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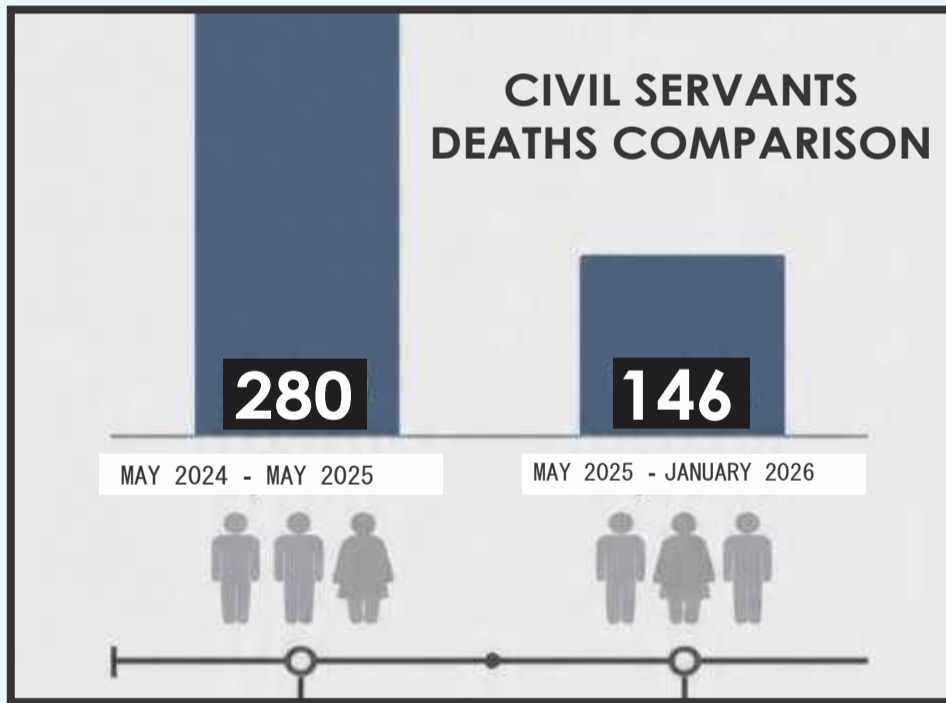
# Echoneews

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A publication of Echoneews Newspapers Limited

Monday 15th June - Sunday 21st June 2026

## DECEASED STAFF: LAGOS PAYS N4.5BN INSURANCE BENEFITS IN SEVEN YEARS



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# Deceased Staff: Lagos Pays N4.5bn Insurance Benefits In Seven Years

By Kunle Awosiyun

The Lagos State Government has paid a cumulative sum of 4.5 billion in insurance benefits to families of deceased workers in the Local Government Service and the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) since the inception of the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

This was contained in a record obtained by Echonews, which shows that no fewer than 146 civil servants died between May 2025 and January 2026.

The record also showed that 280 civil servants died between May 2024 and May 2025 while on active service.

Last week the Chairman of the Lagos State Joint Negotiating Council (JNC), Domingo Michael Adeleke reportedly died on duty in Geneva.

He was a member of the Nigeria delegation attending the 114th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva.

Adeleke fell ill while at the conference and required medical attention, but unfortunately, he did not survive.

The incident was confirmed by an official of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), who described him as a committed trade unionist devoted to workers' welfare.

Adeleke led the Lagos State Joint Negotiating Council, where he was actively involved in labour advocacy and workers' welfare initiatives.

Reacting to this, a Special Adviser to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Rural Development, Dr. Nurudeen Yekini Lanre Agbaje, said



Family members of a deceased staff receiving insurance benefits

that the families of all staff members that died during active service would receive their insurance benefits.

The Lagos State government supported the families of these departed workers by disbursing insurance and death benefits through the Ministry of Finance, he said.

According to the record, the financial assistance provided for the deceased workers' families is broken down as follows: May 2025 to Jan 2026: N701,054,344.57 distributed to 232 beneficiaries (representing 146 deceased staff). May 2024 to May 2025: N978,620,589.30 distributed to 510 beneficiaries.

It says that the Group Life Insurance Scheme is a welfare programme funded by the Lagos State Government for public servants.

"When a worker dies while still in active service, the designated beneficiaries or next-of-kin are entitled to a lump-sum insurance payout, according to

the record.

The scheme is administered through insurance underwriters engaged by the state government. Recent presentations of cheques have been carried out in partnership with LASACO Assurance and other underwriters.

Key features include: coverage to employees who die while in active service; benefits are paid to named beneficiaries or dependants and payments are made as lump-sum death benefits.

The scheme is

separate from the deceased worker's pension savings and gratuity entitlements. Lagos periodically presents insurance cheques publicly to beneficiaries as part of its workers' welfare programme.

Apart from the insurance payment, the family of a deceased public servant may also be entitled to pension-related benefits under the contributory pension scheme.

According to Agbaje, the ministry presented 338 insurance claims to beneficiaries of deceased staff of

Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) and SUBEB during the period under review.

Dr. Agbaje said the payment of the claims underscores the state's commitment to the welfare of public servants and their families, particularly in times of bereavement.

He noted that the insurance scheme has continued to provide financial relief to dependants of deceased workers, helping them cope with the economic challenges associated with the loss of a breadwinner.

