explained that the 10 Female Chairmen and 47 wives of LGA and LCDA Chairmen will be tasked with raising TB awareness, promoting health-seeking behaviours, and spearheading community-driven initiatives aimed at early detection and prevention.

"These local leaders are the closest to the people. They are uniquely positioned to change attitudes, debunk myths, and ensure that TB is treated with the

seriousness it deserves. Tomorrow's investiture is a step towards empowering them to lead this fight", she added. Dr. (Mrs.) Sanwo-Olu also highlighted the significance of the STOP TB Partnership and the TB Steering Committee to strengthen TB control efforts across Lagos.

According to her, the partnership will bring together key stakeholders from the public and private sectors, as well as international partners, in a coordinated effort to combat the disease. The Steering Committee, meanwhile, will oversee the implementation of strategies designed to reduce TB transmission and improve health outcomes in the state.

Citing the 2023 Global Tuberculosis Report from the World Health Organization (WHO), the First Lady noted that TB continues to be a significant public health threat. In Nigeria alone, over 479,000 cases of TB were recorded in 2023, with 18,541 of those cases in Lagos.

"These numbers are

staggering", she said, "but we have the tools, the knowledge, and the partnerships to reverse this trend. TB is preventable and curable, and with the right focus, we can eradicate it from our communities".

In addition to highlighting the challenges posed by TB, Dr. (Mrs.) Sanwo-Olu praised the efforts already underway to improve living conditions in high-risk areas such as slums and military barracks, where overcrowding and poor sanitation exacerbate the spread of the disease. "Clearing our gutters, improving sanitation, and ensuring better housing are part of our broader strategy to fight TB", she said.

The First Lady also stressed the need for collaboration across all sectors of government and society. She called on stakeholders in healthcare, education, finance, infrastructure, and law enforcement to support the TB prevention efforts. She noted that religious

bodies, community leaders, and private organisations must also play a role in raising awareness and breaking the stigma associated with the disease.

Dr. (Mrs.) Sanwo-Olu further explained that diagnosis and treatment for TB are free across Lagos, with over 301 Primary Healthcare Centres, 30 General Hospitals, and several selected private hospitals offering Directly Observed Therapy Shortcourse (DOTS) services. She urged citizens to seek medical attention if they experience symptoms such as a persistent cough lasting more than two weeks.

The First Lady expressed her gratitude to the TB Steering Committee and the STOP TB Partnership for their dedication and commitment to the cause, noting that the collaboration between local and international partners will be crucial in achieving the state's health goals. She also called for bimonthly or quarterly meetings with other state TB

champions to ensure continuous progress in the fight against TB.

Concluding, Dr. (Mrs.) Sanwo-Olu reiterated the importance of tomorrow's investiture and inauguration event as a turning point in Lagos State's TB prevention efforts. "Tomorrow's investiture is not just a ceremony", she averred, "It is a call to action. Together, we will make a significant impact in the fight against TB, not just in Lagos, but across Nigeria".

Earlier, the Chairman of the Lagos State TB Steering Committee, Dr. Abimbola Mabogunje emphasised the significance of the upcoming event, stressing the unique role that the female Chairmen and Wives of LGA/LCDA Chairmen will play in shaping the response to tuberculosis across Lagos. "Our female Chairmen and the Wives of Chairmen bring unique perspectives and strengths to the table. We look forward to their impactful contributions in advocating for TB awareness, prevention, and treatment at the grassroots level", he said.

She further explained that the TB Steering Committee and STOP TB Partnership, Lagos would play a crucial role in guiding the state's strategic response to the disease. "Our expertise, passion, and commitment will drive innovation, advocacy, and community engagement, all of which are essential in reducing the burden of TB in our state", Dr. Mabogunje noted.

Drawing attention to the human side of the epidemic, Dr. Mabogunje urged everyone to find inspiration in the resilience and courage of the individuals and families affected by TB. "We honour their strength by working together to ensure that all Lagosians have access to quality healthcare and the support they need", she said.

The investiture and inauguration ceremony will take place tomorrow at Lagos House, and it is expected to bring together top officials, healthcare professionals, and key stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. The event will officially mark the start of a new chapter in Lagos State's effort to eliminate TB and improve public health outcomes.

Also in attendance at the media briefing were the State Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi; Special Adviser to the Governor on Health, Dr. (Mrs.) Kemi Ogunyemi; Permanent Secretaries of Lagos Health Districts; Director, Disease Control, Dr. Rotimi Agbolagorite; TB, Leprosy and Buruli Ulcer Control Programme Manager, Dr. Daniel Shokoya; Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Health, Dr. Oluwatoni Adeyemi and members of the STOP TB Partnership and TB Steering Committee.



We'll Continue To Support Tertiary Institutions For Growth-Sanwo-Olu

..Urges alumni to support institutions for students to compete globally

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Thursday said his administration will continue to ensure tertiary education in the state remains relevant and take its pride of place through innovative ideas and practical knowledge for students to compete favourably with their counterparts globally. He disclosed that his administration established two state-owned universities, Lagos State University of Technology and

University of Education, during his first term, and there is a plan to establish the University of Medical Sciences next year to increase the number of state-owned universities to four, saying the proposed university will address medical tourism.

Governor Sanwo-Olu spoke at the University of Lagos Faculty of Engineering 60th Anniversary celebration and Sixth Alumni Public Lecture themed "The Nigerian Power Industry: Past, Present and Future" held at the university campus in Akoka,

Lagos.

The Governor who was the Chairman at the event, which featured the relaunch of the development fund for the Faculty of Engineering, said the faculty had become a beacon of theoretical excellence and it should be supported to produce future engineers.

He charged different public and private organisations, particularly government officials, to contribute towards the growth and development of their alma mata and hold the hands of students

for on-the-spot practical work on sites.

Speaking earlier, the Deputy Governor of Ogun State, Engr. Noimot Salako-Oyedele, called for support for the coming generation of engineers by urging the alumni to donate towards the redevelopment and regeneration of the Faculty of Engineering.

In her address, the Vice Chancellor, UNILAG, Prof. Folasade Ogunsola, who stressed the need for alumni support for the growth of the

institution, called on alumni to continue to collaborate with the university to achieve the development of Nigeria, which can only be made possible by training engineers of the future.

The Chairman, UNILAG Faculty of Engineering Alumni Association, Engr. Dideolu Falobi, who was represented by his vice, Engr. Yetunde Holloway, said the faculty had over the years nurtured scholars and produced exceptional minds.

He therefore appealed to all alumni to come

together and leverage their positions in society as well as resources to make the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Lagos, the Harvard of Nigeria.

Also speaking, the Dean Faculty of Engineering, UNILAG, Prof. Samson Adeosun, urged the alumni to continue to support in shaping the future of engineering education as they looked forward to emerging technology to foster sustainable solutions and cultivate global partnerships.



QURAMO: Commissioner Urges Creators To Adapt To Changes

The Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts, and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka has called on members of the creative community to stay attuned to the ever-evolving societal dynamics to remain relevant and impactful. She made the remark while delivering the keynote address at the Opening Ceremony of the Quramo Festival of Words held recently at Eko Hotel and Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos. The annual festival, which attracted over 1,000 participants, celebrates creativity and cultural exchange among artists, writers,

and other members of the creative industry. In her speech, the Commissioner stressed that creativity and storytelling are essential tools for driving social change, fostering unity, and inspiring progress across the globe. Benson-Awoyinka further highlighted the theme of this year's festival, "The Shifting: Empowering Voices, Inspiring Minds", as representative of Africa's dynamic and vibrant creative landscape, especially in the fields of arts, tourism, and culture. She reaffirmed the Lagos State Government's

commitment to supporting the growth of the tourism and creative sectors, stating, "By fostering an environment where artists and creators can thrive, the government aims to promote cultural exchange and leverage the arts as a catalyst for social and economic development". On her part, the convener of the Quramo Festival of Words, Mrs. Gbemi Sasore expressed her appreciation to the Lagos State Government and the Commissioner for their continued support of the festival. She noted that since its inception in 2019, the event has served as a platform for showcasing

Africa's evolving cultural and creative landscapes while empowering diverse voices from across the

continent. The Quramo Festival of Words continues to inspire creativity and

promote cultural dialogue among participants from various parts of Africa.



