

# Supreme Court Lagos Gov verdict Pressure on PDP, Labour To Congratulate Sanwo-Olu

### Lagos 2024 Budget'll Meet Expectations - Experts

Pg.4



Prof. Adeola Adenikinju Dr. Ayo Teriba Mr. Ope George

### Lagos Red Line, Opebi Link Bridge, 15 Jetties To Ease Traffic in 2024-Omotoso

Pg.6

### Land Crisis: Epe Farmers Seek State Govt's Intervention

Pg.16



Pg. 2/3

### Falana Joins Lagos Lawyers To Protest Against Police Brutality

Pg.12

### NUT State Chairman, Akintoye, Seeks Teachers Longevity In Service

Pg.20

### Lekki Homeless Boys Narrate Experiences

Pg.17

### MicroEnterpriseSupport Initiative: Lagos Empowers 1,000 Beneficiaries

Pg.5

# Supreme Court Lagos Gov verdict Pressure on PDP, Labour To Congratulate Sanwo-Olu

By Kunle Awosiyan

The Inter-Party Advisory Council, IPAC, in Lagos State has urged the candidates of the Labour Party Gbadebo Rhode-Vivour and his counterpart for the Peoples Democratic Party, Dr. Jide Adediran in the last Lagos Governorship election to congratulate Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

The IPAC Chairman, Olusegun Mobolaji made the call while reacting to the Supreme Court verdict that affirmed the election of Sanwo-Olu last Friday.

He said since the apex court had spoken, both Adediran and Rhode-Vivour should rejoice with Sanwo-Olu and congratulate him, while waiting for another election. "If the apex court has given Sanwo-Olu the victory as the deserved winner, let us rejoice and celebrate with him by congratulating the governor," the IPAC boss said.

He called on all election stakeholders and institutions, including the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) security and judiciary to work together to make Nigeria's democracy better.

Speaking, he said that the victory at the Supreme Court had laid to rest all bickering, beyond all doubt, adding that it is a confirmation and revalidation that Sanwo-Olu is people's choice.

"I want to reaffirm the commitment of our dear Governor, on delivering more dividends of democracy to us in Lagos State, no more distraction. We will witness a new Lagos Rising from all strata and our hope and aspirations of a committed and determined servant of the people will come to light.

The former Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN) was among the first set of personalities that



Gov. Sanwo-Olu

congratulated Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his victory at the Supreme Court last weekend.

He said that the judgment of the apex court that affirmed the election of Sanwo-Olu was expected, adding that it had now laid to rest all insinuations of riggings being implied by the other contenders in the case.

As he put it, "I think that is how it should be when you have concurrent findings at the trial and appellate courts, it's a rarity for supreme court to depart from those conclusions. Congratulations to our governor, congratulations to our party and congratulations to our government. There will be no more distraction for governance running at full pace.

The verdict threw up a big jubilation among supporters of the All-Progressives Congress across and beyond the state, creating a jolly atmosphere for the governor who was returning from the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja where he had gone to attend a meeting with President Bola Tinubu. Sanwo-Olu was seen dancing with some members of the party at the arrival lounge of the Murtala

Mohammed Airport to celebrate his victory at the supreme court.



Olusegun Mobolaji

Also reacting to the victory, Speaker at the Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, described the supreme court verdict as a testament that the residents of Lagos did not only endorse APC but voted for the candidate of the party as their governor.

The Speaker, who also revelled on the Party's triumph in the House of Assembly elections said "With the election battle now put to rest by the Supreme Court, I join millions of our supporters to congratulate our amiable Governor and Deputy Governor Obafemi Hamzat. "It is a victory well deserved as the Supreme Court has now proven the Election

Petition Tribunal and the Appeal Court right concerning their earlier rulings in favour of Governor Sanwo-Olu". The lawmaker urged the Lagos populace to key into the ongoing administration, practicing their obligations with focus on realization of greater condition in the society. "On behalf of my colleagues at the Lagos State House of Assembly, I also congratulate our party, its leadership, members and supporters for all the efforts they put into the electioneering just as I urge other contenders in the election to join hands with the current administration and support its policies to make Lagos greater," Obasa said.

To the state APC Chairman, Pastor Cornelius Ojelabi, the

verdict should put end to partisan politics of the opposition candidates.

"Those in opposition are advised to team up with the APC government in Lagos State, so collectively, they will serve the people better. "The era of partisan politics has ended and all hands should be on deck now towards contributing our quotas aimed at making Lagos the Centre of Excellence through good, meaningful and excellent programmes for the people." Congratulating the APC family and the people of Lagos at large, Ojelabi said the victory was long-awaited and well-deserved. Ojelabi added that the victory had further reinforced that the votes cast by the electorate on March 18, for the joint

tickets of Sanwo-Olu and Hamzat "were and are not a waste but for the progress and development of the state".



Fashola

He assured Lagos residents that the Sanwo-Olu-led administration would continue to deliver on its electioneering promises to usher in more dividends of democracy.

He described the unanimous judgment by justices of the Supreme Court as a further testimony of the court's belief in employing credible judicial pronouncements and judgments to strengthen and entrench democracy.

The Executive Chairman of Ikorodu West Local Council Development Area, Hon. Sulaimon Kazeem Olanrewaju described the judgment as a triumph for democracy.

# Pressure on PDP, Labour To Congratulate Sanwo-Olu

## ..Supreme Court Lagos Gov verdict

The Supreme Court ruling not only reaffirms the trust and confidence in Sanwo-Olu's leadership but also validates the tremendous support and belief in their abilities to steer the State towards progress and development.

He highlights Sanwoolu's distinctive leadership style, which has witnessed remarkable achievements and transformative initiatives that have positively impacted the lives of Lagosians. His focus on Education, Healthcare, Transportation, and Security has brought about significant improvements, making Lagos a model state in Nigeria.

"We commend his inclusive approach to governance, as he continues to engage and listen to the concerns and aspirations of the people. His commitment to transparency, dialogue, and citizen participation has fostered a stronger sense of belonging and trust among Lagosians.

On behalf of Ikorodu West Local Council Development Area, I once again extend congratulations on this well-deserved victory, and we pledge our unwavering support and commitment to your administration. Together, we will strive towards building a prosperous and sustainable Lagos State.

The Chairman of Odiolowo-Ojuwoye LCDA, Mr. Rasaq Olusola Ajala, said that the verdict has



**Ojelabi**

conclusively settled all issues stemming from the election.

"I am confident that your well-deserved win is a testament to your outstanding performance in your first term. The judiciary, as the last bastion of justice, has once again upheld the faith of citizens."

Acknowledging the administration's commendable progress, he remarked, "Your team has consistently achieved significant milestones since assuming office, and we are optimistic that this victory will eliminate distractions, allowing for an even more impactful tenure. I trust this declaration will inspire heightened dedication to fulfilling your electoral promises for the people of our dear state."

To governor Sanwo-Olu himself, the Supreme Court verdict is a victory to all Lagos residents. He urged his opponents during the 2023 governorship election to join him to develop the state.

He said the apex court verdict revalidated the

position of Lagosians who freely cast their ballots on March 18, 2023.

According to him, the victory is not just for him and his deputy, Dr Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, it is for the rule of law, our democracy and the entire people of Lagos State.

He said, "Like I said in my acceptance speech after the results of the election were declared, there was no victor or vanquished. Our approach to governance since May 29, 2019, is a clear example of inclusive governance, which we believe in and stand for.

"I therefore invite those who are still standing on the fence to show their love for our dear state by joining the train of progressive governance. We do not profess a monopoly of ideas.

"Today's judicial pronouncement, like those of the Lagos State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal and the Court of Appeal in Lagos, have buoyed our confidence in the

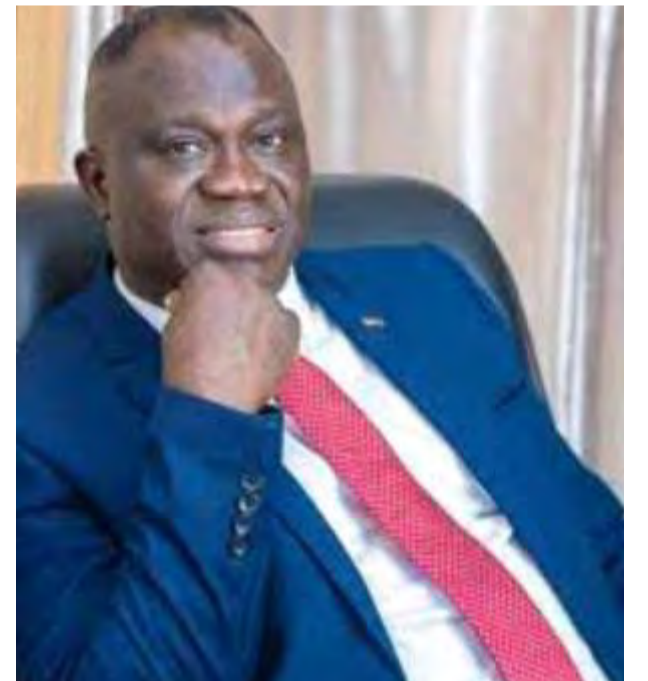


**Obasa**

country's judicial system. We do not take it for granted. For us, our aim in governance is about service and ensuring that we are not distracted from all the promises we made to our people. The judgement will now allow us to accelerate our interventions to ensure that we continue to deliver more dividends of democracy to our citizens- in line with our THEMES+ developmental agenda."

I commend the judges for their well-thought-out and detailed judgment. They explained the reasons that led them to their conclusions today. We thank the Supreme Court judges, as well as the Lagos State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal and the Court of Appeal judges for their firm commitment to the principle of fairness and justice." He, however, said the victory would spur him and his deputy to do more in office.

The Labour Party candidate in the 2023 Lagos State Governorship election,



**Babatunde**

Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour, had in his appeal claimed that Sanwo-Olu's running mate qualification, Obafemi Hamzat, had renounced his citizenship as a Nigerian.

The court held that Sanwo-Olu's deputy is a Nigerian by birth, adding that renunciation of citizenship of a citizen by birth must be registered by the Nigerian president, adding that the appellant did not provide any evidence to that effect.

The court, however, dismissed the appeal by the Labour Party candidate for lacking in merit.

Also, Abdulazeez Adediran, popularly known as Jandor, who is the Peoples Democratic Party, on his part, contended that the name Sanwo-Olu submitted to the Independent National Electoral Commission was different from that contained in his WAEC certificate.

The apex court while dismissing appeal described it as "academic".

# Lagos 2024 Budget'll Meet Expectations- Experts

By Kunle Awosiyun

Experts in the field of economy have said that the Lagos State government's N2.2 trillion appropriation bill when passed into law will meet residents' expectations.

The bill, which was presented in December last year to the assembly by the state governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu had since been passed by the legislative arm.

With the bill becoming a law, Echonews sought the opinions of experts on how the budget may look in terms of performance, judging from the 2023 fiscal year.

Speaking at a roundtable organised by the Economic Intelligence Department of (EID) of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget to assess the performance of the 2024 budget, the Chief Executive of Economic Associates, Dr. Ayo Teriba and the President of the Nigerian Economic Society, Professor Adeola Adenikinju expressed confidence that the 2024 budget would perform well.