The Special Adviser explained that the processing and presentation of insurance claims form part of the government's broader efforts to strengthen social protection and improve staff welfare across public institutions.

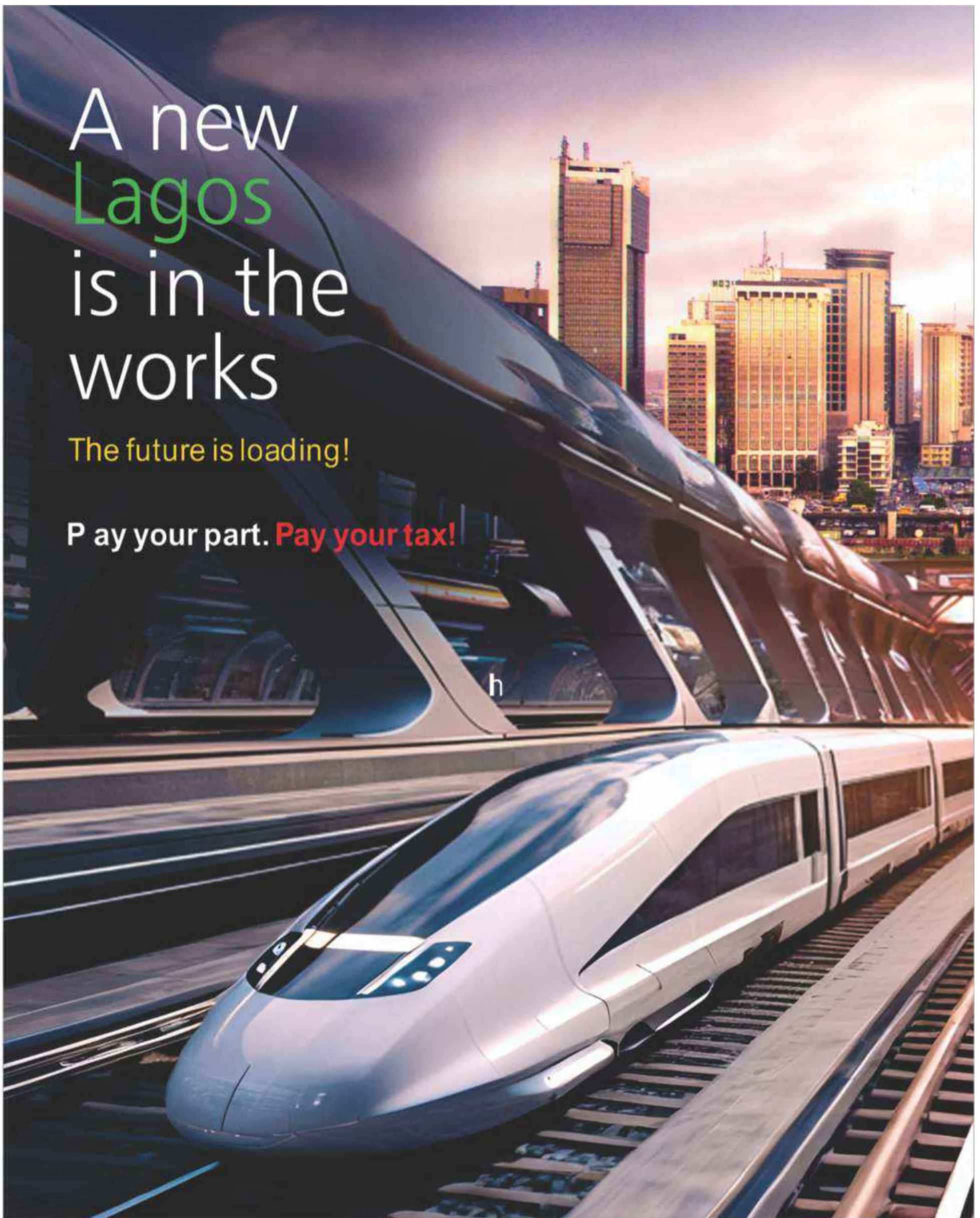
He reaffirmed the commitment of the Lagos State Government to fulfilling its obligations to workers and ensuring that beneficiaries of deceased employees receive their entitlements in accordance with established guidelines.



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# Deceased Staff: Lagos Pays N4.5bn Insurance Benefits In Seven Years

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The special adviser also highlighted a series of interventions aimed at boosting grassroots development, agriculture, community participation and rural infrastructure across the state over the last one year.

He said that the government has trained 1,856 residents and registered 279 CDAs in one year. According to him, the Community Development Department constructed three community halls in Ikorodu, Badagry and Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Areas, while a community hall in Eredo Local Council Development Area was rehabilitated.

He disclosed that the ministry sustained monthly engagements with Community Development Associations (CDAs) through the Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC) and inspected 71 self-help projects executed by CDAs across the five divisions of the state.

As part of efforts to encourage grassroots initiatives, four communities received vehicles in recognition of outstanding self-help projects during the 2025 Community Day celebration, while 10 CDAs received cash rewards for their contributions to community development. Dr. Agbaje added that within the review period, the ministry registered 279 CDAs, processed 642 renewals and successfully resolved 11 community-related disputes.

On agricultural development, the Special Adviser said the ministry maintained four Integrated Agricultural Demonstration Centres (IADCs) across the state and distributed farming inputs including tools, agrochemicals, veterinary drugs, organic fertilisers and equipment to farmers.