The Lagos State Education District IV recently celebrated its 20th Merit Award and Honours Day, recognising exceptional Teachers, Staff and Students for their outstanding contributions to the District's growth. The year 2023 achievement celebration was held at Government College Hall, Eric Moore, Surulere. The event witnessed dignitaries from the education sector, Royal Fathers and Religious Leaders within the District Zones. In his address, Hon. Eniola Opeyemi, Senior Special Adviser to the Governor on Basic and Secondary Education, congratulated the awardees for being exceptional among their colleagues. He emphasised the significant role of Teachers and Education Administration in shaping the State and Nigeria at large. He reiterated the

Education District IV Holds 20th Merit Award, Honours Day



commitment of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to education in the State, describing him as Teacher-friendly, "I am also proud to identify myself as a teacher", he added. While delivering the opening remarks, the Tutor-General/

Permanent Secretary of Education District IV, Mr. Olusegun Osinaike welcomed all in excitement and applauded the awardees, noting that they have all done well and the District will continue to recognise their hard work and perseverance.

Osinaike appreciated Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for the regular recruitment and replacement of staff to the District, describing him as a lover of Education who wants the best for teachers and students of the state. He

encouraged the awardees to be role models and strive for more in their teaching career which will ultimately sustain quality education. The high point of the event was the presentation of an award of recognition to the TG/PS, Mr. Olusegun Osinaike for his exemplary leadership by Gbaja Girls Old Students and All Nigeria Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS), Surulere Zone. The Year 2023 award of Best Principal and Best School was presented to Mrs. Oyefeso Adenike, Principal of Ghaja Girls Senior High School, while the Junior category award was received by Mrs. Olokodana Elizabeth Titilayo, Principal of Government College

Junior. The Best Teacher Senior category was presented to Mr. Oyewale Wasiu Abioye from Wesley Girls Senior and Dr. Sule Peace emerged Best Teacher Junior category from Akoka Junior High School. Best student in BECE 2023 award went to Miss Chisom Wilson from Aguda Community Junior and the Best Student WASSCE 2023 was received by Miss Ruth Jacob of Obele Community Senior High School. Some other Principals, Vice principals, Teachers and Students were also honoured for representing the District in State and International competitions, winning the star prizes.

Lagos To Clamp Down on Single-Use Plastics From Jan 2025-Commissioner

... Hosts Stakeholders Parley

The Lagos state Government has stated that it will commence statewide full enforcement of a ban on certain categories of Single-Use Plastics (SUP) from January 2025 following the expiration of the one-year moratorium it gave to the producers.

Speaking during a stakeholders workshop on the ban of styrofoam and other single-use plastics at Ikeja, the State Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab, explained that the affected SUP includes styrofoams (plates & cups) straws, single-use plastics, cutlery and nylon bags of less than 40 microns.

Wahab, who was represented by the Special Adviser Environment, Engr. Kunle Rotimi-Akodu, explained that the government will step up advocacy on the new reality to enable the user residents to transition smoothly. He also informed that part of the resolution at the workshop is that pet bottles, sachets and carrier bags that are not less than 40 microns are to be managed using the mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility.

He added that the commencement of the ban on certain categories of SUPs in January 2025 will be a follow-up to the

commencement and enforcement of a ban on Styrofoam food packs from January 2024.

He reiterated that the present administration will ensure that actionable strategies are employed to sustain the ban on the use and sale of styrofoam food containers and other Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) in the State.

The Commissioner also hinted that the State, alongside stakeholders, including the Producers Responsibility Organisations (PROs), will establish and run a Plastics Waste Management Fund, which all producers and major importers will contribute to and jointly manage to take care of plastic waste in the State.

He added that necessary strategies to implement and sustain the ban on Styrofoam food packs and other single-use plastics in Lagos State are already in place and being implemented.

Wahab said statistics showed that Lagos generates over 13,000 tonnes of waste daily, with a significant percentage being single-use plastics and Styrofoam, adding that these plastics have been scientifically proven to take up to a thousand

years before degrading.

.He added that a recent study also proved that microplastics were found in fetuses and the bloodstream of human beings, saying that the resolution to ban the product would not only be beneficial to the present generation but to generations yet unborn.

He added that the government remained determined to encourage viable options for Styrofoam containers across the metropolis.

"While the implementation of the ban on Styrofoam commenced on the 12th of February, 2024 upon the expiration of a three weeks moratorium, the State announced a six-month moratorium period for SUPs which was later magnanimously extended till the end of

the year 2024 upon Stakeholders appeal to give room for more consultation while the ban on SUPs is effective by January 2025", he said.

He maintained that Lagos had seen firsthand the devastating effects of plastic pollution, as it affects air quality, clogs the waterways, and poses long-term health risks to the citizens, adding that the resolve to ban is a critical step toward climate action, sustainable waste management, and improve the overall quality of life in the communities.

Wahab said the Government recognizes that the transition may not be easy as challenges, such as the cost of alternative packaging materials, changes in

consumer behaviour and ensuring compliance across the board are expected, however, the state Government is ready to implement the roles stipulated in the Lagos State plastic policy by providing an enabling environment and supporting research into new technological options.

He reiterated that the Government will continue to provide the necessary policy framework and support, urging participants to come up with practical, actionable strategies for implementation of the ban on other single-use plastics and raise public awareness by charting a roadmap that will ensure a smooth transition.

"The future of Lagos - our health, environment, and economy rests on the actions we take today. I therefore urge each of

you to embrace the journey towards a plastic-free Lagos with enthusiasm, optimism and a shared sense of responsibility", he said.

In his welcome address, the Permanent Secretary, Office of Environmental Services, Gaji Omobolaji Tajudeen said plastic waste management is one of the most daunting Environmental challenges facing Lagos state with the increasing prevalence and negative effect.

Gaji said following the ban placed on the use of Styrofoam plastics and other Single Use Plastics in the State, studies conducted reflect that drastic but needed action had been very useful in reducing the volume of plastic waste in the drainages and waterways across the State.



Lagos Seeks Action on Cybersecurity as Awareness Month Kicks off

The Lagos State Government is joining the rest of the World to mark the Y2024 Cyber Security Awareness Month, with a challenge to all to prioritise online safety. According to the government, cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility. A statement by the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology said the Government will celebrate the 2024 Cyber Security Awareness Month to highlight the growing importance of cybersecurity in the



secure their world and stay safe online. Reiterating the commitment of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration to cyber security, the statement adds that the Government takes cybersecurity seriously. Earlier in the year, Lagos became the first state in Nigeria to set up an advisory board to provide oversight and advise the government, through the Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Technology, on cybersecurity best practices for a cyber secure and smart Lagos. The Cyber Security Awareness Month 2024, which runs through October, is a

businesses from online dangers with simple, effective steps. Statement said: "From mobile to connected home devices, technology is deeply intertwined in our lives. Emerging technologies have many great benefits for society, but with those new technologies come new opportunities for bad actors to disrupt online activities at home, school, or work". "The Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Technology will be sharing important information, tips, and strategies to help individuals and businesses in Lagos protect their information assets

IFAKO

Ifako-Ijaiye Council Boss Speaks On E-Policing



Kehinde Adeleye

In a noteworthy effort to strengthen community policing, Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat, Chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye Local