The experts commended the state government for its efforts on the economy and the 78 percent performance of the year 2023 Budget as of September.

Speaking on the outlook for the year 2024, Teriba, said by September 2023, which signifies the end of the third quarter, Lagos had achieved a 78 percent performance of its 2023 Budget contrary to the 75 percent performance expected by



Professor Adeola Adenikinju



Dr. Ayo Teriba



Mr. Ope George

stakeholders.

According to him, "As of September this year (2023), they have achieved 78 percent performance of the budget. September is the end of the third quarter so you should have achieved 75 percent but Lagos did 78 which is good. This makes the 2024 appropriation bill presented by Mr. Governor to the State House of Assembly credible."

Dr. Teriba urged the Lagos government through the Economic Intelligence Department to optimise and make collections of its assets for fee-rent-based revenue generation to enhance the Y2024 budget when passed by the House.

President of the Nigerian Economic Society (NES), Prof. Adeola Adenikinju commended the State government for the indicator shown in the proposed bill that almost half of the spending is coming from the Internally Generated

Revenue (IGR).

Professor Adenikinju said, "The ratio between the Capital Budgets being significantly higher than the recurrent is very good, stating that very few states in the country have that kind of action". He added that the State boasts of 'relatively strong institutions that help drive the performance and the economy'.

In his presentation, Dr. Femi Sabiu, a Professor of Economics at the University of Lagos (UNILAG) charged the state government to set its priorities right and focus on realistic sectors, citing the agricultural sector as one the government needs to pay more attention to.

He said, "Every year we budget on agriculture. We make agriculture our priority and yet the land and resources to do this are not available. We need to strike a balance and decide which one is our focus".

Urging the government to address inflation in

the economy, Mr. Babajide Komolafe, Vanguard Economy Editor, said: "The inflation rate for Lagos rose by 9.92 percentage points but for the National, the increase in the inflation rate was just 5.86 percent. Inflation in Lagos as of November stood at 32 percent, that of the National is 27.33, then the question is why the huge disparities?" Earlier, Mr. Ope George, the State Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, said the gathering is expected to offer insightful analysis, collaborative strategies, actionable recommendations and resilience building.

"We are poised to delve into comprehensive discussions, analyse critical economic indicators, and glean insights from the collective wisdom assembled in this room. The knowledge and expertise each of you brings to the table will undoubtedly contribute to the formulation of

robust strategies and policies that will guide us through the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead", he said.

Recall that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, recently, presented an estimate of #2.2 trillion expenditures to the House of Assembly for the year 2024 christened 'Budget of Renewal', proposing increased capital spending across key priority areas in the economic matters sector.

The bill, comprising 58 percent capital expenditure and 42 percent recurrent expenditure, was approved by the Speaker of the House, Hon. Mudashiru Obasa after a unanimous voice vote by the lawmakers during the first plenary of the year 2024 held on Friday.

Making up the N2.2trn figure, a bill for a law to authorise the issuance and appropriation of N952,430,566,998

from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for Recurrent Expenditure and N1,315,545,553,871 from Development Fund for Capital Expenditure for the year ending 31st December 2024 was passed by the lawmakers.

Prior to its passage, Chairman of the joint-committee on Budget and Finance, Sa'ad Olumoh, presented a report of the committee, which recommended that the Public Works Corporation, Water Corporation and the state-owned tertiary institutions be placed on first-line charge to enable them perform optimally.

Obasa lauded the lawmakers for their dedication and cooperation at ensuring a quick passage of the budget while directing the Clerk of the House, Mr Olalekan Onafeko, to forward a copy of the approved budget to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for assent.

# MicroEnterpriseSupport Initiative: Lagos Empowers 1,000 Beneficiaries



**A**s part of the present administration's economic development and poverty eradication strategy, the State Government today empowered over 1,000 vulnerable and indigent residents through the Year 2024 State's Micro Enterprise Support Initiative (MESI) Programme.

Speaking at the programme held today at the Blue Roof LTV, Agidingbi, Ikeja, Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu said the MESI initiative is a practical demonstration of his administration's social inclusion policy geared towards ensuring that no one is left behind in

the collective journey to the Greater Lagos dream. It is also aimed at addressing the plight of the less privileged who are facing significant challenges in the state.

Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, said that across the globe, governments, private sectors and civil

societies are exploring the better ways to achieve poverty reduction and accelerate women's empowerment through indigenous economic development strategies.

He added that as the fifth largest economy in Africa, it is compelling for his administration to harness the potential of the state's diverse population to drive an accelerated, sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the State.

Speaking further, the Governor emphasised that empowering indigent and vulnerable residents in Lagos State requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses immediate needs and focuses on long-term solutions. He said the state government is earnestly developing Social Safety Nets through various programmes, offering direct assistance such as cash transfers, food vouchers, healthcare subsidies and access to quality education, alleviating immediate hardships and improving citizens' overall well-being.

Sanwo-Olu further expressed his administration's commitment to improved Skills Development and Education, enhancing skilled Acquisition Training and Adult Education to empower residents with qualitative and valuable skills.

While noting that the state government aims to increase employability and open up opportunities for income generation through collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the Governor said that building a successful nation is not solely the duty of an individual but a collective task, saying, "We must work hand in hand to ensure the sustainable growth of these micro-enterprises and provide support to those who need it the most".

Sanwo-Olu, therefore, urged the beneficiaries to make judicious use of the empowerment tools and not to sell them as the government has invested significantly in getting the tools. "You are expected to make judicious use of these resources. They are not gifts to be kept away but put to use as tools to facilitate your journey to becoming economically and financially independent as well as employers of labour", he said.

Earlier in her welcome address, the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Mrs. Cecilia Bolaji Dada stated that the Lagos State Micro-Enterprise Support Initiative marks an important milestone in the government's efforts to alleviate poverty and empower the most vulnerable

members of society.

Dada explained that the scheme is a State Government intervention and transformational programme through the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation adopted to equip Lagos citizens with adequate tools for financial sustainability.

She, however, said that the different empowerment initiatives embarked on by the state government are aimed at ensuring that Lagosians are trained and empowered for financial sustainability, to enable them to support their families and contribute to the socio-economic development of the State. She stressed that "here, the Lagos State Government has Zero tolerance to idleness of any form".

While charging the graduates with the need to take ownership and care for their startup equipment, she made it known that the monitoring teams would pay them unscheduled visits to ensure that progress was recorded and evaluated.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of empowerment tools which include Milling machines, Sewing machines, Professional Hair-dryers, Barbing Clippers with Sterilizing Units and Generators, Pop-Corn Machines, Sharwama Grillers and Toasting Machines, Snail Pens, Industrial cookers, Tile Laying Machines, as well as Gari processing equipment to the beneficiaries.

## Lagos Govt Urges Students, Teachers To Ensure Excellent Performance in 2024



... Says New Teachers Will be Recruited to Improve Learning

**L**agos State Government has urged teachers, non-teaching staff, students and pupils in the State to make the year 2024 count for excellent performance in their various teaching and learning deliveries as schools resume for the second term of the year 2023/2024 session.

The Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Jamiu Alli-Balogun gave the advice when he visited some schools in Lagos on Monday to monitor students and pupils' resumption for the second term.

In what seems like a New Year message to education stakeholders in primary and secondary schools across the State, he articulated the wish of the Government to ensure that the limited resources of the State are deployed to ensure the safety of students, pupils and school personnel in the new year.

Alli-Balogun also restated the resolve of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration to upscale school feeding programmes in public schools to boost pupils' welfare, improve attendance and reduce the menace of out-of-

school children in Lagos State. He revealed plans to recruit new teachers across various subjects and classes which is expected to further improve the capacity of students to learn more under qualified teachers.

"Many of our students, pupils and teachers made us proud in 2023 individually or as representatives of various schools, this naturally encourages the State Government to do more. The present administration is also pleased with the level of support for interventions, collaboration, and initiatives in the education sector. Therefore, it's expected that all stakeholders will aim higher for better performance in the second term of the 2023/24 school session", he noted.

During the visit, the Commissioner also admonished students to stay off drugs, shun cultism, and avoid gang wars and examination malpractices, saying "The energy for such vices can be diverted to various co-curricular activities in schools and sometimes supported by various

non-governmental organisations".

He assured education stakeholders that the State Government will continue to motivate school personnel with improved welfare, prompt payment of staff salaries and top-notch capacity development.

Alli-Balogun stated that the quest to improve the employability of youths in Lagos State will also be boosted in Y2024 with more intervention in the area of vocational and skills acquisitions in the State. He emphasised the need for parents and guardians to pay tax as at when due for the benefit of society, adding that, consequently, LASRRA registration and Tax Certificate shall be the condition for the registration of both BECE and WAEC SSCE in the State.

Alli-Balogun assured all stakeholders that together, they will create hope for future leaders by pioneering transformative solutions to Education Governance in Lagos State.

Some of the schools visited by the Commissioner and his team within Dairy Farm School Complex, Agege, are District Junior College, Sango Junior Secondary School (an Inclusive school) and Sango Senior Secondary School among others.

The team later moved to Idimu to inspect the resumption of students at Local Government Primary School, Community Nursery and Primary School, Olorunfunmi Junior and Senior Grammar School and Idimu Junior High School.

## Lagos Trains ICT Officers In Unified Local Govt Service

**T**he Office of Local Government Establishments and Training has organised a training workshop for ICT Officers in the State Unified Local Government Service.

Declaring open the workshop held on Tuesday at Public Service Staff Development Centre (PSSDC) Magodo, the Permanent Secretary, Office of Local Government Establishment and Training, Mrs. Bibilomo Olushekun stated that the training was aimed at sharpening the skills of officers in global ICT best practices and improved productivity.

The Permanent Secretary pointed out that the demands of the populace are getting more sophisticated hence the need to build the capacity of the workforce to serve all residents in the State effectively.



In her words, "The training is aimed at ensuring that our ICT Team are well positioned to serve the good people of Lagos State by upskilling them, exposing them to new knowledge because the demands of the populace are getting more sophisticated, we have to be more equipped hence the need for regular capacity training".

Olushekun mentioned that the ICT officers would be trained on job-specific training programmes so that

they would have job-specific skills that can serve the people and reflect on the job performance of officers.

She, therefore, advised the participants to optimally harness the opportunities inherent in the training programme and apply the various takeaways in the discharge of their duties, adding that ICT is a sector in which innovation and initiatives come up quickly hence the workshop will avail them the opportunity to gain new knowledge and learn trending skills for enhanced productivity.