He noted that the ministry also convened an interactive meeting with

Heads of Agriculture and Social Services across the 57 Local Governments and LCDAs to strengthen collaboration and improve food production. Other agricultural interventions include the installation of a solar-powered pumping machine at the Isheri IADC, cultivation and sale of vegetables through the ministry's agricultural sales stand, distribution of improved plantain and banana hybrid suckers, expansion of fruit orchards and goat-rearing schemes, catfish production for commercial sales, and renovation of poultry facilities at the Isheri centre.

The Centre for Rural Development (CERUD), according to the ministry, trained and empowered 1,856 beneficiaries in various vocational and agricultural enterprises.

The beneficiaries included 800 participants trained in fish production and value addition, 56 in honey-bee production, 400 in the manufacture of household cleaning products, 200 youths in bread and pastries production, 100 farmers in modern livestock management and 300 youths in branding, website development and digital marketing.

To improve rural infrastructure, the ministry procured and installed transformers in 10 rural communities and deployed standalone solar-powered streetlights in 23 communities.

The ministry also constructed a greenhouse facility at the CERUD Project Complex in Igbodu, Epe, established a cassava processing cottage plant in Imota LCDA and rehabilitated the Kola Pod Husk-based Cottage Mill in Igbokuta, Imota LCDA.

Highlighting other achievements, Dr. Agbaje said the ministry maintained regular statutory meetings with chairmen of the 57 LGs and LCDAs, resolved 48 petitions and complaints relating to council



Dr. Nurudeen Agbaje (special Adviser On Rural Development)

administration and continued monitoring peace and security reports across local councils.

He added that approvals were facilitated for

capital projects above 35 million, while onboarding and capacity-building programmes were organised for elected local government

officials.

The ministry also issued 36 circulars to promote policy compliance and accountability across councils.



Domingo Michael Adeleke. A civil servant. He died in Geneva

# LAWMA Condemns Attack on Enforcement Officers

The Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) has condemned the attack on its enforcement officers during a routine environmental monitoring and compliance operation conducted on Sunday along the Lagos-Badagry Expressway. Commenting on the incident, the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of LAWMA, Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin warned against any form of obstruction of enforcement and other lawful activities of the Authority, describing the recent attack on LAWMA operatives by suspected illegal waste operators at Mazamaza Bus Stop as unlawful.

According to him, the Authority remains committed to enforcing environmental laws and protecting public infrastructure from activities that undermine sanitation standards across the state. The incident occurred at Mazamaza Bus Stop, shortly after Festac First Gate, where LAWMA operatives encountered individuals who engaged in illegal waste disposal activities. While carrying out their lawful duties, members of the enforcement team came under attack from suspected illegal waste operators and cart pushers who

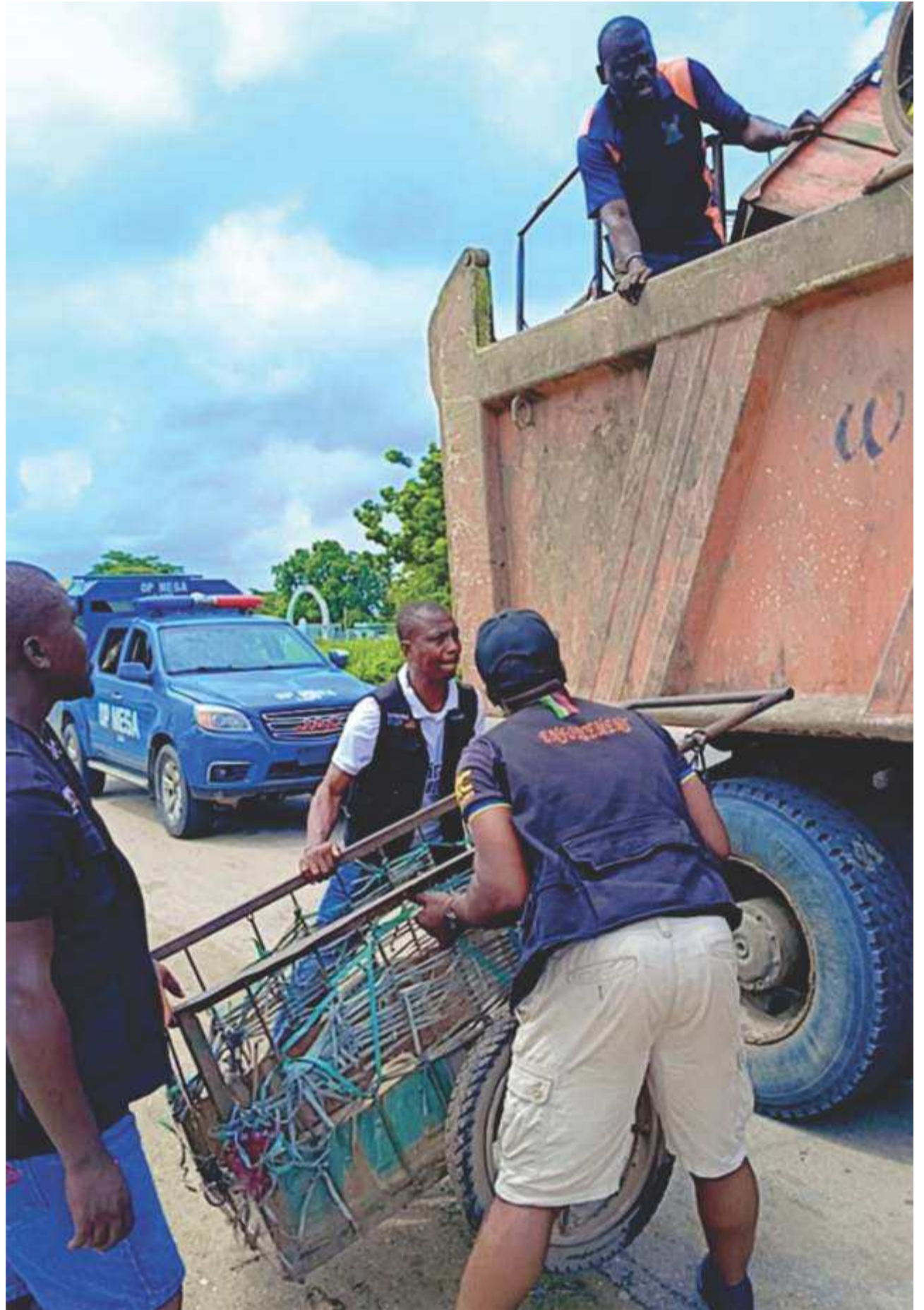
attempted to obstruct the exercise.