Government, delivered a lecture highlighting the importance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in

promoting effective policing and community safety. Prince Hamzat's participation as a facilitator in the ongoing ICT Training (E-

Policing) initiative for police officers and security outfits in Ifako-Ijaiye demonstrates his dedication to utilizing technology to enhance public safety in the region. By emphasizing the significance of integrating ICT into law enforcement practices, Prince Hamzat is working to ensure that local police are well-equipped to address the evolving challenges of maintaining security in the community. On Wednesday, October 9th, 2024, Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat, the Council Chairman, served as a guest facilitator at the Local Government ICT Centre. During his session, he underscored the crucial role that Information

and Communication Technology (ICT) plays in modern policing. Hamzat elaborated on the various ways ICT can enhance policing practices, including faster response times, more efficient communication, and greater transparency. He urged the trainees to make the most of their ICT training, emphasizing its potential to transform community policing in Ifako-Ijaiye. By sharing his expertise and insights on the subject, Prince Hamzat is contributing to the development of a more technologically adept police force that is better prepared to serve and protect the community. His commitment to incorporating ICT into law enforcement practices demonstrates a

forward-thinking approach to public safety and security in Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government. The E-Policing initiative aligns with global trends in community-oriented policing, which emphasize the importance of collaboration between law enforcement and the community. By harnessing ICT, Ifako-Ijaiye aims to create a safer, more connected community. As Ifako-Ijaiye premieres E-Policing initiative, Prince Hamzat's leadership is poised to yield positive outcomes for the community, fostering a safer, more collaborative environment for residents.

radio interviews".

School Head Teacher Bags Life Jail For Defiling Two Minors

By Felix Kuyinu

A school head teacher has been sent to jail for raping two underage girls. At the Ikeja Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Court on Tuesday, the convict, Benjamin Ogba, was sentenced to two life sentences for defiling the minors who are both seven years old. Justice Abiola Soladoye, while pronouncing the verdict, held that the prosecution proved the case beyond doubt to the satisfaction of the court. Soladoye, however, held that the offender is a serial paedophile who tainted his allocutus with lies which did not hold

water. "The defendant and his fellow defence witnesses were not truthful and credible in their testimonies," said the judge. "Their testimonies were a pack of lies and fell asunder like a pack of cards. "This serial paedophile, a headteacher, who is expected to teach his students morals, stooped so low and defiled the underage girls, what a shame! "This irresponsible and randy teacher who teaches his students nonsense should be locked away. Soladoye continued: "We need to commend the two survivors for



their courage to speak out against the

assailant. "Sexual abuse of any sort must be reported and not swept under the carpet. "Parents should also not relent in reporting sexual abuse cases to the appropriate authorities. "Continuous education and awareness of this issue of sexual menace must be at the forefront of all stakeholders in the administration of justice so as to advocate for the rights of young children." On the verdict of the matter, the judge said: "The defendant, having been found guilty of the two counts bordering on defilement, is hereby sentenced to life

imprisonment on each of the counts. "The sentencing will however run concurrently and his name will be registered in the sex offences register as maintained by Lagos State," NAN reports that the State Counsel, led by Mr Olusola Soneye, called three witnesses while the defence counsel called four witnesses during trial. Earlier before the judgement, the prosecution submitted that the convict, committed the offence sometime in April and

May 2019, at Shalom Private School, Oke-Ira Road, Ebutte Metta, Lagos. It was revealed that the lawbreaker defiled the two survivors by having unlawful sexual intercourse with them. According to reports, one of the victims informed her mother and the case was reported at the station. The mentioned that the offence contravenes the provisions of Section 137 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2015.

New Commissioner of Police, Lagos DSVSA Partner To Combat SGBV

By Felix Kuyinu



The newly appointed Commissioner of Police in Lagos State, Olanrewaju Ishola, has promised to join forces to combat the existence of domestic and gender based violence. Ishola, while receiving an entourage from the state's Domestic and Sexual

Violence Agency, DSVSA, decried the menace of the unlawful act, recommending a proactive approach to curb the abnormally. The Executive Secretary of Lagos DSVSA, Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi, highlighted the need for more resources by the government to both

bodies to actively fight the negative acts. Both institutions disclosed that proper alongside necessary training for their officers is needed to curtail crimes in the metropolis. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the fight against SGBV and ensuring justice for survivors.

Company Driver On Trial For Stealing Employer's N1.6m

By Felix Kuyinu

A driver in a company has been brought before the Ogudu Magistrates' Court for trial over an alleged theft of the sum of N1,600,000 belonging to his employer. Yusuf Otulana, the accused, was accused of stealing the sum at Ken Success Water Factory in Shomolu Lagos. Otulana, a resident at Odunsi Street, Bariga,

Lagos, is charged with a breach of public peace and stealing. The prosecutor, Inspector Donjour Perezi, uttered that the offence act took place on June 1 at No. 7, City of Power Street, Shomolu, Lagos, where the factory is located. Perezi stated that Otulana, a driver, was asked to distribute water packs. However, the latter, after distributing the goods, diverted the sum for his personal use. The prosecutor

maintained that the charges brought against the litigant violate Sections 168 and 287 of the Lagos State Criminal Law, 2015, with Section 287 prescribing up to three years imprisonment for stealing. The court granted the defendant bail in the sum of N150,000 with two sureties of the same amount. The matter is to be revisited at the court on October 16.

Ikosi-Isheri joins the world to honour the Elderly

Kehinde Adeleye

In observance of the International Day of Older Persons on October 8th, 2024, Ikosi-Isheri LCDA united with the global community to honour and celebrate the invaluable contributions of older adults. Princess Samiat Bada underscored the importance of robust support systems in ensuring that older persons can age with dignity. Princess Bada's remarks aligned seamlessly with this year's theme, "Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide." She acknowledged that dignified aging is a paramount concern for communities around the world, emphasizing the significance of implementing comprehensive and compassionate measures to support older adults. Princess Samiat Bada emphasized the significance of acknowledging the distinct challenges encountered by older individuals and the need to place their well-being at the forefront of community efforts. She identified key areas such as access to quality healthcare, social services, and reliable support networks as crucial components in preserving the independence and

quality of life for this demographic. Princess Bada proudly acknowledged the range of initiatives already in place within Ikosi-Isheri LCDA that cater to the diverse needs of older citizens. These programs offer comprehensive healthcare, social services, and recreational activities tailored to the unique needs of the elderly population. The Chairman received an award from the older persons in recognition of her tireless efforts in improving their lives. "I am surprised and grateful for this honor," she said. "It motivates me to continue serving our elderly community." She called upon everyone to join her in strengthening care and support systems for older persons in Ikosi-Isheri LCDA. She called for collective action to strengthen care and support systems for older persons worldwide. The Council Boss reiterated that ageing with dignity is a collective responsibility, emphasizing the need for unity in making a positive impact on older citizens' lives. She concluded with an announcement of the upcoming Ikosi-Isheri Annual Cultural Carnival, scheduled for October 26-27, 2024, at CMD Event Centre, Magodo. The

two-day event will feature cultural troupes, music performances, and notable artists. Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu will attend as Special Guest of Honour. According to Elder Oludare Onasegun, Chairman Senior Citizens Association of Nigeria, Ketu Zone, the program, praised the LCDA's Chairman Samiat Bada, for consistently providing support, making the association "very happy" and "joyful."