# Lagos Red Line, Opebi Link Bridge, 15 Jetties To Ease Traffic in 2024-Omotoso



**H**onourable Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Gbenga Omotoso has listed some iconic projects that will shape the face of commuting in Lagos State in the Year 2024. Some of the projects, according to him, include the Red Line Rail, the Opebi-Ojota Link Bridge and the completion of 15 Ferry Jetties as well as the deployment of

additional 12 ferries to the existing ones to ease commuting across the State. He expressed this view today during an interview session with journalists representing different media houses in his office at the Secretariat, Alausa. He said the Opebi Link Bridge will take traffic off the Ikorodu Road and make access to the Airport from Ojota a lot

easier. The Red Line, he noted, will reduce the about three-hour travel time by road from Iddo to Agbado to about 35 minutes while the Water Transportation will receive a boost with the completion of about 15 new jetties and the addition of 12 boats to the existing 21. He recalled that, at inception, the Sanwo-Olu-led government inherited seven ferry

boats and increased the number to 14 and then 21. Speaking further on the legacy projects of the present administration, the Commissioner hinted that more developmental projects such as the Fourth Mainland Bridge, Massey Street Hospital, 500-Bed Mental Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre, Ketu-Ejinrin, the Lekki

International Airport, Food and Logistics Hub, Omu Creek project, the Coastal Road project, Leather Hub at Mushin and General Hospitals, will receive the attention of the State Government this year. While noting that the projects were geared towards creating jobs for the teeming population of the State, Omotoso opined that the Fourth Mainland Bridge is capable of creating 10,000 jobs and exposing young engineers to practical knowledge about building such gigantic projects. Asked to shed more light on the Fourth Mainland Bridge and the Red Line, the Commissioner disclosed that the preferred bidder for the Bridge, a consortium of construction companies and financiers, has been selected. The financial

commitments are being worked out and physical work is expected to commence soon. He said the Red Line was about 90% complete as the last of the overdrive located in Mushin would be commissioned soon. Queried on the role of the State Government in the recent change of leadership in the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) in Lagos State, the Commissioner responded that it was purely a Union matter and the government would recognise and relate with any legitimate leadership of all Associations. On the budget cycle, he said that the 2023 Budget cycle has been completed and it performed at about 90% as of November and expressed optimism that, the moment the 2024 Budget is passed and signed into law, its implementation commences immediately, and all developmental pillars of the administration will be impacted positively.

## Lagos Warns Prospective Buyers of Harmony Court Apartments ... Says House Height Limited, Not Agent of LASG

**T**he Lagos State issued the warning Ministry of after a recent Housing has meeting with warned prospective stakeholders, home buyers to be advising prospective wary of a real estate homeowners, developer, House particularly those in Height Limited', the diaspora, to claiming to be an agent refrain from of the State transacting any Government. business with the The Permanent firm and its agents Secretary, Ministry of on any matter Housing, Engr. relating to Harmony AbdulhafisToriola Court along

Command Road, Ipaja, Ayobo-Ipaja LCDA. Toriola pointed out that the Managing Director of House Height Limited, Mrs. Ngozi Elizabeth Ola-David, who is also known as Ngozi Elizabeth Phil-Ebosie, is not an agent or partner of the Lagos State Government and has not been appointed to deal with

anyone on behalf of the State Government in respect of three-bedroom apartments at Harmony Estate. "Any claim by anyone that he or she is an appointed agent by the Ministry is false and should be disregarded", he affirmed.

He further revealed that the erstwhile partnership between the State Government and House Height Limited has been terminated for non-performance in line with the terms and conditions of the contractual agreement. Engr. AbdulhafisToriola said the general public should, therefore, disregard the purported claim of ownership by House Height

Limited, saying, "Anyone who deals with the firm or its agents or buys a home from her in violation of this warning does so at his or her own risk". The Director of Legal Services, Lagos State Ministry of Housing, Mrs. Bukade Idowu-Koya advised that anyone interested in the Homes should contact the office of the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Housing, Block 3, Second Floor, Secretariat, Alausa-Ikeja.

# Lagos Govt Trains Officers in Stress Management



**T**owards the realisation of the THEMES Plus Agenda of the Administration of Babajide Sanwo-Olu concerning capacity building of the workforce, the Ministry of Establishments and

Training organised a two-day training programme for Public Servants.

The training programme with the theme, "Managing Stress and Nurturing Team Relationship", was held today at LCCI

with 100 participants from different Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The objective of the training is to acquaint officers with how to balance their personal and professional lives to enhance productivity.

In her opening remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Establishments and Training, Mrs. Olubusola Abidakun noted that the uniqueness of the training was that the resource persons for the training programme are drawn from the Civil Service. Abidakun advised participants to be proud of themselves as staff of Lagos State, stating that participants must be able to practice all that the government had inculcated by applying it in their various MDAs. While highlighting the topics to be discussed in the course of the training programme,

she emphasised the need to give a listening ear to down-line Officers and avoid the use of the word, subordinate. According to her, "Never use the word subordinate, it is not in the dictionary of the Human Resource Managers". She stated that one of the topics for training was "Managing Pressure and Stress at Workplace", adding that as a principal in leadership, it was crucial to be able to manage stress. Abidakun appreciated all the resource persons who have volunteered to be part of the programme. They include the Permanent Secretary of Local Government

Establishments and Training, Mrs. Bibilomo Olushekun; Permanent Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Mr. Akinbode Obadina; Permanent Secretary, Public Service Office, Mrs. Sunkanmi Oyegbola, and Permanent Secretary of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Mrs. Kikelomo Bolarinwa amongst others. Director of Training, Mrs. Abisola Dokunmu-Adegbite reiterated that it is time to give back to the community and society which is public service, stressing the need to actively participate in all sessions. She said any officer could be invited in the near future to facilitate in the training programme.

## Lagos Govt To Harness Power of Chess For Youth Development

**T**he Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mr. Mobolaji Ogunlende has stated that the administration of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu will harness the power of Chess as a tool for fostering social inclusion and integration on a grander scale among the youths in the State. He said this today during the courtesy visit of the Founder, Chess In Slums Africa, Tunde Onakoya and Vice President of Nigeria Chess Foundation, Mr. Adeyinka Adewole to his office in Alausa. Ogunlende noted that beyond being just a pastime to while away time, the game of Chess would be explored by the

Ministry as a dignified source of employment and income for youths. He added that it was towards ensuring that youths are well-engaged that the State Government established Youth Centres in all three Senatorial Districts where they are offered opportunities not only to enjoy sporting activities but also to acquire a skill. In his words: "Youth engagement is one of the developmental pillars of the THEMES Plus Agenda which our Ministry is statutorily saddled with the responsibility".

In her remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Pharm (Mrs.) Toyin Oke-Osanyintolu disclosed that the



Ministry would utilise Chess to engage most of the youths who have the propensity of going into drug abuse due to idleness.

She said: "As a Ministry,

we are going to engage the youths in the State through the game of Chess. This is a profitable activity that can help keep the idle ones among them from indulging in drug

abuse. You know an idle mind is the devil's workshop. So we are going to take full advantage of Chess to curb the menace of drug abuse in our society", she said.

On their part, Messrs Tunde Onakoya and Adeyinka Adewale stated that they decided to leverage the game of Chess to help the youths in the State, particularly those living in slums.

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# Lagos Parking Policy: LASPA Seeks Cooperation of Residents



The General Manager, Lagos State Parking Authority (LASPA), Mrs. Adebisi Adelabu has called on Lagosians to support the implementation of the Lagos State Parking Policy in a bid to checkmate the negative impact of parking-related issues on the well-being of the people and the economy of the state.

Adelabu said that the effect of haphazard parking on the environment and the

State's economy is becoming unbearable, adding that the Government can no longer fold its hands and allow disorderliness to continue to thrive in the area of parking.

According to her, the State Government has adopted a holistic approach towards regulating all forms of parking across the State.

"LASPA is exploring and optimising all standard parking options to maximise

urban public spaces such as the adoption of On and Off street parking and the use of Setbacks, as part of identified strategies that will help provide lasting solutions to parking challenges and parking-induced traffic in the State", she stated.

The General Manager mentioned that so far, the Agency has identified over 20,000 setbacks suitable for parking across the State and more than 13,000 are already in use, while efforts are ongoing to identify more.

She revealed that over 1800 Parking slots have been created through the on-street parking strategy, and 1162 signages installed to make parking easy for Lagosians.

Adelabu appealed to all Corporate Entities, Car Park operators and others in the sector to abide by the parking policy and promptly pay their rates to avoid enforcement.

According to her,

Governor Sanwo-Olu had reiterated in his address during the State's 24th Annual Thanksgiving Service on Sunday that Lagosians should expect more from the government this year and they also must be ready to play their parts by being law-abiding.

The General Manager cautioned against the rejection of demand notices and assault on LASPA officials by some unpatriotic entities who always want to circumvent the law by not performing their civic duties.

She said, "It is against the law to reject demand notices or refuse to pay rates as and when due, and LASPA will no longer tolerate such acts, there will be sanctions and the defaulters from the previous year should be prepared to pay up this year".

Adelabu stated that last year over 2,710 demand notices were

issued to Business owners and corporate entities who use setbacks for Car Parking across the State, adding that 2,200 of the demand notices were duly acknowledged and responded to accordingly.

However, some unpatriotic entities rejected the notices and even went as far as assaulting government officials while on their lawful duties. "We will no longer condone such unlawful acts, they will be made to face the full weight of the law" Adelabu stressed.

The General Manager said that Demand Notices for the year 2024 are already being distributed across the State to enable concerned corporate entities and Car Park Operators to prepare adequately and make payments early.

She added that there will be serious

enforcement this year to ensure that the Lagos state parking policy is fully implemented, adding that the policy if implemented will put an end to most of the parking challenges negatively impacting on the economy of the state, and also make commuting pleasant for all.

Adelabu appealed to residents and visitors to the State to obey traffic rules and avoid indiscriminate parking to make movement across the State smooth and pleasurable for all.

The General Manager reiterated that LASPA is committed to tackling all parking-related issues and ensuring residents and visitors of Lagos State have the best parking experience. She, therefore, urged anyone with parking-related issues to contact LASPA on 012275230, 012275231, or visit the Agency's website: www.laspa.lg.gov.ng for prompt action.

## LASRRRA To Set Up Dedicated Centre at LASU Main Campus

The Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRRA), in its bid to scale up registration and make all residents irrespective of tribe, gender and social status key into the plans of the State Government, has decided to set up a dedicated Centre at the main campus of the Lagos State University (LASU), Ojo, where staff and students can register/validate with ease.

The plan was revealed today during the courtesy visit of the General Manager of LASRRRA, Mrs. Adebisi-Bilikiss and some officials of the

Agency to the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, MNI, NPOM, and her team at the Institution.

Adebisi-Bilikiss noted that Lagos State University is a great citadel that is ranked high amongst other institutions in Nigeria and recognised globally, as such, much attention should be accorded to the institution in terms of planning for its students and staff. "It is very important that people in this institution are all included in the database of the Agency so that adequate arrangement in terms



of their welfare and social-economic well-being are adequately catered for", she said.

The General Manager further stated that the setting up of a dedicated centre at LASU Main Campus is to make registration/validation

as well as LAG-IDpick-upp seamless and easier so that staff and students do not have to go from one LG/LCDA to another just to get registered/validated.

While explaining that the process of registration begins with an online registration

before physical capturing of biometrics can take place, Adebisi-Bilikiss added that the process of registration is completed with the issuance of a smart, multipurpose card which has different functionalities.