Dr. Gbadegesin described the attack as unacceptable and a direct affront to government efforts aimed at safeguarding public health and maintaining environmental sanitation.

He said: "Our enforcement officers were carrying out their statutory responsibilities when they were attacked by individuals seeking to frustrate the government's efforts to maintain a clean and healthy environment. Such actions are unacceptable and will not deter us from discharging our mandate."

The LAWMA boss noted that assaults on enforcement personnel constitute a serious offence and warned that anyone found to have participated in the attack or obstructed lawful government operations would face the full weight of the law. He added that appropriate steps were being taken to identify and apprehend all persons connected with the incident.

Despite the attack, the enforcement team continued its monitoring operation along the corridor, covering Iyana Iba, Okokomaiko, and Agbara, as part of ongoing efforts to curb indiscriminate waste disposal and promote



environmental compliance.

Dr. Gbadegesin reiterated that the activities of illegal cart pushers and operators of unauthorised dumpsites remain a major threat to effective waste management, environmental sanitation, and public health.

He urged residents

and businesses to patronise only approved waste service providers and dispose of waste through authorised channels in line with extant environmental regulations.

The LAWMA boss emphasised that maintaining a clean and sustainable environment requires collective

responsibility, calling on residents to support government efforts by complying with environmental laws and reporting illegal waste disposal activities within their communities.

LAWMA reaffirmed its commitment to sustaining enforcement operations across the State and

warned that individuals involved in illegal dumping, unauthorised waste collection, and related environmental offences would continue to face appropriate sanctions in line with the State's zero-tolerance stance on environmental violations.

# Lagos Hosts Political Intelligence Summit To Strengthen Youth, Police Relations

In furtherance to the State Government's drive on Youth and Police Engagement aimed at strengthening trust, promoting dialogue, and fostering collaborative partnerships between the youth and law enforcement agencies across the State, the Office of Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement (OPL&CE), in collaboration with the Bureau of the Public Defender (BPD), has convened a one-day Political Intelligence Summit on Youth-Police Engagement to improve Police-Citizen relationship.

Speaking at the Summit, held at the POWA Multipurpose Hall, Special Protection Unit, GRA, Ikeja, Lagos, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement, Dr. Afolabi Abiodun Tajudeen, represented by the Director, Citizens Engagement Department, Dr. Omotayo Babatunde, in his keynote address, said that sustainable security and social development can only be achieved through active citizen participation, mutual trust, and effective collaboration between communities and security institutions.

According to him, the initiative, themed "Bridging the Gap: Youth-Police Engagement for Community Safety and Social Reform," aligns with the THEMES+ Development Agenda of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's Administration, particularly in the areas of Security and Governance, Social Inclusion, Youth Development, and Citizen Engagement.

In his remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Bureau of the Public Defender (BPD), Dr. Babajide Martins described the summit as a strategic Partnership for community safety and social Reform. He added that BPD has the mandate and the distinguished role in protecting citizens' rights, facilitating Access to Justice, promoting legal awareness, and mediating social and legal disputes among vulnerable populations.

Dr. Martins maintained that peaceful protest is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Nigerian Constitution and international human rights instruments. He noted that citizens have the right to freely express their views and assemble peacefully, while emphasising that the Nigeria Police Force has a duty to protect protesters, maintain public order, and safeguard lives and property within the confines of the law and with respect for citizens' rights.

Also, the Permanent Secretary of the Office of Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement, Engr. Sholabomi Shasore, earlier in her welcome address, noted that meaningful engagement remains one of the most effective tools for building trust between government institutions and citizens.

She stated that platforms such as the Youth-Police Engagement Programme provide opportunities for young people to express their concerns, contribute ideas, and actively participate in shaping policies and initiatives that affect their communities, adding that sustainable peace and security can only be achieved when all stakeholders are given a voice and are encouraged to become partners in Governance.