Elder Oludare Onasegun highlighted that the Chairman rejoices and glorifies with the association, always lending a helping hand. This appreciation culminated in an award presented to the Mayoress for her exceptional support. He emphasized that the Mayoress's dedication has made a significant impact on the association. The event drew representatives from nine out of 12 zones in Lagos, demonstrating

the association's unity and strength. Elder Oludare Onasegun reiterated that the International Day of Older Persons aims to honor the contributions of older persons and raise awareness about the challenges they face. Elder Mrs. Christiana Fagbemi Akitoye, Secretary of the Senior Citizens Association of Nigeria, Ketu Zone, commended the Council Chairman of Ikosi-Isheri LCDA for her consistent support to older persons. She highlighted the Chairman's unwavering

commitment since the association's inauguration by President Buhari. She praised the Chairman's numerous projects, including road construction, school buildings, educational initiatives, and community development. The secretary expressed gratitude, saying, "We pray God gives her long life, Her heart is truly where her community is, and she genuinely cares for older persons."



Ex- Vice Chairman seeks SAIL unit in Epe

Former Vice Chairman of Epe Local Government, Hon. Kenny Kadri Edu, issued a passionate call to Senator Tokunbo Abiru, urging him to establish the cutting-edge Senator Tokunbo Abiru Innovative Laboratory (SAIL LAB) in Epe Central. The proposed facility is seen as a critical asset to drive tech innovation and empower young people in the region. Kadri-Edu while reacting to the

By Mohammed Adekola

monumental developmental strides of the senator across the Lagos East Senatorial landscape highlighted the transformative potential of SAIL LAB, noting that it would foster tech-driven development and equip Epe's youth and tech enthusiasts with essential skills. Applauding Senator Abiru's ongoing efforts in uplifting the district, she stressed that no other locality

is more deserving of the facility than Epe.

Edu emphasized Epe's significant role in his election success, pointing out that the local government had the highest voter turnout in the Lagos East Senatorial District.

"Epe deserves this innovation lab. We have a large, motivated youth population eager to learn. Sending them to another location is both unsafe and not economical. Our overwhelming support during the last senatorial election shows that Epe should



be rewarded for its loyalty to the senator, with such a transformative project," Kadri-Edu stated.

The SAIL Innovation Lab, known for its role in fostering problem-solving and tech advancement, is expected to have far-

reaching benefits for the youth, providing them with skills and opportunities that will contribute to Epe's development.

AGEGE

Papa Ashafa forum donates books to Orile-Agege students

Kehinde Adeleye

Papa-Ashafa Community Forum, a non-profit organization based in the Orile-Agege Local Council Development Area of Lagos State, Nigeria, has made a generous donation of books to primary and secondary schools within the community.

This charitable act took place during the forum's annual outreach event, which serves as an opportunity for members to contribute positively to their community.

Members of the forum collectively pooled their personal resources to purchase books and distribute them to students in need.

Prior to the distribution



of the books, the Papa-Ashafa Community Forum embarked on a public sensitization and awareness campaign throughout the streets and communities within Papa-Ashafa. This initiative aimed to emphasize the importance of

supporting parents and contributing to the future of students as they return to school.

The forum, comprised of a diverse group of individuals from various backgrounds, including artisans, politicians, teachers, doctors, business professionals,

and youth, came together with a shared commitment to improving the lives of those in their community.

In addition to providing books, the members of the forum encouraged the

students to focus on their studies and strive for academic success. They underscored the value of education and urged the young learners to make their parents proud by excelling in their exams.

Echoneews reports that through their collective efforts and dedication, the Papa-Ashafa Community Forum is making a meaningful difference in the lives of students and fostering a brighter future for the entire community.

According to the Organizers, "the aim of this gesture is to also support the growth of their academics and encourage quality education within our community and Nigeria at large.

"We want our children to be educated men and women in future, to attain greater heights and to use their full potential in impacting the society as well as function well in their various academic disciplines,"

NANS JCC Lagos Axis Raises Concerns Over Rents and Tariffs



The National Association of Nigerian Students Joint Campus Committee (NANS JCC) Lagos Axis, led by Chairman Comrade Alimi Olalekan, has voiced concerns regarding rising rent and electricity tariffs in student-dominated areas around Lagos State University of Science and

Technology (LASUSTECH), Ikorodu.

These issues were highlighted during the grand commissioning of the First Gate to Lambo Lasunwon Road, a vital access route for students.

Addressing attendees, Comrade Alimi expressed appreciation for the new road but stressed

the need for further government intervention regarding housing and electricity costs affecting students. He noted that while the road improvement is welcome, it has inadvertently led to a housing shortage, making rents unaffordable for many students.

“We're grateful for the

new road, but we need assistance in addressing the impact this development has had on housing availability and affordability. We don't want students to be 'exported' out of the area due to rising rents,” he stated.

lálékan condemned what he described as the exploitation of students by some

landlords, urging them to refrain from unjustified rent hikes. He acknowledged that it was Hon. Babajimi Benson who facilitated the road repairs, not the landlords, emphasizing that students should not bear the burden of excessive costs.

The NANS JCC chairman also called for relief from high electricity tariffs imposed on students in the area, stating that despite being in Band A, which offers more stable electricity, the costs are unsustainable for many. He urged the National Assembly to consider legislation introducing vouchers or special rates for students to alleviate their financial strain.

“The electricity tariff is too high for students. We appreciate being in Band A for improved power supply, but it's becoming unaffordable. We urge the National Assembly to pass a bill that benefits students and helps manage these costs,” lálékan added.

In response, Honourable Babajimi Benson acknowledged the students' concerns and shared ongoing initiatives to address their challenges. He revealed plans to equip host universities,

including LASUSTECH, with solar-powered mini-grids to provide 24/7 electricity at a fraction of current costs. He assured students that while they would still pay for electricity, rates would be reduced by what they currently pay.

“Our goal is to provide reliable solar energy to campuses at significantly lower rates, regardless of Band A or B. I will also engage with the Lagos electricity distribution company (DISCO) and landlords on the need to lower rents in student areas. We're pushing for more affordable housing,” Benson affirmed.

Following the event, Comrade lálékan commended Honourable Benson's leadership and commitment to student welfare, praising his efforts to improve living conditions in Ikorodu.

“The leadership of Honourable Babajimi Benson is commendable. He has done so much for Ikorodu, and we appreciate his continued support for students. We wish him continued success,” lálékan concluded.

ASSEMBLY

Alimosho LG Chairman Suspension Is Constitutional - Lagos Assembly

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State House of Assembly has maintained stand on their suspension of the Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Jelili Sulaimon.

The lawmakers stated that Sulaimon's dismissal is constitutional, thus, abiding to the state's laws.

The members, while stating that Sulaimon had already been suspended sometime in 2021 due to irregularities and improper conduct, said that the system of local governments by democratically electing local government council chairmen is under the provisions of

the constitution, and accordingly, the government of every state shall, subject to Section 8 of this constitution, ensure their existence under a Law which provides for the establishment, structure, composition, finance and functions of such councils.”

The legislative House

unanimously said that subject to the provisions of the constitution, a House of Assembly shall have power by resolution published in its journal or in the office Gazette of the Government of the State to direct or cause to be directed an inquiry or investigation into – (a) any matter or thing with respect to which it has

power to make laws as disclosed in Section 128, of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as amended).

The lawmakers emphasized that the Lagos State Local Government Administration Law (as amended) grants the Assembly powers to pass a resolution for

removal or suspension of local government officials.

Furthermore, the House members held that Section 24(a) of the amended law gives powers to the Lagos State House of Assembly to pass a resolution for the removal or suspension of any chairman, vice chairman, or official of any local government area (LGA) or local council development area (LCDA) after conducting an investigation.

Ikorodu North Leaders Call for Further Development



would further facilitate regional development, benefiting communities like Araromi, Lambo Lasunwon, Egirun, and Orofo.

In response, Deputy Governor Dr. Kadiri Hamzat acknowledged the requests and pledged to address the issues, promising to review the proposals for the polytechnic and secondary school at an upcoming executive council meeting. He also recognized the importance of a pedestrian bridge for the safety of children and committed to investigating the matter.