On her part, the Vice-

Chancellor, Professor Olatunji-Bello who earlier warmly welcomed the team, applauded the idea of setting up a dedicated centre to facilitate compliance with the directive that all Lagos State Government-funded Institutions must all key into the LASRRRA database.

Professor Olatunji-Bello, therefore, directed the Information Technology (ICT) Department of the Institution to interface with the LASRRRA team to achieve the laudable initiative.

Also present during the courtesy visit by the LASRRRA Team are Principal Officers from different Directorates of the Institution.

# LASODA Emphasises Need For Detailed Registers of PWDs

The General Manager, Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA), Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal has urged all cluster Heads to ensure they keep detailed and up-to-date information registers of their members for effective data collection of

persons with disabilities. Speaking during a Zoom meeting held with the group recently, Oyetunde-Lawal stressed the importance of keeping data on PWDs, saying "It is pertinent that we have the correct data of the number of PWDs in the State. The Agency

is working on digitising the process of registration to ensure a seamless registration process for our people". She added that the Agency is also focused on ensuring everyone is carried along by encouraging unity of direction and purpose where stakeholders work together towards ensuring that the goal of the Lagos State government for PWDs is

achieved. The General Manager averred that LASODA will deploy a just, fair and equitable system where all cluster members and Persons with Disabilities in Lagos State benefit from all intervention programmes. "The future of LASODA activities will focus on fairness and justice where everyone is carried along as we

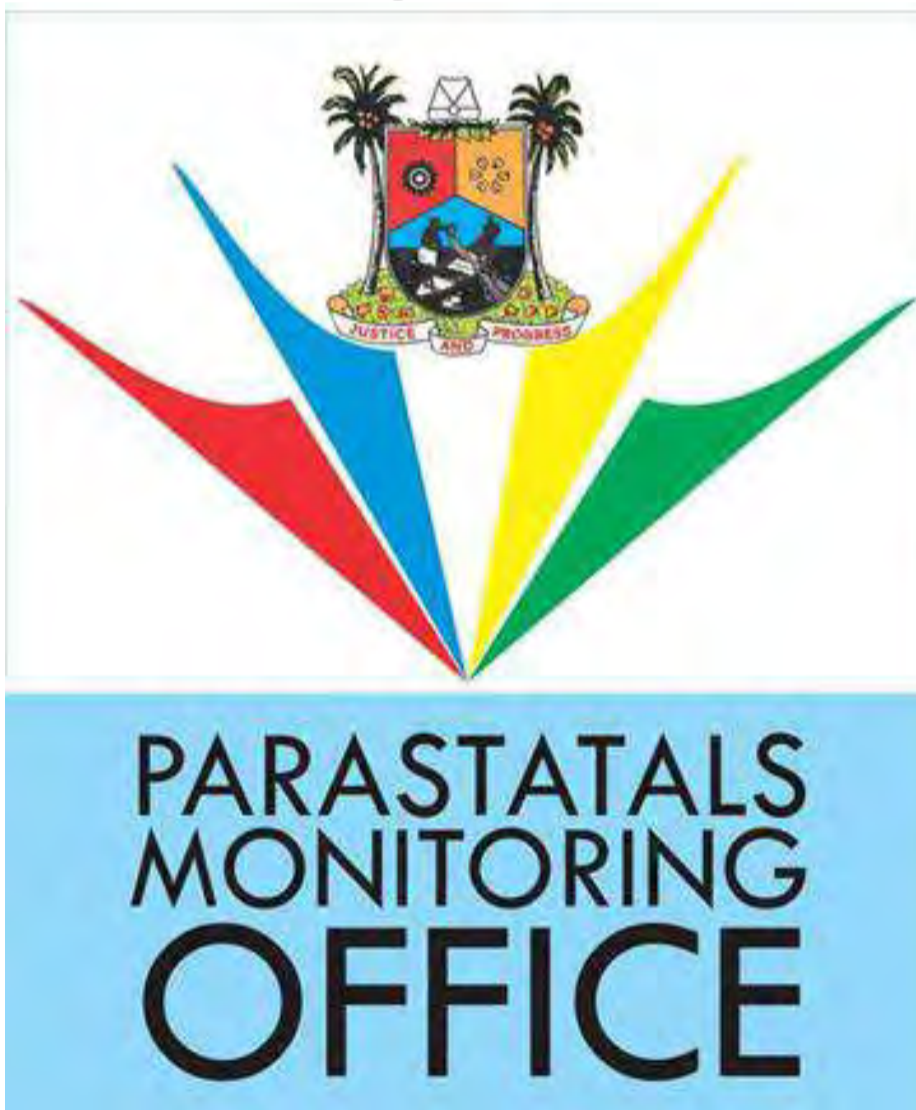
navigate towards ensuring the promotion and protection of PWDs in Lagos State. We look forward to collaborating and partnering with corporate organisations and other well-meaning non-governmental organisations towards achieving our objective", she asserted. The Zoom meeting had

in attendance the Chairman of the Spinal Cord Injury Association of Nigeria (SCIAN), Mr. Matepo Abudlwahab; Chairman of the National Association of the Blind, Mr. Abolarinwa Salami; Chairman of the Persons with Physical Disabilities, Mr. Adeniyi Rotimi and Mr. Tolani Ojuri of the Albinism Association of Nigeria among others.

# PMO To Ensure Improvement in Performance, Revenue Generation of Agencies

The Lagos State Parastatals Monitoring Office (PMO), has reiterated its commitment to ensuring an improvement in the performance and revenue generation of Government Agencies and Parastatals under its purview. In a statement issued recently by the Office, the Permanent Secretary of PMO, Dr. Olugbemiga Aina said part of the mandate of the Office is to ensure that all agencies/parastatals meet expectations and contribute to generating funds for the government to meet the yearnings of the populace. According to the release, over the years, PMO's mission has focused on the monitoring of agencies' activities to drive performance and financial success while also assisting in shaping the efficiency and effectiveness of government operations. Besides the increased revenue generation

drive of the agencies under the supervision of the Lagos State Parastatal Monitoring Office (PMO), the Office also plays a very important role in governance by coordinating the activities of government agencies to ensure that funds needed for effective and smooth running of governance through the agencies are realised. It reads, "As a matter of fact, without the contributions of these agencies and parastatals towards the enhancement of the State treasury, the aims and aspirations of the state government for residents of Lagos State would only remain a pipe dream that may never see the light of day. The State has recorded and is still recording so many feats under the present administration. These dividends of democracy are visible to everyone everywhere". "The State



Government is determined to lay an excellent foundation for a world-class economy and a smart city that would be able to compete with others around the world, be it in the area of infrastructure,

transportation, security, education, tourism, sports and entertainment among others while ensuring compliance with modern-day information technology".

The statement emphasised further that the Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration craves an investment-driven economy, built on creating an environment conducive for investors, within

and outside the State, to invest. As such, the government remains focused as all the plans of the Governor are aimed at creating a conducive environment for ease of doing business. It averred that for the government to deliver on all the critical areas of development in the State, there is the need for the cooperation of all relevant stakeholders across the various agencies and parastatals of government. It pointed out that in line with the mandate of the Parastatals Monitoring Office, the activities of all the agencies are further brought to the fore for members of the public to know how these government agencies affect the populace positively. "Apart from the fact that these agencies are directly under the supervision of PMO, the involvement of the Office in their daily activities is to ensure that they operate according to their established mandates", the statement added.

# Traders Protest at Lagos Assembly, Seek Approval of Market

By Felix Kuyinu



Members of the Orilowo Perishable Food Market Association have staged a protest over the delay in approving a location for a market in Agboyi-Ketu LCDA. The stakeholders stormed the Lagos State House of Assembly Complex, Ikeja, holding placards bearing various inscriptions and demanding an immediate approval for the Orilowo Perishable Food Market to be

located at Plot 705 Adekunle Bus Stop, Ikorodu Road in Agboyi-Ketu LCDA. According to Alex Omotehinse, President of the Centre for Human and Socio-Economic Rights, the motive of the move was to beseech the Lagos State government not only to make the approval of the market but to also be allowed to operate as a recognized market in line with established rules and standards. Omotehinse, who led

the protest, said that the group had written to Agboyi-Ketu LCDA in a letter dated May 16, 2022 seeking approval of a designated site; but according to him, the officials of the LCDA have deliberately refused to grant the approval as requested by the association, thus, putting their business activities in a far unpromising situation. He noted that sequel to the situation, the group has therefore decided to march forward to the state government with

their demand, also to call the Agboyi-Ketu LCDA to order so as to grant the actualization of the request which will serve as the base of the association. A petition made available partly read, "We wish to assure the Speaker of our continued support and partnership for good governance in Lagos. We earnestly anticipate the intervention of the Lagos State House of Assembly in resolving the issues in

furtherance of the commitment of the Lagos State Government to assist market men and women in sustaining their livelihoods". "Your intervention will help in the alleviation of the sufferings of dependents who are mostly unemployed and may thus become vulnerable to social menace as a consequence of the destruction of the livelihood of family breadwinners." The Majority Leader of

the House, Hon. Noheem Adams, appealed to the association to give more time so as to liaise with the agencies that will be involved in actualizing the request. "We appeal that you give us the opportunity; we would ensure justice; said Adams. "We would do the needful; but we need to hear from all parties involved, including the LCDA chairman. We cannot hear from only you and decide; we need to hear from all stakeholders."

# Man Faces Trial For Alleged N3.5m Theft



By Felix Kuyinu

**M**agistrate Temitope Oladele of the Ikeja Magistrate Court has docked one Kelvin Imeh for allegedly stealing the sum of N3.5m belonging to his employer. At the court, Prosecution Counsel, DSP Victor Eruada disclosed that the 38-year-old accused who resides on Adele Street, Ogombo area, Eti-Osa

in Lagos is charged with conspiracy and theft. Eruada also said that Imeh and another offender at large committed the theft act on December 10, 2023 at Paradise Beach Resort. The duo connived to take an Automated Teller Machine card belonging to his employer, withdrew the money without his consent and fled. The Prosecutor said

such act contravenes the provisions of section 411 and 287 (7) of the Lagos State Criminal Law. He pleaded not guilty to the charge. He said the offence contravened the provisions of sections 411 and 287 (7) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State 2015. Magistrate Oladele, admitted Imeh to bail in the sum of N200,000 with two sureties in like sum and adjourned the case until Jan. 30 for mention.

## Men Remanded Over Robbery of German Returnee, Wife



By Felix Kuyinu

**T**he Magistrates' Court, Yaba, has remanded two men in prison for allegedly robbing a Nigerian-German returnee and wife at their home few days prior to Christmas. The accused, Godwin Micheal and Niyi Benjamin were arraigned before Magistrate Patrick Nwaka who ruled that the duo should be remanded for the first 30 days, pending legal advice from the Directorate of Public Prosecutions, DPP. Michael and Benjamin are 51 and 28 years respectively were brought on charges bordering on conspiracy, armed robbery, and assault preferred against them by the police.