Shasore further stated that the Lagos State Government, through OPL&CE, remains committed to strengthening channels of communication and fostering constructive dialogue across all segments of society.

She also stressed that citizen engagement is not merely about consultation but about creating lasting partnerships that promote mutual understanding, social cohesion, and shared responsibility, adding that by bringing youths and security institutions together on a common platform, the State is taking deliberate steps towards bridging gaps, improving relationships, and building safer and more inclusive communities across the State.

Giving his goodwill message,



the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, CP Tijani Fatai, represented by ACP Vicky Mulero, stated that the summit aligns with global best practices and will undoubtedly strengthen trust and understanding between Nigerian youths and Law Enforcement Agencies.

While commending the Lagos State Government for creating a platform for meaningful engagement, he noted that the initiative would equip police officers with the skills required to manage issues that often create tension between the police and young people, thereby promoting restorative justice rather than punitive approaches. He also reiterated the commitment of the Lagos State Police Command to fostering stronger relationships with the youth and other stakeholders.

Speaking in a similar vein, the Solicitor-General and the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Justice, Mr. Hameed Oyenuga, described the summit as crucial, timely and necessary in view of the prevailing security challenges in the country.

Commending and underscoring the critical role of the police in maintaining public safety, he emphasised the need for continuous training and retraining to ensure professionalism and adherence to global policing standards.

Speaking on the rights of citizens to peaceful protest, he explained that the Lagos State Government has identified designated locations for demonstrations to balance constitutional freedoms with public order and the rights of other citizens. He reiterated

that the responsibility of the police during protests is to protect demonstrators and ensure that peaceful assemblies do not degenerate into violence or disruption of lawful activities.

Also speaking at the event, Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Mr. Femi Falana, called for adequate funding, improved welfare, and the provision of modern equipment for the Nigeria Police Force, stressing that a well-resourced police institution is essential for building a safer and more secure society. He emphasised the need for the rule of law to prevail at all times, without bias, favouritism, or discrimination, noting that justice must be applied equally to all citizens regardless of status or influence.

Drawing from several practical examples, Mr. Falana highlighted the importance of effective collaboration and information-sharing between the police and other relevant government agencies to enhance the efficiency of law enforcement and the administration of justice. He urged police officers to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and ethical conduct in the discharge of their duties, particularly during investigations and interactions with members of the public, to ensure that the Police Force remains a credible and trusted institution committed to the protection of lives and property, as well as the safeguarding of the rights of all citizens.

The Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association, Ikeja Branch, Mr. Adeniyi Quadri, commended the organisers for creating a

platform for honest and necessary conversations on police-youth relations. Highlighting the crucial role played by the Police Officers in securing law and order in society, he observed that public confidence in the police is shaped largely by citizens' daily encounters with officers and called for greater accountability, including the proper identification of officers during operations and more respectful communication with members of the public.

While acknowledging the challenging conditions under which police officers work, he stressed that welfare concerns should not be an excuse for misconduct and advocated for improved training, better working conditions, institutional accountability, and adherence to the rule of law, noting that mutual respect and trust between the police and citizens are essential for effective policing and a safer society.

Participants were exposed to insightful lectures on global standards policing and Global Standard Practice for Arrest, Right to Peaceful Demonstration and the Duties of the Police, Police Power of Arrest and Duties, and Electoral Rights of Citizens and the Powers and Duties of the Police and the importance of community partnership in intelligence gathering and crime prevention.

The programme concluded with a renewed commitment by stakeholders to sustain dialogue, promote mutual understanding, and develop actionable recommendations that will strengthen community safety, social cohesion, and peaceful coexistence across the State.

# Invest Lagos 3.0: Policymakers Court Global Capital with Fresh Opportunities

The Lagos State Government on Tuesday reinforced its ambition to become Africa's leading destination for investment, innovation and enterprise, unveiling new opportunities across infrastructure, tourism, creative economy and financial services.

Speaking at the second day of the Invest Lagos 3.0 Summit held at Eko Hotels and Suites in Victoria Island, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, top government officials and policymakers outlined concrete plans, ongoing projects and investment-ready opportunities designed to attract local and international capital. In his address during the closing ceremony, Governor Sanwo-Olu said the success of the summit would ultimately be measured not by the quality of conversations held but by the investments, partnerships and projects that emerge from them.

The Governor said strategic agreements signed during the summit represent practical commitments capable of facilitating investments, creating jobs and driving economic growth.

"The answer to whether Lagos is Africa's business gateway is no longer theoretical. It is reflected in the partnerships forged, commitments secured and confidence demonstrated by investors over the past two days," he said.

Governor Sanwo-Olu noted that Lagos continues to strengthen its position as a gateway connecting Nigeria to Africa and Africa to global markets through strategic investments in transportation, logistics, energy and digital infrastructure.

He highlighted major projects, including the Lagos Rail Mass Transit



system, the Lekki Deep Sea Port, road expansion programmes and ongoing investments in energy infrastructure as critical foundations for long-term economic competitiveness.

Governor Sanwo-Olu also pointed to the state's strategic role within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), describing Lagos as uniquely positioned to benefit from a market of more than 1.4 billion people across the continent.

The Governor further reaffirmed plans to establish the Lagos International Financial Centre (LIFC), describing it as a major step toward positioning Lagos as a global hub for finance, trade and investment.