"You have one hectare of land and the documents? By God's grace, it will be done.

We will discuss this at the executive council meeting. I also agree that a pedestrian bridge is essential, especially for the safety of our children," Dr. Hamzat stated.

The Deputy Governor also urged landlords in the area not to excessively increase rent, particularly for students, emphasizing the importance of keeping housing affordable amidst tough economic conditions.

"We understand that things are challenging, but please do not exploit our students. Keep rents reasonable for students in the community," Dr. Hamzat appealed.

During the commissioning of Lambo Lasunwon Road, community leaders in Ikorodu North urged the government to expand infrastructure in their region, requesting the establishment of a polytechnic, the construction of a pedestrian bridge, and the development of a secondary school. Prince Adeniran Ogunbanwo, Chairman of the Community Development Committee (CDC), and Honourable Sunday Olusanya, a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants

and Chairman of the Joint Community Development Association (CDA), led the call for additional infrastructure to enhance education and safety in the area. Representing the community, Ogunbanwo emphasized Ikorodu's economic importance and its contributions to Lagos State's development, highlighting the Odogunyan Industrial Complex as the largest in Lagos. He called for improved road networks to support industrial growth, stating, "Ikorodu needs special status.

When others get two projects, Ikorodu should receive eight because it delivers." Ogunbanwo expressed gratitude for the state government's development efforts in areas such as Ginti, Adamo, and Ipakodo Road, but insisted that Ikorodu requires more. He specifically advocated for a new polytechnic, stating that technical education is essential for the community's youth. "We thank you for upgrading Lagos State Polytechnic to Lagos State University of Science and Technology, but Ikorodu still needs another polytechnic. We can't do without

technical education," Ogunbanwo remarked.

The community's major concern is student safety crossing the busy Shagamu-Ikorodu road, which currently lacks bus stops and pedestrian bridges. Ogunbanwo called for these infrastructures to prevent accidents and ensure residents' safety.

"There are no bus stops or pedestrian bridges on the Shagamu-Ikorodu road. We need your intervention to install these facilities to prevent accidents," he urged.

Honourable Sunday

Olusanya echoed the need for a secondary school in Lambo Lasunwon, explaining that students must travel long distances for secondary education, compromising their safety. "We have acquired land for the construction of a secondary school. Our primary school graduates are forced to travel far, endangering their lives. We plead for the government's support to build a secondary school here," he said.

In addition to educational infrastructure, Olusanya called for improvements to adjoining roads, which

Hamzat Commissions Trauma Centre, Lasunwon Road

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Lagos State Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, has officially flagged off a 40-bed Trauma Centre at Ikorodu General Hospital and Lambo Lasunwon road marking a significant advancement in healthcare for the community.

The facility was established through the efforts of Hon. Babajimi Benson, who represents Ikorodu Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives. It aims to provide essential emergency care for residents in Ikorodu and surrounding areas.

During the event on Monday, Dr. Hamzat stressed the importance of electing leaders dedicated to serving their constituents.

He commended Benson for his effective representation and urged citizens to prioritize candidates who demonstrate integrity and a commitment to community development. "Leadership should extend beyond winning elections; it should be about genuine service," Dr. Hamzat emphasized.

The Deputy Governor also highlighted the strides Lagos has made in infrastructure, noting that about 69% of the state's 9,189 roads are tarred. He

assured attendees that the government remains focused on building durable roads, likening the nation's current challenges to a patient undergoing surgery, with the promise that enduring the pain will lead to a stronger country.

Hon. Babajimi Benson expressed gratitude to the Lagos State Government for their support, asserting that the trauma centre will save lives and bolster the region's healthcare infrastructure. He also mentioned ongoing development projects in Ikorodu, including road constructions, and called for swift

completion to enhance community infrastructure further.

Dr. Hassan, Medical Director of Ikorodu General Hospital, lauded the hospital's evolution since its establishment in 1983, noting that it now serves over 90,000 patients monthly across 32 departments. He pointed out that the trauma centre is a vital addition that will significantly improve emergency care, especially as the current Accident and Emergency department is limited to only 15 beds.

Hon. Adeola Banjo, Executive Chairman of Ikorodu North LCDA, underscored the

significance of the newly inaugurated Lambo Lasunwon Road, which has been crucial for residents, particularly during the rainy season when poor conditions often disrupt daily life.

In an interview with Ambassador Biliamin Olalekan Oba, the Governor's Senior Special Assistant on Social Development, he praised Hon. Babajimi Benson's commitment to community development. "It's inspiring to witness MHR genuinely represent the people's interests, particularly through impactful infrastructure projects

across Ikorodu. His welfare initiatives, such as the iCare food bank and scholarship programs, reflect his understanding of the community's needs," Oba stated.

Odumbo Taiwo, Principal of Lagos State University International School, expressed excitement about the trauma centre and the ongoing infrastructural developments in Lagos State. He noted that students from nearby schools were eagerly anticipating the completion of Lambo Lasunwon Road, emphasizing its significance for the community.

Tijani Olasunkanmi, General LGA Chairman for Ikorodu APC, remarked on the trauma centre's potential impact, stating it will save lives by providing immediate medical attention during emergencies. "This project is a game changer for Ikorodu," he asserted, adding that future initiatives, including a proposed entrepreneurial university in Ikorodu, would further benefit the local community.

Hon. Babajimi Benson's continuous efforts are enhancing the quality of life for Ikorodu residents as he remains dedicated to improving infrastructure, healthcare, and welfare services.



The National Union of Textile Garment and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria (NUTGTWN) has showered praises on the chairman of Itire Ikate LCDA, Dr Ahmed Apatira for creating a thriving environment.

In a heartwarming display of solidarity, Apatira, welcomed the National Union of Textile Garment and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria (NUTGTWN) to his office for a courtesy visit. Led by their National President, Comrade Peters Godonu, the union expressed deep admiration for Apatira's leadership style.

Comrade Godonu praised the council chairman for his humility, compassion, and

Garment Union Praises Apatira

By Saheed Afolabi



genuine connection with the people. He described Apatira as

a rare breed of public servant who prioritizes the needs

of his constituents. The union's visit was a testament to the

respect and admiration Apatira has earned from various stakeholders.

Recognizing Apatira's significant contributions to the informal sector, the NUTGTWN commended his efforts to improve the well-being of workers and entrepreneurs in the community. His commitment to transparency, accountability, and community development has earned him the trust

and admiration of both leaders and citizens.

Under Apatira's leadership, Itire-Ikate LCDA has witnessed remarkable progress. His focus on education, healthcare, and infrastructure has significantly enhanced the quality of life for residents.

The visit by the NUTGTWN further underscored Apatira's ability to build partnerships and collaborate with diverse groups.

Itire Ikate LCDA: Apatira Prioritizes Staff Welfare

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Itire Ikate LCDA, Dr Ahmed Apatira has directed his focus to prioritizing staff welfare to bring out the best from the council employees.

In a show of commitment to staff welfare, Apatira recently attended the Itire-Ikate Staff Forum held at the council secretariat.

During the event, the Council Manager, Mrs. Yetunde Esther Ajose, highlighted the various initiatives implemented by the chairman to improve staff well-being. These initiatives included a monthly economic enhancement financial support of

20,000 for pensionable staff and 15,000 for non-

pensionable staff. Additionally, the staff monthly financial assistance was increased to a substantial 1 million. The Human Resources Officer (HRO), Mr. Mukaila Kutu, emphasized the need for further improvements in three key areas. He outlined specific measures to enhance staff satisfaction and productivity.

The Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), Itire-Ikate LCDA, Mr. Adebayo Solomon, expressed gratitude for the council chairman's increased financial assistance.

He emphasized that

this significant boost would provide much-needed financial support to employees.