The prosecutor, DSP Thomas Nurudeen, stated at the court that the complainants, Richard Olugbenga and his German wife, who came to Nigeria for the season's celebration were assaulted at their residence situated at Benefactor Street, Alagbado Lagos on December 22, 2023 at around 3am. Nurudeen disclosed that Godwin, who worked as a security guard, involved a group of men which included the second accused, Benjamin, to carry out the criminal act. The Prosecutor also noted that the gang wore face masks and were armed with

cutlasses and axes, tied together in the form of a gun, and robbed the complainant of the sum of N100,000. Nurudeen further said that the defendants also robbed the complainant of his Samsung phone, his wife's Motorola phone, and other valuables not yet ascertained, all alleged acts contravening Sections 411, 299, 279, and 296 of the criminal law of Lagos State 2015. Magistrate Nwaka overruled all plea by the defendants and docked them to conclude investigation. Nwaka stated that the duo should be remanded at the Kirikiri Correctional Centre. He adjourned the case till February 12, 2024.

## Falana Joins Lagos Lawyers To Protest Against Police Brutality

By Felix Kuyinu

**H**uman rights activist, Femi Falana, has berated the inhuman treatment of lawyers and the general public in the hands of the police.

Falana, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, joined other lawyers to protest the 'letdown of human rights' by the security agencies.

The peaceful protest held by the Ikeja, Ikorodu, Badagry and Epe branches of the Nigerian Bar Association, NBA, was as a result of the maltreatment and unlawful detention of a lawyer, Olumide Sonupe by the police at Gowon Estate station for two days.

The lawyer was said to have been hospitalised after detention by the police on December 30, 2023, while seeking bail of his client.

Falana revealed that the practitioners have decided to make a case after the experience suffered by their colleague in saying no to any form of brutalization of lawyers as well as citizens of the country by the Police.

Revealing that the NBA is demanding a full investigation about the incident, he opined that legal practitioners should be allowed to carry out their professional duties without their rights trampled on.



"I am happy the commissioner of police announced today that the investigation is ongoing, Falana stated.

"The commissioner also indicated that lawyers should be prepared to be members of the committee since the police have nothing to hide.

"Besides the report, the NBA is also taking certain steps to file actions to protect the human rights of our colleagues to make a point that if anything of that nature happens to any lawyer, the NBA will take it up."

The Chairman of NBA, Ikeja Branch, Mr Seyi Olawunmi, who stated that the body is seeking justice.

He said, "If our member has behaved in an unruly manner, let the law take its course. Lawyers are not above the law and we need to press the fact that this is about an ordinary man on the street.

"So, we are not coming out because it is our colleague that is involved but we are

saying if you go to a police station as a Nigerian, you have a right to be treated in a civil manner that you deserve."

Olawunmi said it is an unlawful act by the police to ask Nigerians to drop their phones before they could get access to police stations.

"You cannot go in there and they subject you to any form of harassment. They tell you to drop your phone at the entrance.

"I mean if you are not doing anything at your station that is unholy, why would you, why are you asking us to drop our phones," he added

Reports had it that the Lagos branch of the NBA mobilised about 700 lawyers across the state for the protest march from the secretariat of the NBA Ikeja Branch to the headquarters of the Lagos State Police Command.

Other NBA Chairmen present at the protest were: Mr Olabisi Makanjuola, Lagos NBA Chairman, Mr Emeka Ralph, Badagry NBA Chairman and Mr Wale Adegoke, NBA Ota Branch.

# Elderly People in Ifako Ijaiye Get Food Item, Free Medical Service

Kehinde Adeleye



**T**he second phase of the widows and aged support programme in Ifako Ijaiye local government has shown the commitment of the council chairman, Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat administration to the welfare of the aged people in his LG. One hundred residents of the Local Government received

assistance as part of the second phase of the UAH Administration's Widows and Aged Support Program. In order to assist the beneficiaries at the start of this new year, the Widows and Aged Support Programme's second phase was planned, especially in light of the recent financial difficulties that the locals are

experiencing. During the program last week, 100 widows, including the elderly, received cash support and welfare packages from the wife of the council chairman, Mrs. Fausat Adejumo Hamzat, along with other high-ranking local government officials. In her speech Mrs. Hamzat acknowledged the current economic crises, hardship and

difficulties faced by everyone due to the removal of fuel subsidy. It was in an effort to help the aged and widows who do not have bread winners that birthed the idea of reaching out.

**The initiative had been described as a major relief and a act of giving dividends of democracy To Ifako -**

**Ijaiye residents, regardless of their status and age class.**

The Supervisory Councillor for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA), Alhaja Rahmotallahi Abatan specifically mentioned that the selection of the 100 widows and aged was done regardless of political party affiliations, religious or

ethnic differences.

**She also added that the Council Chairman had arranged a Free Medical Services for widows and the aged people, in order to ensure their sound health; not with standing the free healthcare services available for resident across all the Health Care Centres in the Local Government.**

# Agege Country Club Appoints New Officers



Kehinde Adeleye

**A**gege Country Club has appointed new interim officers to coordinate and steer the affairs of the club. The newly appointed officers were inaugurated during the club's first meeting of the year. The newly appointed officers are expected to take charge of the club affairs till an election is conducted to elect new executives. The club President Mr

Bankole, said "Agege Country Club has a structural and functional system for the growth and economic development of Agege persons." "We are open to collaboration with

Agege Country Club was founded to support developmental projects, promote harmony, peace, advancement, and camaraderie among members, as well as the expansion of

Agege. Appointed Interim officers are : President: Joseph Olusegun Bankole, Vice President: Hakeem Obanla, Secretary: Mr. Adegbenro Shodijo and Treasurer: Sunday Idowu

# Lawmaker Facilitates 1000 Micro Enterprise Support To Alimosho Residents

Kehinde Adeleye



Social Safety Nets through various programmes, offering direct assistance such as cash transfers, food vouchers, healthcare subsidies and access to quality education, alleviating immediate hardships and improving citizens' overall well-being.

Whole noting that the State Government aims to increase employability and open up opportunities for income generation through collaboration with relevant stakeholders, Kehinde Joseph said that building a successful nation is not solely the duty of an individual but a collective task, saying, "We must work hand in hand to ensure the sustainable growth of these micro-enterprises and provide support to those who need it the most".

The State Lawmaker, therefore, urged the beneficiaries to make judicious use of the empowerment tools and not to sell them as the government has invested significantly in getting the tools.

"You are expected to make judicious use of these resources. They are not gifts to be kept away but put to use as tools to facilitate your journey to becoming economically and financially independent as well as employers of labour", he said.

The beneficiaries showcase their heartfelt gratitude to the Honorable Lawmaker for deeming it fit, in facilitating such empower opportunity to them in order to be financially independent, promised to make judicious use of the tools given to them.

**A**s part of the Lagos State Government's economic development and poverty eradication strategy, a member, Lagos State House of Assembly, representing Alimosho Constituency II, Hon. Kehinde Olaide Joseph, has influenced empowerment opportunity for constituents.

This came as the State government has empowered over 1,000

vulnerable and indigent residents through the Year 2024 State's Micro Enterprise Support Initiative (MESI) Programme.

Speaking at the end of the programme held today at the Blue Roof, LTV, Agidingbi, Ikeja, Hon. Kehinde Joseph said the MESI initiative is a practical demonstration of Governor Sanwo-Olu administration's social

inclusion policy geared towards ensuring that no one is left behind in the collective journey to the Greater Lagos dream.

It is also aimed at addressing the plight of the less privileged who are facing significant challenges in the State. The Chairman House Committee on Public Account (State), said that across the globe, governments, private sectors and civil

societies are exploring better ways to achieve poverty reduction and accelerate women's empowerment through indigenous economic development strategies.

He added that as the fifth largest economy in Africa, it is compelling for Sanwo-Olu administration to harness the potential of the state's diverse population to drive accelerated,

sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the State.

Speaking further, the grassroot lawmaker emphasised that empowering indigent and vulnerable residents in Lagos State requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses immediate needs and focuses on long-term solutions.

He said the State Government is earnestly developing

# Land Crisis: Epe Farmers Seek State Govt's Intervention



By Mohammed Adekola

**T**he Afero/Itoikin Epe Commercial Farmers Cooperative has urged Lagos state government to intervene in an alleged land invasion by security operatives and its attendant harassment.

This, they said, was to engender continued farming activities and promote food security in the state.

The chairman of the cooperative, Wale Oyekoya made the call at a peaceful protest at the Lagos State House of Assembly.

The protesters hoisted several placards with various inscriptions such as: "No To Military Invasion, Farmers Are Human, No Farmers No Nation", among others, "Sanwo-Olu Compensate us, were some of the inscriptions on display during the

protest.

Oyekoya said the farmers suffered a series of human rights abuses from security operatives who invaded their farmlands in Itoikin, Epe area of Lagos State.

According to him, over 300 hectares of land were invaded thereby causing huge losses and rendering the farmers jobless.

"This development has greatly and negatively impacted our only source of livelihood which was farming hence disrupting the agricultural sector of the economy.

He recalled that in 2014, Lagos state government sent a letter to Bama Farms Ltd. about plans to relocate the farm to pave the way for Lekki International Airport.

Oyekoya stated that he and other farmers joined hands to engage

the late Rotimi Williams, SAN, and were eventually compensated and relocated to Eluju Mowo/Mutaku area, Ibeju, Epe in 2015 by Lagos State former Gov. Raji Fashola.

He, however, noted that they started having problems from the landowners popularly known as 'Omoonile' and the hooligans immediately they took over the farms.

"Thugs will come and disturb our farms destroying our crops and stealing our livestock and as time went by, they brought thugs and estate developers to destabilise us.

"The estate developers started building on our farmlands and we reported all this to the government through the governor, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Survey, Commerce and Justice with no

response or action from them.

"The Omoonile grew wings by harassing and threatening us with hired security operatives with frivolous charges and lawsuits on a land that was allocated to us by the Lagos state government. "The truth is, we have been through hell and hardship and LASG turned a deaf ear to our problems," he said.

Oyekoya said the cooperative efforts through the Ministry of Agriculture through the Agric Land Holding Authority which cost them almost one million Naira yielded no effect.

This development, according to him, was reported to the Governor of Lagos's office, the Attorney General's office, the Commissioner and the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of

Agriculture and nothing was done.

This, he said, gave the "omoonile" and estate developers more power to harass, threaten and disturb their farm businesses.

"Series of attacks was done on our farm activities unabated without the government intervention to help us on the land that was allocated to us.

"We do not want to believe there is some collaborations between the government agencies, ministries, the 'omoonile' and the estate developers against the farmers.

"Recently, precisely five weeks ago, December 2023 the military came with full force beating people up and sending people away from their properties as farmers were not exempted.

"Bama Farms with about 100 hectares of land is the hardest hit

as his farms was taken over by the military, the fences broken, crops and properties bulldozed and all its farm workers have disappeared out of fear and intimidation thereby affecting other farming activities.

Oyekoya appealed to the Lagos state government to provide a adequate compensation, immediate relocation with C of O and sort out payment on the lands.