Speaking earlier, Lagos State Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, identified policy continuity, institutional stability and long-term planning as key factors driving investor confidence in Lagos.

He said Lagos State's development model is built around creating a sustainable environment where people can comfortably live, work, invest and raise families.

Dr. Hamzat explained that Lagos remains attractive to investors because of the consistency of its

governance systems and policies, which provide certainty beyond political transitions.

"No city can fund all its infrastructure needs alone. We require local and international investors, but attracting that investment depends on maintaining stable processes and predictable policies," he said.

Dr. Hamzat also stressed the importance of collaboration among state governments, noting that economic growth in Lagos is closely tied to the development of other states and the overall progress of Nigeria.

Also speaking during a sector-focused session, Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, unveiled a broad portfolio of investment opportunities across tourism, hospitality, entertainment, culture and the creative economy.

She described the sectors as powerful economic drivers capable of generating employment, attracting foreign direct investment and stimulating urban regeneration.

Benson-Awoyinka said Lagos is strategically positioned to unlock the immense potential of its

coastline through destination resorts, eco-tourism projects, hospitality developments, marina facilities and waterfront tourism infrastructure.

She highlighted the successes of Africa's first E1 Electric Boat Race hosted in Lagos and ongoing waterfront developments as evidence of the commercial viability of the state's coastal economy.

The commissioner also disclosed that Lagos State Government is revitalising key heritage assets, including the Black Heritage Museum, the John Randle Centre for Yoruba Culture and History and the historic Point of No Return in Badagry, to create globally competitive tourism destinations.

She added that Lagos is investing in tourism transportation systems, hospitality infrastructure, workforce development and creative industry projects, including the proposed Lagos Film City, aimed at strengthening the state's position as Africa's cultural and entertainment capital.

Speaking during closing remarks, the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Governor, Mr. Sam Egube, said the summit was conceived as a platform to bring

together leaders, investors, development partners and innovators from across the world to explore opportunities and build lasting partnerships.

Egube noted that Lagos' emergence as a hub for investment, technology and innovation is the result of deliberate planning and sustained efforts by successive administrations.

He said the State's commitment to transparency, policy consistency and investor confidence has helped to create an environment where businesses can thrive and investments can deliver long-term value.

Egube said the conversations held during the summit must now translate into concrete outcomes, stronger partnerships and sustainable economic growth.

Stakeholders expressed optimism that the engagements, agreements and investment opportunities showcased during the two-day Invest Lagos 3.0 summit would accelerate Lagos' journey toward becoming Africa's preferred destination for business, tourism, innovation and enterprise.

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# LASHMA Visits Quadruplets Who Lost Mother

The Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), in its commitment to ensure that the Quadruplets who lost their Mother at birth, Mrs. Charity Anani, have access to quality healthcare services, has given the babies and their father, Mr. Paul Anani, free Health Insurance.

The Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, during the visit and presentation of gifts to the family at Ikotun, commiserated with the Anani's family over the demise of the mother of the Quadruplets. She prayed that God would repose her life and give the family the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss. Dr. Zamba explained that the Agency decided to visit the Quadruplets and present them with various gift items, to ensure their

good health and wellness especially as their mother is not alive to care for them.

She added that with the free Health Insurance, the babies would be able to access care any time at their preferred hospital, take all their immunisations, and the Agency would also have the opportunity to monitor their care as well as their well-being.

The Permanent Secretary also announced free Health Insurance to the grandparents who are taking care of the babies, Mr. Sunday Anani and Mrs. Rachael Anani.

She pledged that the Agency would do its best to support the family especially in ensuring that the babies and family members have access to quality and equitable healthcare services which are necessary in keeping them healthy.

Dr. Zamba called on well-meaning Nigerians to

assist the family to give the children a better life and living conditions. She said, "Considering the economic situation in the country, there is a need for Nigerians to rally round the father of the Quadruplets, an Okada rider, to take proper care of the babies".

The Permanent Secretary implored Lagos residents to enrol en masse on ILERA EKO, the Social Health Insurance of the Lagos State Government to have peace of mind whenever there is any medical issue, reduce catastrophic expenses and out-of-pocket payment for medical bills.

She said "With N15,000 per annum, an individual will have access to quality healthcare services while with N55,000 or N80,000 per annum, a family of four or six respectively, can access care under ILERA EKO".

Dr. Zamba said that with

the payment of the aforementioned premium, Enrollees would enjoy benefits such as treatment of common ailments, childhood illnesses, management of chronic diseases, surgeries, specialists' consultation, emergency services, pharmaceutical care, dental and eye care as well as telemedicine service to mention just a few.

The father of the Quadruplets, Mr. Paul Anani, in his response, applauded the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, for the free Health Insurance provided to his family members and the gifts showered on the babies.

He disclosed that the gifts presented to the babies are timely as they would go a long way in reducing the huge expenses and burden on the family in taking good care of the babies.

Mr. Paul Anani appealed

to those not on ILERA EKO to register and enrol on the Social Health Insurance, adding that there is the possibility that his wife and one of the Quadruplets, would have been alive, had it been that the family registered and enrolled under ILERA EKO.

The grandparents of the Quadruplets, Mr. Sunday Anani and Mrs. Rachael Anani, were grateful to LASHMA for deeming it fit to provide Health Insurance for the entire family of the Anani family. They said "We did not expect that such magnanimity could come from LASHMA even though we are not from Lagos State but only reside in Lagos".