A highlight of the event was the announcement that seven non-pensionable staff members would be accompanying the council chairman to Abuja for a merit award ceremony in recognition of his outstanding leadership. The council staff were overjoyed by the chairman's generosity and expressed their appreciation for his dedication to their well-being. The event showcased Apatira's commitment to creating a positive and supportive work environment for his team.



The Chairman of Badagry West Local Council Development (LCDA), Mr Gbenu Joseph has expressed his backing for the Destination Lagos Awards (DELA) and Oju Ibile-Eko Beauty Pageant, initiatives founded by Prince Apata Nunayon, the Managing Director of Eko Tourism Radio.

The endorsement signifies a huge step in promoting tourism and cultural development within Lagos State.

As the local government closest to the border, Badagry West LCDA recognizes the significance of partnerships in driving economic growth and fostering cultural exchange.

DELA and Oju Ibile-Eko Beauty Pageant provide a platform for showcasing Lagos' rich cultural heritage and natural beauty, attracting tourists and investors to the state.

The endorsement aligns with the Lagos State Government's commitment to developing the

Badagry West Supports Tourism

By Saheed Afolabi



tourism sector. Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has highlighted the need to harness Badagry's tourism potential through infrastructure development and strategic partnerships. The council boss reaffirms the

council's dedication to promoting cultural excellence and economic growth in the region.

This partnership will undoubtedly contribute to the success of these initiatives and solidify Lagos State's position as a

premier tourism destination in Nigeria. The collaboration will focus on cultural exchange, tourism development, and economic empowerment. Through music, art, and traditional performances.

The partnership will promote Lagos' rich

cultural heritage. Additionally, it will showcase Badagry's historic sites, natural beauty, and cultural attractions to attract tourists. Furthermore, the partnership will create opportunities for local businesses and entrepreneurs to thrive through tourism-related

activities. This endorsement marks a significant milestone in the collaboration between Badagry West LCDA and Eko Tourism Radio, paving the way for a brighter future for tourism and cultural development in Lagos State

Drug Abuse: NDLEA Takes Advocacy To Churches In Badagry

By Saheed Afolabi



The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has intensified its efforts in combating drug abuse by reaching out to communities across

Nigeria. In Badagry, the Area Commander of the NDLEA's Ojo Command, Mr. Nichols Ibisa, led his team on a drug advocacy campaign

targeting churches. Ibisa emphasized the agency's commitment to public education and prevention, stating that the NDLEA's War Against Drug Abuse (WADA) aims to raise

awareness about the dangers of drug abuse. He explained that the team visited several churches in Badagry, including The Holy Trinity Gospel Church and Ajara Topa, to

educate congregants about the harmful effects of drugs.

Mrs. Ebia Imoke, Assistant Commander of Narcotics, highlighted the importance of community involvement in the fight against drug abuse.

She emphasized that churches, as centers of families, play a crucial role in guiding their children away from harmful substances.

Imoke provided a detailed overview of the types of hard drugs, including cocaine, heroin, tramadol, and others. She warned of the severe health consequences associated with drug

abuse, such as brain damage, heart problems, and increased risk of HIV/AIDS transmission. Additionally, she cautioned against excessive consumption of socially acceptable drugs like alcohol and cigarettes.

The NDLEA urged individuals involved in drug use to seek help and desist from harmful activities, warning of strict penalties under the law. By targeting churches and emphasizing community education, the agency aims to reduce drug demand and supply, ultimately making a significant impact on the fight against drug abuse in Nigeria.

LAHA Hails Badagry LG

By Saheed Afolabi



The Chairman of Badagry Local Government, Mr Olusegun has drawn praises from members of the Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Local Government Administration and Community Affairs during their recent visit.

The committee, led by its chairman, Honorable Ganiyu Babatunde, commended Onilude for his successes and notable achievements. During the one-day working visit, the committee inspected various completed and ongoing projects across the local government, including roads, shopping plazas, health centers, and legislative buildings. Impressed by the progress made Babatunde commended the council boss for his achievements despite the mean resources at his

disposal. "Onilude has done well given the constraints of resources and Badagry's unique challenges. "We are proud of your achievements and exemplary leadership." Onilude expressed gratitude for the committee's visit and positive feedback. He emphasized that the commendation would serve as a motivation to continue delivering the dividends of democracy to Badagry residents. The visit was attended by several key officials, including the Vice-chairman, Elizabeth Pedetin, members of the excos and Legislative Councils including heads of departments and units.

IKEJA

Faleke Distributes 10,000 Food Items To Constituents

Kehinde Adeleye

In an impressive demonstration of generosity and dedication to his constituents, Dr. James Abiodun Faleke, the lawmaker representing Ikeja Federal Constituency, distributed food palliatives to 10,000 residents on Monday, October 7th. Each beneficiary received 5kg of rice and 2kg of semovita at the Blue Roof Ground inside LTV 8 in Agidingbi, completely free of charge. Echonews reports that this gesture exemplifies Dr. Faleke's commitment to the well-being of his constituents and his responsiveness to their needs. By providing essential food items to those in need, he is making a tangible

difference in the lives of many and showcasing his dedication to improving the lives of those he represents. The Lawmaker explained that the food palliative initiative is a response to the current challenging economic climate, where high commodity prices are impacting the lives of many. By distributing essential food items, he aims to alleviate some of the financial burdens faced by his constituents during these trying times. Addressing the beneficiaries, the lawmaker, who was recently honored with the Heroes of Democracy award for Best Performing Legislator in Constituency



Development, vowed to continue and expand the program in the future. He further reaffirmed his commitment to delivering the benefits of democracy to the people of Ikeja Federal Constituency.

He also announced upcoming empowerment programs with cash benefits, scheduled to roll out in the coming weeks. These initiatives will provide further support to the people of Ikeja Federal Constituency and

demonstrate his dedication to their welfare and well-being. Beneficiaries of the food palliative programme were overwhelmed with joy and gratitude, showering prayers and appreciation on the

"man of grace." The food palliative was shared to residents of Ikeja Federal Constituency indiscriminately regardless of tribe, religion or political affiliations.



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Sound Sultan Lives On



By Nurudeen Adebayo

It has been three years since the Nigerian music industry lost one of its most influential voices, Olanrewaju Abdul-Ganiu Fasasi, popularly known as Sound Sultan.

On July 11, 2021, the multi-talented rapper, singer, songwriter, and advocate for social justice passed away, leaving an indelible mark on the Nigerian entertainment landscape.

Today, the music legend continues to be remembered by his peers, fans, and loved ones, not just for his contributions to the industry, but for the values and principles he upheld throughout his career.

Recently, Nigerian singer Oluwajuwonlo lledare, also known as Jaywon, visited Sound Sultan's resting place, paying his respects to the man he fondly referred to as his elder. Jaywon shared a heartfelt message on social media platform

X (formerly Twitter), reflecting on the wisdom and inspiration Sound Sultan had imparted during his lifetime.

"At the resting place of my elderly, where wisdom, guidance, and inspiration now lay in eternal peace. Gone, but forever a part of me. Keep resting #soundsultan @soundsultan love forever. Jay wana wana in your voice," he wrote, expressing the deep connection he felt with the late artist.

Sound Sultan was more than just a musician; he was a voice for the people. Born on November 27, 1976, in Jos, Plateau State, he rose to prominence in the early 2000s with his debut hit "Jagbajantis," a song that instantly set him apart as a socially conscious artist.

Throughout his career, Sultan used his music to address societal issues, speaking against poverty, corruption, and bad governance in Nigeria.

His ability to blend entertainment with activism made him one of the most respected and admired figures in the Nigerian music scene.

Sound Sultan's journey in music began in the 1990s when he hosted shows to raise money for studio sessions.

By 1999, he had won several local talent competitions and, in 2000, released "Jagbajantis," a track that became a cultural anthem.