Addressing the protesters, the Deputy Majority Leader of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Adedamola Kasumu who spoke on behalf of the Speaker assured that the matter was attended to urgently.

While reiterating the commitment of the Speaker to the welfare of the people of the state, Kasumu thanked the protesters for being peaceful.



# Lekki Homeless Boys Narrate Experiences



By Mohammed Adekola

A recent End of the Year party organised for 50 street boys in Lekki, Eti-Osa Local Government in the State, revealed that only two are Lagos Indigenes while the rest are from other parts of the country.

The party, which took place at Lekki Phase 1 with Lekki Residents Association (LERA) has the sponsors in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Admiralty and The Place Restaurant.

The programme with the theme, "Show love to the homeless," had Mr Bolaji Ogundele Commissioner for youth and culture, Lagos state in attendance.

The event drew emotions from a few adults who were in attendance as the boys narrated how they found themselves on the streets.

Some of them narrated how they took to begging as a way to survive, how they mingled with older homeless people and the various social vices they had been exposed to.

Fortunately for them, one of the residents, Col. Rotimi Vaughan and wife have adopted 13 of them and have been responsible for their upkeep including feeding, medical bills, clothings and other expenses.

Emotions ran high as some of the boys narrated how life has treated them.

One of them, Michael Akintola said though he aspires to be a musician but the circumstances surrounding him may thwart this.

Michael who hails from Bayelsa State said he lost his mother while he was in secondary school and this almost signalled the end of an era for him as the late mother was the bread winner in the family. He was left with the choice of staying with an uncle believing that things would get better. Alas! This turned out to be his undoing as the uncle's wife almost sniffed life out of him.

According to Michael, "I fled from home to escape the wrath of my uncle's wife and my destination was the streets where I mingled with other homeless children though I had a bitter experience but life must go on.

"I have heard so! much about the booming nature of Lagos State and decided to give it a trial by relocating to the State to continue with life.

"One day, I was tired about street life and decided to return to my uncle not minding the hurdles but as I put a call across him to inform him about my decision, all he did was rain curses on me and

warned me not to near his abode. Immediately, I lost control of myself.

"While in Bayelsa, I managed to complete secondary school before coming to Lagos. In the cause of networking, I was told that it is easier to make money in Lekki and I relocated to the area where the colonel adopted 13 of us and our lives are gradually coming to shape.

When asked by the organisers about his future ambition, Michael who was in his early twenties said he would like to be a musician and he tried to demonstrate his musical ability to the audience by rapping of a song.

The Youth Commissioner who could not hold back his emotion promised to link Michael with a musician to further his ambition.

Another touching story is that of Mustapha Abdulahi, a native of Kaduna State who said his parents abandoned him because of sickle cell anaemia.

"I am a Sickle Cell Anaemia patient and my parents abandoned me when they could no longer cope with the sickness and all I could do was to go to the streets in search for food,

" Gradually, I mingled with other street boys and we left Kaduna for Lagos State to continue with life.

Thank God for Col. Vaughan who provided 13 of us with shelter.

Corroborating Abdullahi's statement, the Colonel said he (street boy) was hospitalised recently and needed some pints of blood, so he sent somebody to trace the parents for blood donation unfortunately, the house was under lock and key.

Another emotional story was that of seven years old Emmanuel who now live in a gheto for lack of parental care.

Some of the boys were living in an orphanage in the Oregun area of Lagos where those operating the home usually send them to the streets in search of food and they could not cope with the situation, they all migrated to Lekki for succour.

The commissioner who was a special guest, urged various communities in Lagos to emulate Lekki residents who are putting resources together to reduce the number of street children in the state.

He promised to collaborate with stakeholders in the estate to achieve this.

Earlier, LERA Chairman, Mr Yomi Idowu, said the essence of the gathering was to put smiles on the faces of the homeless, noting that the estate was aware of the influx of

street children into the area, but plans were underway to minimise this.

He said that 13 of the street boys had been adopted by a resident, Col. Rotimi Vaughan, who had been working tirelessly to reintegrate them.

According to him, some of the boys found their ways to Lagos for one reason or the other and deemed the estate habitable, but residents were out to reduce the influx by reaching out to them.

Idowu said Col. Vaughan had provided shelter for the 13 and residents were putting heads together to identify the challenges of others as a way of providing solution to them.

He said: "Living on the streets is not the best option for you and you have to leave the streets if you want to be great in life," he said.

The resident chairman seized the occasion to interview the children and identified their area of needs and many of them signified interest in being enrolled in school while some said they would learn a vocation.

The resident chairman seized the occasion to interview the children and identified their area of needs and many of them signified interest in being enrolled in school while some said they would learn a vocation.

Rotimi Adeniyi Sowemimo, President, Rotary Club of Admiralty, urged the boys to cultivate the habit that would make them excel in life.

According to Col. Vaughan, the 13 adopted street boys were provided with shelter, clothings, medicines, food and every other things required for them, "With the support of my wife, we were able to take 13 of them out of the streets.

"Though this is capital intensive, but God is providing the enablement as we have decided to shoulder the responsibility and made up our minds not to bother people with it."

Ogundele handed over two of them who indicated interest to be salon operators, to a popular barbing salon operator in the estate.

Also, he invited three of his friends to adopt one each while thanking the Vaughans for their efforts so far.

He said, "On listening to the plights of the boys, I have invited Master Cut to adopt two of them who indicated interest in barbing to be trained in that capacity while my three other friends would adopt one each.

"My ministry will work with the residents, Col. Vaughan and other stakeholders to chat the way forward for reintegrating the children.

"To those who would like to return to their states, we won't hesitate to work out logistics to achieve that.

"I commend Lekki residents, Rotary Club of Admiralty and The Place Restaurant for putting this together.

"This is a good gesture and I wish the 57 local governments and council development areas in Lagos State can emulate this."

He said his ministry was looking at possible ways to take children out of the streets and Lekki would be used as a case study so that others would learn from this.

# Daini Inaugurates Classrooms, Toilets at Methodist Primary School

By Mohammed Adekola

A member of the Lagos State House of Assembly representing Ikorodu Constituency 2, Hon. AroMoshood Abiodun, commissioned a reconstructed block of five classrooms and eight units of toilets in Methodist Primary School, built by OlusesanDaini, the Chairman Igbogbo-Baiyeku LCDA.

The House of Assembly member, who is also Chairman of the House Committee on Public-Private Partnership, congratulated the forward-thinking community of Igbogbo-Baiyeku LCDA, under the exceptional leadership of OlusesanDaini, the Chairman.

Hon. AroMoshood emphasized that the projects reflect a strong commitment to enhancing the educational experience for the pupils and providing them with a safe and hygienic environment.

AroMoshood commended Daini for his exceptional performance and leadership. He believes that Daini's achievements serve as a shining example of what positive change can be accomplished in Nigeria.

AshipaKaoliOlusanya emphasized the importance of education in shaping a better tomorrow and society. Speaking directly to the mothers in attendance, he reminded them of their vital role in nurturing and guiding their children, even in challenging times.

AshipaOlusanya acknowledged that the values and behaviors children exhibit are often influenced by what they observe at home. Therefore, he urged mothers to take responsibility for creating a positive and nurturing environment within their households.

He commended the Chairman for

prioritizing education in his administration, he said the Edifice was more than just a physical structure, as it will serve as conducive learning environment for the pupils.

The Chairman of Bayeku expressed his commitment to delivering on the promises made during the electioneering process. He emphasized that the mandate given to them by the electorate was to represent the people and fulfill all the promises made to them.

The reconstructed building consists of five classrooms equipped with chairs, white marker boards, and all other necessary educational materials. Additionally, a total of eight toilets have been constructed to address a major challenge faced by the school.

Builder OlusesanDaini highlighted the collaborative approach taken by the LCDA in planning and executing this project.

Meetings were held with the teachers to identify the specific needs of the school. During the commissioning ceremony, the school management was commended for their support and commitment in maintaining the facilities in good condition. Their efforts in ensuring that the school is well-kept and the resources are utilized effectively were acknowledged and appreciated.

The Chairman expressed his delight at the progress made under his administration. This project is just one example of the LCDA's ongoing efforts to provide a conducive learning environment for the pupils in the school.

Daini expressed his gratitude to Rep Babajimi Benson for the one-story building in the school also the ICT center, acknowledging the opportunity given to him to make a difference. He assured everyone that he is



committed to fulfilling his promises to the community, emphasizing that appreciation is not necessary as it is part of the agreement made during elections. In terms of the projects, there are significant developments in the education and health sectors.

Daini mentioned the construction of a block of classrooms with toilets in Anglican Primary School ofin and Salvation Primary School Agunfoye. He also plans to address the needs of Methodist Primary School Agunfoye by improving their toilets and other facilities.

Additionally, after a 30-year request, there will be improvements in the primary schools in Bashorun. Excitingly, within the next 2-3 weeks, a new primary school will be commissioned in Oluodolgbogbo. This project has been long-awaited since the first letter of request was made in 1993.

Furthermore, after 41 years of request, a school will be established in Iluodo,

demonstrating Daini's commitment to fulfilling the needs of the community.

In the health sector, there will be two new health centers, bringing the total to nine. Daini inherited six health centers and has added three more, expanding healthcare services for the community.

Dr. SaheedIbikunle, a Permanent Board Member of Lagos State SUBEB, has raised a global concern regarding the alarming number of out-of-school children. In 2021 alone, there were over 13 million students out of school, and that number is projected to increase to nearly 30 million in 2022. This is a matter of great concern. To address this issue, Dr. Ibikunle emphasized the importance of mobilizing efforts to enroll and retain these children in schools. This would require the provision of necessary infrastructure, such as classrooms with toilets, to accommodate the influx of students.

He commended the Chairman for his contribution in providing the essential

structures for these children to learn. Dr. Ibikunle urged everyone to take action by enrolling all out-of-school children in nearby schools, emphasizing that education is absolutely free. By working together to ensure access to education, we can make a significant impact in reducing the number of out-of-school children and improving enrollment and completion rates.

Former Lagos State Head of Service, AremoAdesegunOgunlwe expressed his joy at having a conversation with the chairman, who attentively listened to their concerns and this is the result today. AremoOgunlwe emphasized the never-ending responsibility of public service and assured that they will take action before leaving office, with the grace of God.

The Iyalode of Igbogbo Kingdom, Chief Mrs. Karimat Ojikutu, expressed her appreciation for the outstanding work done

by the Council Chairman in various areas within the Igbogbo-Baiyeku LCDA. Chief Mrs. Ojikutu lauded the Chairman's efforts and achievements, recognizing the positive impact they have had on the community.

Princess BasiratAdetutuBanjoko, the Deputy Leader of Igbogbo-Baiyeku LCDA, and the Councillor representing the ward, shared an inspiring story. She recalled how the Chairman made a commitment to renovate a block of five classrooms and construct a much-needed toilet facility. True to his word, the Chairman fulfilled his promise, and now they were gathered for the commissioning ceremony.

Mrs Ogunfeyimi Mary Olawunmi, School Manager Methodist Primary School appreciate Daini for fulfilling his promise within 60 days, she prayed that May Almighty God elevate him beyond expectations.