Please, recall that the Quadruplets were delivered by Mrs. Charity Anani, a 28-year-old teacher who hailed from Cross River State, on 27th February, 2026, at a private Hospital not under ILERA EKO.



## Lagos Tourism Ministry Partners Rentachefng To Train Professionals

As part of efforts to promote human capital development and strengthen the tourism and hospitality sector, the Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, in partnership with Rentachefng, successfully organised a six-day Hospitality and Skills Acquisition Training Programme for aspiring hospitality professionals and entrepreneurs.

The training programme, which was a combination of virtual and physical learning sessions, was held from Monday, June 1 to Saturday, June 6, 2026. While the virtual sessions took place from June 1 to June 4, the physical sessions were held on June 5 and 6 at the University of Lagos (UNILAG) Sports Complex, Akoka, Lagos.

The initiative aligns with the Lagos State Government's commitment to youth empowerment, entrepreneurship development, job creation, and sustainable growth within the tourism and hospitality ecosystem.

The programme

provided participants with practical industry knowledge, technical skills, and entrepreneurial insights designed to enhance their competitiveness and preparedness for opportunities within the hospitality sector. Facilitated by seasoned industry experts, professional chefs, hospitality practitioners, and business leaders, the training covered critical areas across the hospitality value chain, including customer service excellence, Nigerian cuisine and food culture, market procurement, inventory and storage management, continental cuisine, and hospitality entrepreneurship.

Participants received intensive training in customer care, conflict resolution, upselling techniques, guest experience management, food sourcing and costing, supply chain management, menu planning, food preparation techniques, international culinary trends, business registration processes, pricing strategies, funding opportunities, profit

management, and strategic business partnerships.

Facilitators at the physical training sessions included Ms. Evelyn Ifeoma Idiji, who delivered sessions on Customer Service Excellence; Chef Hanifah Adenuga, who facilitated training on Nigerian Cuisine and Food Culture; Mr. Gbenga Akinsanya Babajide, who trained participants on Market Procurement and Inventory Management, while Chef Joel Hugbo and Mrs. Adesina Adeola, popularly known as Chef Hurlarr, led sessions on Continental Cuisine and International Food Trends.

A special panel discussion on Entrepreneurship and Hospitality Management featured the Chief Executive Officer of Rentachefng, Mrs. Abosede Sadiq (Chef Bee), and the Chief Executive Officer of Nexxa Kitchen, Mrs. Vanessa Peter. Both panellists shared valuable insights on building sustainable hospitality businesses, navigating industry challenges, leveraging

innovation, and identifying emerging opportunities within the sector.

Participants expressed appreciation to the Lagos State Government and the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture for providing a platform that effectively combined technical training, practical experience, and business development opportunities. Many described the programme as timely, impactful, and highly beneficial for young people seeking careers in hospitality, culinary arts, and tourism-related enterprises.

The successful completion of the training programme underscores the Ministry's unwavering commitment to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and professional excellence within Lagos State's tourism and hospitality industry. Through strategic partnerships and targeted capacity-building initiatives, the Ministry continues to equip residents with the skills and knowledge required to thrive in an increasingly competitive and dynamic sector.

## Lagos State Delegation Joins Global Leaders at 114th Session of ILO

As the global workforce faces rapid transformations driven by digitalisation and shifting demographics, a substantial Nigerian delegation - including key representatives from Lagos State - has arrived in Geneva to participate in the 114th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC).

The conference serves as the premier forum for 187 member countries to address critical challenges in the modern labour market. Nigeria has maintained a strong presence with over 300 delegates in attendance, reflecting the nation's commitment to shaping international labour standards and promoting decent work.

Leading the robust Lagos State delegation is the Head of Service, Mr. Bode Agoro. He is joined by a high-level cohort tasked with aligning state-level workforce policies with international best practices. The delegation includes:

Hon. Oladele Ajayi, Chairman, Lagos State House Committee on Establishment, Pension, and Public Service; Mr. Afolabi Ayantayo, Commissioner for Establishment and Training; Dr. Busola Abidakun, Permanent Secretary, Office of Establishment and Training and Mrs. Sunkanmi Oyegbola, Permanent Secretary, Public Service Office - a diverse group of labour leaders representing the interests of the Lagos State workforce and others.

The delegation is working in tandem with the federal team led by the Minister of Labour and Employment, Muhammad Maigari Dingyadi, to engage in high-level discussions

regarding social dialogue, tripartism, and a transformative agenda for gender equality in the workplace.

A focal point for the delegation at this year's conference is the latest ILO report on lifelong learning. The report provides a stark warning: without targeted efforts to ensure inclusive training, the ongoing digital and demographic shifts risk deepening existing inequalities.

For Lagos State, as a premier economic hub, these findings are vital. The ILO notes that while digital skills are in high demand, many workers - particularly those in informal roles - continue to face significant barriers to professional development.

"Lifelong learning is the bridge between today's jobs and tomorrow's opportunities," noted ILO Director-General Gilbert F. Houngbo.

The Lagos delegation is utilising these insights to advocate for more robust training mechanisms that can better prepare the state's workforce for the demands of a modernised, tech-driven economy.