His music resonated with people from all walks of life, and he quickly gained recognition as one of the pioneers of hip hop and Afrobeats in Nigeria.

In 2004, after a string of successful singles, Sultan was signed by Kennis Music, one of Nigeria's foremost record labels, where he continued to release hit songs that cemented his place in the industry.

Despite his success, Sound Sultan never

lost sight of his mission to use music as a tool for change. His lyrics often tackled difficult issues, and he was unafraid to speak truth to power.

This earned him the love and respect of his fans and colleagues alike, who saw him as a true artist with a purpose beyond fame and fortune.

Sound Sultan's impact extended beyond music. In 2009, he married his longtime partner, Chichi Morah, who later converted to Islam and took the name Farida Fasasi.

The couple had three children together, and Sultan was known for his dedication to his family and his role as a loving father and husband.

Tragically, in May 2021, it was reported that Sound Sultan had been diagnosed with Angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma, a rare form of cancer.

He was receiving treatment in the United States, but on July 11, 2021, the music icon

passed away at the age of 44.

His death was met with an outpouring of grief from fans, fellow musicians, and political leaders. Sound Sultan was laid to rest in New Jersey according to Islamic rites.

Though gone, Sound Sultan's legacy continues to live on. In May 2020, he released his eighth studio album, 8th World Wonder, and at the time of his death, he was working on what would be his final album, Reality CHQ.

To honour his memory, his family, led by his brother Baba Dee, hosted listening parties for the album in three cities including, New York, London, and Lagos, where fans and loved ones gathered to celebrate his life and music.

Each year, tributes pour in from around the world as celebrities and fans commemorate Sultan's life.

Figures like 2face Idibia, Kate Henshaw, and Baba Dee, among others, have

consistently honoured the music legend, ensuring his name and legacy remain alive.

They have also extended their support to Sultan's widow, Farida, and their children, continuing the circle of care that defined his relationships in life.

As the years go by, the loss of Sound Sultan remains deeply felt, but his influence and contribution to the Nigerian music industry continue to inspire a new generation of artists and activists.

His songs, filled with messages of hope, unity, and resistance, are as relevant today as they were when they were first released.

For many, Sound Sultan will always be remembered as the artist who used his gift to speak for the voiceless, a man who believed in the power of music to change the world.

Even in death, Sound Sultan's voice remains as powerful as ever, echoing through the halls of Nigerian music and beyond.

Ayra Starr Surpasses 2 Billion Streams on Spotify

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Nigerian music sensation Ayra Starr has reached a significant milestone, surpassing 2 billion streams on Spotify.

The 21-year-old singer, who has quickly become a global star, achieved this feat following the widespread success of her hit singles and albums.

Since signing with Mavin Records in

2020, Ayra Starr has consistently dominated charts with her unique blend of Afropop, R&B, and Afrobeat. Her debut album *19 & Dangerous* and hits like "Bloody Samaritan" and "Rush" have garnered massive international attention, contributing to her record-breaking streaming numbers.

This achievement places Ayra Starr among a select group of Nigerian artists who have crossed the 2 billion-stream mark on

the platform, highlighting her rapid rise in the music industry. Fans and industry insiders alike

have lauded her for her captivating voice, distinct sound, and powerful lyrics that resonate with listeners

worldwide.

The singer, often dubbed the "Celestial Being" by her fanbase, continues to cement her

place as one of Africa's leading music exports, with her influence growing steadily across global markets.



MUSHIN

Mushin LG Chairman Encourages NSCDC To Strengthen Security Measures

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Mushin LG, Emmanuel Bamigboye has charged the Nigeria Security Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to strengthen the security architecture in the community. Bamigboye, met with the Assistant Commandant of the Nigeria Security Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Area C, Iponri Command, Dr. Akib W.

Opeyemi, and the Head of the Mushin Local Government Division of the NSCDC, Ms. Adebowale Dunning, to discuss enhancing security measures in the area.

During the meeting, Bamigboye expressed his appreciation for the NSCDC's work and reaffirmed his commitment to providing them with the necessary

resources and support.

He announced plans to hand over the keys to their new office building at Oliyide Street in Mushin by the following week.

The Chairman urged the NSCDC members to remain proactive and diligent in their duties, highlighting his own accomplishments and expressing his dedication to serving the people of Mushin Local Government.



Lagos NMA faults Epe GH handover to FG

By Mohammed Adekola



Lagos State Chairman of Nigerian Medical Association, Dr Saheed Babajide has faulted the recent takeover and upgrade of the General Hospital, Epe, to a Federal Medical Centre by the Federal Government.

He asserted that the upgrade was unfavourable to the residents of the area, noting that the move would deprive them of the healthcare benefits enjoyed by other residents in the state.

Babajide said it was wrong for the Lagos State Government to handover a general hospital serving vulnerable Epe

residents to the Federal Government.

He added that "The transformation of General Hospital, Epe to FMC is not good for the people of Epe because they will be deprived of the state's health system for life. In the sense that they will only have a federal institution, which will be controlled from Abuja. Therefore, they will not have any direct benefits from it, which is different from what they used to have with Epe General Hospital."

Babajide noted that the resident would still benefit from the Primary Health Care Centres, access to free medical care for children and the

elderly at the tertiary hospital level had been cut off. "Now, when you have the FMC, those benefits will not be there. They can no longer get free health for children and the elderly because that is not a policy of FG. He said, the General Hospital should be developed and not transformed into an FMC because they have been improving it by building speciality clinics. Why do they have to take that? They should be thinking of increasing speciality clinics in that hospital and then the government can now have a separate and new FMC," the Lagos NMA chair said.

Epe Girls Senior High School Teacher, Kassim, Wins Best Teacher In Nigeria

By Mohammed Adekola

Mr. Yusuf Kassim, fondly known as Leecrown, has put the ancient town of Epe on the national map, earning prestigious recognition as Nigeria's Best Public Senior Secondary School Teacher.

The award was presented at the World Teachers' Day Presidential Excellence Award in Abuja's iconic Eagle Square, themed "Valuing Teacher Voices: Towards a New Social Contract for Education."

Kassim, a multi-award-winning educator from

Epe Girls Senior High School, Epe, Lagos State said he was visibly moved during the ceremony. "This is not just a personal victory," he shared. "It is a testament to the power of perseverance, passion, and the belief that education can change lives."

Known for his innovative teaching methods, He has cultivated a legacy of academic excellence and youth development. His students consistently outperform expectations in major exams and



competitions, a direct reflection of his dedication to fostering a love for learning. Being a finalist in multiple state and national teaching competitions to becoming a beacon of inspiration in his community, Kassim's journey has been one of resilience and selfless service.

Earning accolades for his contributions to education and community development, Kassim's efforts have consistently paid off. His work extends beyond the classroom, impacting the lives of

countless youths through mentoring, leadership training, and community outreach programs.

Kassim's journey to national recognition has been marked by numerous milestones, including being a finalist in the Lagos State Teachers' Merit Award, the Maltina Teachers Award, and the West African Teachers' Innovation Prize. His leadership in academic and extracurricular activities at Epe Girls Senior High School has been instrumental in the school's repeated recognition as the best senior secondary school in Lagos.

Kudos Gives Oloyede Kudos For Road Projects

Kehinde Adeleye

The Proprietor and pupils of Kudos Private School in Oshodi have expressed their admiration for the exceptional leadership of Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, the Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government. Notably, they praised the council chairman's outstanding efforts in road reconstruction and other infrastructural development projects throughout the area.