# Education District VI Presents Excellent Performance Awards To Staff

By Edith Igbokwe



**E**xcellent Performance of teaching and non teaching staff and students of Lagos State Education District VI, comprising of Ikeja Mushin and Oshodi-isolo have been awarded for contributing towards the success recorded in the last one year, 2023. The event marked the 17th Annual merit award/Honours tagged celebration of Excellence held in Ikeja Grammar school, Oshodi. The ambiance glowed in different shades of purples that beautified the occasion. The criteria for selecting the awardees include, online examination (CBT), physical oral interview, leadership skills, job commitment, communication competence, appearance and comportment of staff

and students within the 106 schools in district VI. The district deemed it fit to issue participants who were part of the physical interview but didn't make an award with consolation certificates. Benefactors to the district such as politicians, churches, old school associations, clubs and others were well recognised and awarded. The Tutor General/ Permanent Secretary (TG/PS) Education District VI, Dr. Mrs. Shareefah Yusuf explained that naturally when hard work is celebrated, it spurs celebrant to do more. She appealed to awardees to continue doing what they know have to do best and to the non awardees, they should put in more efforts to join the

awardee's group come 2024 academic session. She also appreciated the Local Government chairmen who have been supportive to the district schools with educational materials, and other essential needs of the school. She expressed her satisfaction with the selection of the awardees saying that it was done without sentiments. The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Establishment and Training, Lagos State, Mrs. Olubusola bidapo explained that there is a place for recognition and reward under Lagos State. She stressed that the hard work of teaching and non teaching staff put together have boost results in education sector. She applauded the education district for their relentless efforts

on rewarding staff performance over the years. She advised the awardees to put in more to keep Lagos State as the center of Excellence. One of the district VI benefactor, Ojudu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) chairman, Hon. David Odunmbaku receive an award for contributing immensely towards the education of the district schools. According to the vice chairman, Ojudu (LCDA), Hon. Bunmi Oluyadi who represented the chairman, the administration will continue to provide the basic needs of students such as improving infrastructure regards buildings, safe and conducive environment for learning. Some of the awardees also added length of

words in gratitude to the Governor, TG/PS and the organisers of the event. The best principal senior secondary school, Mr. Owolabi Yusuf from Aturase Senior high school, Mushin explained that he joined hands with other biologist of his kind to boost biology result of the district. He explained that the district used to experience poor results in biology but the 2023 WASEC result sky rocked to 97.5 percent. The best Principal in junior secondary school, Mr. AloOlukayode, the Jagaban of mathematics from Agidingbin junior Grammar school, Ikeja appreciated the recognition of his efforts into the district. He noted that the award represent a high

honour for him to mark his bowing out of teaching service come July 2024 after 35 years of active service. "The award marked a good parting shot for me. As a vice principal in 2013, I won the best vice principal award and in 2023, I won the best principal award and the result of students in mathematics have improved from 38.2 percent to 92 percent." The best teacher senior school category goes to Yekini Adebawale from opebi senior Grammar school, Ikeja. He disclosed that the award marked his first award winning in the district. Having introduced Technology to ensure smooth teaching service to students, he shared learning materials with students through WhatsApp group and then discuss in class with projects that will help better the students. He shared that he will take the award as a charge to do more using the advantages that fetched him the opportunity to get better in teaching profession. The best teacher in junior secondary school, Mrs. Tinuolaade Oloyede from Oshodi Junior High school expressed that the award will make her to be afraid of failing her learners and principal in the field of English studies. The best WASEC student in 2023 examination, Mulerollerioluwa from Ilupeju senior Grammar school, Mushin expressed that the award signified the reward of his sleepless nights during his consistent studies for the WASEC examination. The event featured cultural renditions that made the day lively.

# Inner Wheel Club of Isolo Celebrates 100th Anniversary

*Kehinde Adeleye*

The Inner Wheel Club of Isolo commemorated its 100th anniversary by giving away free JAMB forms to indigent students, presenting palliative packs to the elderly and in need, donating mother care packs for mothers and children, and clothing to charitable organizations. The occasion was attended by Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye, the Chairman of Mushin Local Government, and his wife, Mrs. Jumoke Bamigboye. He congratulated the Club members for their continuous commitment to mankind. He counselled other

governmental organizations to follow Inner Wheel Club's example of providing humanitarian services to the community. The special adviser to the governor of Lagos State on central internal audit, Dr. (Mrs.) Iyabo Oyeyemi, who gave the guest lecture, encouraged everyone in attendance to constantly shine their light by reaching out and helping others. Citing instances of Inner Wheel members' kindness and dedication to helping people. She gave the program's

beneficiaries the assignment to make plans to improve other people's lives in any small way they can. At the ceremony, Mr. Yinka Esho Kazeem, the member of the Lagos State House of Assembly representing Mushin Constituency II, prayed for God to bless the Inner Wheel Club members for their support and contribution to humanity. In celebration of the 200 Anniversary of the Club, students were given Free JAMB Forms. Nursing Mothers went home with packs, Aged people got palliative packs and all those who attended the event were given clothes and other household items for their families. The programme which was coordinated by Mrs.



President of the Club and Wife of the Apex Leader in Mushin & Odi Olowo - Sen. Ganiyu Olanrewaju Solomon, took place at the popular GOS Gardens along Olateju Street in Mushin.

President of Inner Wheel Club of Isolo IWM. Kike Babalola and the District Chairman - IWM. Omolara Mohammed, presented the items to beneficiaries and thanked all those who have supported the

club in achieving its goals. Also in attendance were President of Rotary of Isolo - Rotarian Hussein, chairman of Ideal Club - Alhaji Taiwo Odunsi, community leaders and some members of the political class in Mushin Local Government.

# NUT State Chairman, Akintoye, Seeks Teachers Longevity In Service

*By Edith Igbokwe*

The Lagos State Chairman, Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), Comrade Hassan Akintoye has implored the Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu to implement the law that elongates the retirement age of teachers. He made the statement during the award ceremony of Lagos State Education District VI in an interview section with Echonews. He noted that the bill was signed by the former president of the country, Muhamed Buhari that teachers years of service should be increased from 35 years to 40 years and retirement age from 60 years to 65 years. He categorically stated

that the older the teachers grow in the system, the better they become. The union can't afford to loose old teachers who are passionate about the teaching job so early while some young teachers do flee at the chance of better opportunity offered. "We don't want to loose our teachers when they are still physically fit because they are cut up by retirement age. " Since there is no retirement age for an average politician as they leave one office to another, that should be given a chance in teaching service." He cited an instance using Canada as a case study to buttress that there is no such thing as retirement age in Canadian country. " When our Union met with the labour leaders of Canadian, they

disclosed that the country did not have retirement age for workers. " We the NUT want to implore the Governor to follow suit as some of his colleagues in the states have done so to ensure that the best and active old teachers are retained." He stated that the union ensures that members perform up to the task of teaching through motivation that deals with so many areas that affects the life of a teacher. He noted that the basic ones has to do with salary followed by promotion as at when due, welfare packages, allowances, training and re-training and so on. He appreciated colleagues, principals, teachers administrators and students who have made impact in such a way that the system has identified them for appreciation in education



district VI. He stated that award is not to spite those lagging behind but to charge them for higher productivity and greater efficiency in

service delivery of teaching/learning. He commended the Tutor General Permanent Secretary

( TG/PS) Education District VI, Dr. Mrs. Shareefah Yusuf for performing credibly well since she assumed office.

# Rite Foods, Eniola Badmus Partner To Support Less Privileged People

Kehinde Adeleve



With a dedication to the community, Rite Foods ushered in 2024 by collaborating with well-known actress Eniola Badmus on the "Feed the Needy" project in Lagos. At the beginning of the year, this significant program provided much-needed goods and happy moments to underprivileged people in Lagos. The programme provided much-needed necessities, from consoling elderly people at the Lagos State Old People's Home to uplifting families at the Heritage

Homes Orphanage. Both bodies and spirits were nourished by Rite Foods' award-winning beverages, which included Bigi's revitalizing flavors and Fearless energy drink. Products valued at millions of naira made sure that those in need would have food and a little sweetness. "It's about giving back, providing a helping hand to those who might struggle," said Eniola Badmus, expressing the project's core value. "Seeing smiles on their faces makes it all worthwhile. I am very grateful to Rite Foods

Limited. It has been with me since I started, and the company has been very helpful in making the initiative a success." Adedotun Ajibade, the Media and Insight Manager at Rite Foods, highlighted the organization's commitment to social responsibility: "We're proud to support programs like 'Feed the Needy,' bringing joy to the marginalized people who are in great need of support and rejuvenation through our offerings." The trip began in the Lagos State Old People's Home, where the occupants relished

Bigi beverages and Badmus' companionship. Tales of tenacity and laughter were heard throughout Bethesda Home for the Blind as people enjoyed Rite Foods' delectable delicacies. Shouts of pleasure flooded the air at Heritage Homes Orphanage as kids celebrated with Bigi games and drinks. The grand finale in Shogunle was a vibrant community celebration with much musical entertainment and stage performance by upcoming dancers, a dance competition by children, followed by mothers, with fabulous

items as prizes, the show was made more delightful for children with the gaming session of the Bigi Ring Toss, X and O, and the Blind Taste where they were made to identify the various Bigi flavors with their eyes closed, the show culminated with scholarships for two children after a test on current affairs. Esther Adeyinka, a Junior Secondary School (JSS) two student of the Ikeja Junior High School, and Segun Adeniji, a Primary Five student of Local Government Primary School, both in Shogunle, emerged winners and were

awarded scholarships to the Senior Secondary School (SS) Three levels, with Segun to continue at Ikeja Secondary School, which he indicated much interest. The scholarships cover their academic activities as well as feeding. The "Feed the Needy" initiative is about building hope. The combined support of Rite Foods and Eniola Badmus provided tangible resources and ignited aspirations for a brighter future. Its impact will continue to nourish the hearts and dreams of countless Lagosians in need.

# Bamigboye Presents Five Vehicles to Stakeholders in Mushin

Kehinde Adeleve



**S**takeholders in Mushin Local Government celebrated the start of the new year by receiving five Sienna Space Wagon vehicles from the local government's chairman, Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye, to leaders of the numerous socio-community groups.

The beneficiaries included; Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), League of Imams, Community Development Committee (CDC), Mushin Market Union and Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE). The chairman received appreciation by the

leaders of the various groups who got the keys to the cars for his generosity and love for the Mushin people. Politicians, religious authorities, community leaders, residents of the whole Mushin community, and press representatives were all drawn to the automobiles that were

displayed at the council headquarters. Echonews reports that cars were given to them according to Bamigboye, to support and ease their travels whenever they wish to represent Mushin Local Government at different state programs. He expressed his gratitude to the

participants for their timely reaction to the council's efforts and for their support of the local government and community security organizations. In attendance with the chairman at the presentation of keys to beneficiaries, were; member representing Mushin Constituency II

in the Federal House of Representatives - Mr. Toyin Fayinka, Vice Chairman - Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe, Leader of the Legislative Arm - Mr. Olamide Williams, Councillors, Supervisors, Special Advisers/ Assistants, management staff and members of staff.

# Mummy Zee and Husband Visit NNPC

By Nurudeen



NNPC stepped into the spotlight by pledging a generous N200K fuel voucher.

The climax of their journey unfolded as Mummy Zee, accompanied by her husband and an NNPC representative, posed for a memorable photo, clutching a life-size version of the voucher during their visit to the corporation. Taking to her social media platform, she

joyfully shared the news, designating it as their "first stop" and expressing heartfelt gratitude to NNPC for this significant contribution to their evolving story. The photo stands as a testament to the vibrant chapter added by NNPC's gesture, enhancing the ongoing narrative of Mummy Zee's extraordinary journey.

**M**ummy Zee and her husband found themselves bubbling with excitement during a visit to NNPC to claim their eagerly awaited N200K fuel voucher. This buzz follows Mummy Zee's revelation about her early morning ritual of preparing breakfast for

her husband, triggering a wave of generosity from the public. Amidst the diverse gifts pouring in, ranging from laptops to substantial amounts of money,

## Tiwa Savage Announces Premiere of Feature Film "Water And Garri"



By Nurudeen Adebayo

**S**inger, Tiwa Savage has shared the exciting news that she will feature in the film, titled "#WaterAndGarri,, which is set to premiere this year on the global streaming platform @PrimeVideo.

The film is poised to captivate audiences in over 240 countries and territories worldwide. The journey towards the film's release has spanned over two years, marked by dedication and passion.

Tiwa Savage expressed that this cinematic venture is among the most adventurous and

fulfilling experiences of her career thus far. Notably, not only does #WaterAndGarri marks Tiwa Savage's debut as a lead actor, but she has also taken on the role of executive producer, showcasing a multifaceted involvement in the project.

"I feel blessed and honored to embark on this next phase of my life and art," Tiwa expressed in anticipation of the film's release. The announcement resonates with a sense of accomplishment and eagerness to share the cinematic creation with a global audience.

The film is expected to not only showcase

Tiwa's acting prowess but also provide a unique perspective as an executive producer, promising an engaging narrative that reflects the creative depth and dedication invested in the project.

As the excitement builds, fans and followers eagerly await the release of #WaterAndGarri, ready to join Tiwa on this exhilarating new chapter in their artistic journey. With the promise of an international audience through Prime Video, the debut feature film is set to make a significant impact on the global cinematic stage.

She assures everyone that this is just the beginning of what promises to be an impressive trajectory in the world of film and art.

## James Brown Clears Uk Rumours, Shows School IDCard

By Nurudeen Adebayo



**I**n a recent revelation, James confessed that James Brown upon arriving in London, he was a stranger in a foreign land, oblivious to the shedding light on the real reason behind his departure – the exorbitant cost of education. Dismissing speculations, he showcased his school ID card, emphasizing that the steep expenses led to his unfortunate decision to leave the institution.

James disclosed he was enrolled in Business Management, Brand Management, Marketing, and Advertising at the University of Bedfordshire in London. Despite the setback, he expressed a strong desire to continue his education in the country and appealed for donations to fund his second year of the course.

worthwhile back home. Revealing the specifics of his academic pursuits, James disclosed he was enrolled in Business Management, Brand Management, Marketing, and Advertising at the University of Bedfordshire in London. Despite the setback, he expressed a strong desire to continue his education in the country and appealed for donations to fund his second year of the course.

# Former Commissioner Stresses Mother's Role in Child Development



By Nurudeen Adebayo

At the commissioning of a new 5-classroom block at Methodist Primary School, Chief Asipa Kaoli Olusanya, former Lagos State Commissioner for Agriculture and Ikorodu Apex Leader, underscored the crucial impact mothers have on shaping the future of their children. The event, executed by the Chairman of Igbogbo Baiyeku LCDA, Bldr Sesan Daini, served as a platform for Asipa Kaoli to emphasize the significance of mothers investing time in

connecting, mentoring, and training their offspring.

"We should not allow the pursuit of financial gains to compromise the upbringing of our children," asserted Asipa Kaoli, cautioning against prioritizing material pursuits over essential parental responsibilities, he said".

Drawing a connection between prevalent social vices and early childhood experiences, Asipa Kaoli stressed the need for a collective effort in nurturing well-rounded individuals.

He urged society to address the root causes rather than merely

treating the symptoms.

Acknowledging the challenges fathers may encounter, Asipa Kaoli highlighted the transformative impact mothers can have on their children's lives.

He shared a personal anecdote, stating, "My mother, though illiterate, profoundly influenced me through education, advice, and prayers," underscoring the powerful role of maternal guidance in shaping character.

Capping off his message, Asipa Kaoli emphasized the enduring significance of familial bonds, stating that they are key to fostering a healthier and more responsible society.

# Elusakin Becomes Principal of Oriwu Senior Model College

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Mrs. Agnes Elusakin has taken the reins as the new Principal of Oriwu Senior Model College, Ikorodu, succeeding the esteemed leader Mr. Akeem Oladimeji Bello. The former Principal of Community High School, Bayeku, in Igbogbo/Bayeku Local Council Development Area (LCDA), and a nationally acclaimed tutor, Mrs. Elusakin brings a wealth of experience and accolades to her new role.

Mr. Bello, who marked his 60th birthday on January 7, officially bid

farewell to the premier school in Ikorodu Division today, concluding his dedicated service to the Lagos State Government.

Mrs. Elusakin, renowned for her exceptional contributions to education, assumed her duties at Oriwu Senior Model College ahead of Mr. Bello's retirement. Notably, she was recognized as the Overall Best Teacher in Nigeria in 2019 and received the prestigious Presidential Award during her tenure as a teacher at Oriwu Senior Model College. As the new custodian

of academic excellence at Oriwu Senior Model College, Mrs. Elusakin faces the formidable challenge of upholding and sustaining the school's rich tradition, culture of honors, and outstanding academic achievements, already distinguished as one of the best secondary institutions in Nigeria, has a legacy crafted by Alhaja Abiodun Sheryl Ogunniyi and upheld by the outgoing Principal, Mr. Akeem Bello. Mrs. Elusakin's appointment comes with a backdrop of significant recognition and honors.

The House of Representatives in Abuja hosted and honored her,

facilitated by Rep Babajimi Benson, who represents the Ikorodu Federal Constituency. Governor Babajide Olusanya also joined in recognizing her achievements.

In acknowledgment of her outstanding contributions to education, Mrs. Elusakin was presented with a brand new car by the Federal Government and a certificate of merit.

The Lagos State Government further honored her with a three-bedroom apartment, two years

after the federal recognition.

Adding to her list of accomplishments, Mrs. Elusakin, as the Principal of Community Junior Secondary School, Bayeku, in Igbogbo/Bayeku LCDA, earned the 'National Productivity Order of Merit Award.' This prestigious accolade was bestowed upon her alongside distinguished Nigerians, including Mike Adenuga, Chairman of Globacom; Dr. Akin Abayomi, Lagos State Commissioner for Health; the late Dr. Ameyo Stella

Adadevoh, who courageously fought against the Ebola virus; and Mr. Boss Mustapha, the Secretary to the Federal Government.

President Muhammadu Buhari personally conferred this honor at the 2022 National Productivity Award ceremony held in Abuja last Thursday.

With a trail of achievements preceding her, Mrs. Agnes Elusakin embarks on her new role as Principal of Oriwu Senior Model College, poised to lead the institution to greater heights, continuing the legacy of excellence set by her predecessors.



# Millenium Estate Kosofe Gets New Transformer

Kehinde Adeleye



**M**illennium Estate CDA and Bakare-Bello Market are two communities in Kosofe Local government that have been without power supply in the last twelve years.

The Kosofe Local Government Council Chairman, Mr. Moyosore Ogunlewe,

made history at the secretariat during the week by presenting each of the two communities with a potent 500KVA electricity transformer. The people of Bakare-Bello Market have gone without electricity for a lengthy twelve years, this gesture is extremely meaningful

to them.

A new age of economic revival and enhanced quality of life is ushered in by the unveiling event, which will increase power stability for comfort and security, the Millennium Estate CDA is also expected to gain from this.

The innovative approach was greatly

appreciated by Millennium Estate's dedicated CDA chairman, Engr Soji Adeniji, who spoke at the ceremony. He talked excitedly about how it would benefit the general welfare and development of the community.

Elder Samson Adeaga JP, the General

Secretary of Kosofe Local Government Market Associations, who enthusiastically announced the end of the protracted battle with power scarcity on behalf of the busy Bakare-Bello Market, joined in the enthusiasm.

He spoke highly about how the introduction of

reliable energy access may lead to improved safety and a reinvigorated economy.

The transformers were handed over to Engr Soji Adeniji of Millennium Estate CDA and Mrs Folakemi Obanibasiri the Iyaloja General of Kosofe Local Government respectively.



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# Opheel FC Wins Mama Juli Bakery Football Maiden Edition

Kehinde Adeleve



Opheel F.C. and Shuffle Select F.C. played in the final match of the maiden Mama Juli's Food and Lounge/Bakery Football Competition for teens in Orile-Agege LCDA, a food vendor headquartered in Lagos. Opheel F.C. defeated Shuffle Select F.C. 5-3 in a penalty shootout. This is the first time that the #MamaJuliBakery Football Competition was held, according to the organizers. Teenagers from Orile-Agege, Agege, and beyond Agege will

eventually be involved in it. The ultimate objective of the football event, which catered to teenagers, was to use football as a means to advance education, youth development, and other extracurricular activities. Speaking at the unveiling, Mr. Michael Dada, Convener and Coordinator of the #MamaJuli Bakery Under-16 Football Tournament, stated that the sheer number of teams participating indicates that more young people in Lagos

State are becoming excited about the tournament. "More teams will be participating in the next edition; this simply means we are extending the excitement and joy of the competition to more youths. This competition's objective is talent discovery and development for our youths who should be engaged positively. "It truly takes a village to make the community a better place and we are investing in impacting youths through football at Mama Juli Lounge, Bar

and Bakery. It's a grassroots football competition supported and Sole Sponsored by Mama Juli Bakery. This prominent football league is more than just a tournament; it's a movement that elevates young people to new heights of achievement, supports local talent, and encourages community involvement. The overall winner took home a cash award of N50,000, while the other winners received cash prizes and various gifts. This is a laudable initiative according to one of the players, he

said, "Football Competition like this will avail us the privilege to showcase our talents to foreign Scouts present on the day of the final and also encourage youths to shun cultism and drug abuse." While speaking with newsmen, one of the Key Organizers, Mr Anuoluwapo Dada, said, "At Mama Juli Bakery, we don't just do the business of edibles and drinkables, we also believe in youth and talent development. This is one legacy our late mother left behind,

she was a mother loved by her children and children within her immediate communities, this is why the competition is named after her, because she's fondly called #MamaJuli when she was alive. She was a popular food vendor who believes in the growth and progress of children." "We will not relent on our oars as we promise to introduce more initiatives and life transforming programmes for our youths in Orile-Agege, Agege and beyond, he concluded.



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