In a show of appreciation, students from the school visited the council chairman's office on Tuesday afternoon to convey their gratitude for the transformative impact his work has had on the community. They commended the Chairman for his dedication to improving local infrastructure, which has significantly enhanced the quality of life for residents, including the students themselves. In a heartfelt display of gratitude, the

students urged the council chairman to continue his steadfast efforts in transforming the local government area. Their impassioned appeal emphasized the profound impact his leadership has had on their lives and their community. Receiving the pupils with warmth and delight, the council chairman expressed his gratitude for their visit, describing it as a wonderful gesture on behalf of the Executive, management, and staff of the Local

Government. Inspired by their appreciation, Otunba Oloyede vowed to further intensify his efforts to improve the area's infrastructure, asserting his commitment to leave Oshodi in a better state than when he first assumed office. Earlier, Master Fahim Oshodi and Miss Success Bebe have disclosed that they were in the council area to appreciate the Chairman for his interventions on roads and drainages in the local

government, which they claimed have beautified the environment. The pupils surprised the chairman with the presentation of ten packs of bottle water to the Chairman as their token of appreciation. The Chairman informed that though he hardly receives gift, but he will receive theirs as it was done with genuine intention by the pupils. In reciprocity gesture, the council boss presented the pupils and their proprietor, Mr. Adebowale

Qudus Adetutu with a compendium of his activities, exercise books and pens, as well as hand fan for their parents.

At a brief chat after the visit, Mr. Adetutu said they came for recognition visit, to show solidarity with the council boss.

He stressed that from what they have seen which prompted the visit, they have seen quality materials are being deployed for usage on road and drainage reconstruction.

He further posited that they were warmly received by the council chairman, who interacted with the pupils as a father. He admonished residents to support the council boss in the next election for the continuity of the good work he is doing.

Elders benefit from Isolo medical outreach



Kehinde Adeleye

promote early detection and prevention of the life-threatening illness.

The council chairman reaffirmed that the monthly "care for the elderly" initiative is a testament to his dedication to ensuring the health and longevity of Isolo LCDA residents, particularly the elderly population. This commitment is a crucial aspect of his overarching vision for the community, encapsulated in the #towardsTheIsoloOfOur Dreams credo.

Speaking further he added that the event was also to promote the health care delivery policy of Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu's T.H.E.M.E.S+ agenda for the utmost benefit of all. "It gives me immense pleasure to address you my mummies, daddies and grannies here today for this month's edition of our health program. This program lends more

credence to our administration's genuine interest in your health and well-being and by the grace of God we will not relent," Olasoju said in local Yoruba language before recapping his remarks in English for the benefit of the non-yorubas.

Earlier on her part, the Council Manager, Mrs. Mojisola Ogabi commended the elderly for their massive turnout for the health program urging them to take their health seriously just as the council is demonstrating.

Also, in her address, the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Anne Okonma expressed her satisfaction to actualizing the council boss' commendable healthcare policy for the elderly by way of organizing the program assuring that the health department is ever-committed to ensuring abundant and illness-free life for the residents.

One of the beneficiaries, Mr Omoniyi Segun Balogun recalls how one of the previous editions of the program saved him from

facing limb amputation as he appreciated the council chairman for prioritizing the welfare of the senior citizens.

"I am a proud beneficiary of the council chairman unparalleled concern for the welfare of the elderly and as you can see I'm here to make the most of today's edition of the healthcare for the elderly. May God Almighty keep blessing him," Balogun said joyfully.

Another beneficiary who could barely hold back her tears of joy showered heartfelt prayer on the council honcho adding that the free medical treatment and drugs had saved her thousands of naira for her routine check-up for this month.

Also speaking, the regent of Isolo, High Chief Saliu Wasiu Arowo-oye who led Oba Osolo & Chiefs-in-council to the event charged beneficiaries to always seek medical attention in order to stay healthy.

When asked for their opinions as to other areas they feel his administration can be of help the consensus opinion was that monthly financial stipends should be considered. A request the council boss promised to look into.

Hundreds of senior citizens in Isolo LCDA gathered to participate in the latest free medical outreach initiative spearheaded by the Olasoju Adebayo-led administration. An outpouring of heartfelt prayers for the council leader accompanied the overwhelming response from the community's elderly residents.

Eager beneficiaries aged 60 and above began assembling as early as

8:00 am, armed with walking sticks in one hand and umbrellas in the other to shield themselves from potential rain. Their enthusiastic turnout demonstrates the positive impact of this comprehensive healthcare program on the lives of Isolo LCDA's senior citizens.

During his speech, the council chairman expressed his satisfaction in once

again offering comprehensive medical care to the elderly community. He proudly announced that in addition to regular services such as hypertension and diabetes screenings, eye exams, dental care, laboratory testing, and general consultations, this month's outreach would also include cervical cancer screenings for women. This addition aims to

NRFF South West Rugby League Set To Resume With Exciting Matches

By Saheed Afolabi

After over a month-long break, the Nigeria Rugby Football Federation (NRFF) South West League is set to return with its Round 4 matches. The league has been on hiatus due to a combination of events, including nationwide protests that temporarily halted all sporting activities and the National Youth Games, which saw key match officials called up for national duties. With those disruptions behind them, the league is now back in full swing, promising an action-packed games for rugby fans.

The day's events will kick off with a historic moment in the Women's division as the first-ever AJ City derby takes place. Eco RFC II will face off against Gosar RFC in what is sure to be a spirited encounter, showcasing the growing presence of women's rugby in the region. This match, set to start at 9 AM, will set the tone for an exciting day of rugby.

At 11 AM, the Men's 15s division will take center stage, with Ogun Kings RFC going head-to-head with Cowrie RFC. Cowrie, who currently hold second place on the league table, will be looking to close the gap between them and the league leaders. Ogun Kings, however, will be eager to upset their rivals and make a statement of their own as they push for higher standings.

Arguably the most anticipated match of the day will feature the league leaders, Racing RFC, as they battle defending champions Nigeria Police RFC. Both teams have built a fierce rivalry over the years, and with Racing currently on top of the table, Nigeria Police RFC will be determined to reclaim their dominance. This matchup is expected to be a tightly contested

affair, with both teams vying for supremacy in the league.

The day will conclude with another AJ City derby, this time in the Men's division, where Eco RFC II's men's team will take on Gosar RFC. Following the intensity of the earlier matches, this final clash promises to be a thrilling end to the day's action, as both teams look to claim local bragging rights.

All matches will be held at the Main Bowl of the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos, a venue known for its electrifying atmosphere and passionate rugby fans. With so much at stake and the league resuming after a lengthy pause, the anticipation is high, and the South West rugby community is eager to see their teams back in action. The return of the



NRFF South West Rugby League not only marks the continuation of an exciting season but also underscores the resilience

and determination of Nigerian rugby to overcome challenges and continue to grow the sport in the region. The matches are expected

to draw large crowds as teams look to either solidify their standings or climb the table. With rivalries intensifying and the battle

for the top spots heating up, Round 4 is set to be one of the most thrilling weekends of the season so far.

Young Strikers Hold Own Despite Narrow Defeat- Coach

By Saheed Afolabi

Lagos based side, Young Strikers FC coach, Waheed Kosoko, hailed his players performance after a narrow 2-1 loss to Beyond Limit FC in a recent friendly match.

The game was held at Remo Stars Stadium under the watchful eyes of Beyond Limits founder, Kunle Soname, who saw the Young Strikers gave his side a run for their money at the Remo Stars stadium, Ikenne.

While acknowledging the defeat, Kosoko emphasized his pride in his team's performance. He admitted the superiority of Beyond

Limits while he complimented their performance and holding forth on their fortress.

"Let me say I am proud of my boys despite our defeat

against Beyond Limit. My boys really gave a good account of themselves and I was impressed with their tactical play

"Beyond Limit are better side but yet we


gave them a good match even though the founder, Mr Soname who witnessed the match commended our team for the marvellous

performance "Like I said before we really gave them a good fight and i want my boys to leverage on this performance in their subsequent friendly matches."





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