As the conference continues, the Lagos representatives remain focused on leveraging these international standards to drive reforms that enhance workers' welfare and bolster the local and national economy.

The International Labour Conference is the annual meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), bringing together representatives of governments, workers, and employers from 187 member states to debate critical labour and social issues.



# Law Reform Commission Engages LJLA Fellows

The Lagos State Law Reform Commission (LAWRECOM) has reaffirmed the critical role of law reform in strengthening governance, improving public service delivery and supporting sustainable development during an interactive engagement with Fellows of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy (LJLA). The engagement, held as part of the Academy's Brown Bag Series and Institutional Learning Visit to the Commission, provided Fellows with a unique opportunity to gain practical insights into law reform, governance innovation and public sector leadership.

Welcoming the Fellows to the Commission, the Executive Secretary, Mrs. Oluyemisi Ogunlola described law reform as an indispensable tool for effective governance and societal progress. She noted that beyond courts and legislation, law reform plays a strategic role in ensuring that laws remain responsive to changing social, economic, technological and governance realities. According to her "Laws are not static instruments. They must continuously evolve to reflect the realities, aspirations and emerging needs of society. Effective law reform ensures that governance remains responsive, institutions remain relevant, and

development is supported by a modern and enabling legal framework."

The Executive Secretary further explained that the Commission's mandate extends beyond the review and modernisation of laws to include promoting accessibility, encouraging public participation and identifying emerging areas requiring legislative intervention.

Speaking on the theme "Law Reform as Leadership: Driving Change Through Institutions", Mrs. Ogunlola challenged the Fellows to approach leadership as problem-solvers and change agents capable of identifying systemic challenges and developing sustainable solutions.

She encouraged them to utilise their placements across Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to observe governance processes, identify operational bottlenecks and contribute ideas capable of improving public administration and service delivery.

"Leadership is not merely about occupying positions of authority. It is about recognising challenges, understanding their root causes and mobilising solutions that create lasting public value. Future leaders must learn to see opportunities for reform where others see obstacles." A major highlight of the engagement was

the introduction of the Commission's newly established Reform Intelligence Desk (RID), a strategic initiative designed to identify governance bottlenecks, legislative gaps and regulatory challenges requiring review or reform.



The Executive Secretary explained that the Desk represents a deliberate shift towards a more participatory and evidence-driven approach to law reform by creating structured channels through which institutions and citizens can contribute to the continuous improvement of laws and governance systems. The interactive session featured robust discussions on

several public policy and governance issues, including public enlightenment, environmental sustainability, public procurement, tax administration, institutional collaboration and service delivery across government. Responding to questions and observations from the Fellows, members of the Commission's management team emphasised the importance of citizen engagement, inter-agency collaboration and data-driven policymaking in advancing effective governance.

The Director of Legislative Drafting and Policy Advisory, Mrs. Kemi Sowemimo, urged the Fellows to emulate the visionary leadership qualities of the late Alhaji Lateef Jakande by remaining committed to public service, innovation and practical problem-solving.

"Every generation has a responsibility to improve the systems it inherits. As emerging leaders, you must develop the courage to identify governance challenges and the commitment to pursue solutions that improve the lives of citizens." As a symbolic highlight of the visit, the Executive Secretary announced the Fellows as the Commission's inaugural Law Reform Ambassadors, encouraging them to champion civic responsibility, governance innovation and reform-oriented thinking within their respective spheres of influence.

The Lagos State Law Reform Commission remains committed to promoting a modern, accessible and responsive legal framework that supports good governance, economic growth and sustainable development across Lagos State.

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# LAWRECOM Challenges Law School Externs

## ... Says Law Reform, Governance, Public Service Are Emerging Frontiers of Legal Practice

The Lagos State Law Reform Commission (LAWRECOM) has challenged Nigerian Law

School externs undergoing court attachment at the Lagos High Court, Ikeja, to embrace a broader vision of legal practice by developing a reform mindset capable of strengthening justice delivery, governance and public institutions. The Executive Secretary of the Commission, Mrs. Oluyemisi Ogunlola gave the advice during an interactive engagement with externs attached to the Court of Honourable Justice Abiola Soladoye of the Lagos High Court in Ikeja.

Speaking on the theme "The Young Lawyer as a Reform Thinker: Lessons from Court Externship," the Executive Secretary described the externship programme as one of the most important bridges between legal education and professional practice, noting that students must view their court attachment as an opportunity to understand not only how the law operates, but also how it can be improved.

She observed that the courtroom serves as a living laboratory where students witness the practical operation of laws, judicial processes and legal institutions.

"Externship is not merely about



observing proceedings. It is about understanding how laws, procedures and institutions affect real people and asking how justice can be made more effective, accessible and responsive."

Ogunlola encouraged the externs to move beyond passive observation and cultivate the habit of reflective learning by paying attention to recurring challenges within the justice system, including delays in proceedings, procedural complexities, access-to-justice barriers and institutional inefficiencies.

According to her, such observations provide valuable insights that can inform future legal and institutional reforms.

A major focus of the engagement was the role of law reform in

strengthening governance and improving justice delivery.

Mrs. Ogunlola explained that the Lagos State Law Reform Commission is mandated to ensure that the laws of Lagos State remain relevant, clear, effective and responsive to contemporary realities through continuous review, research, stakeholder engagement and legislative reform initiatives.

She further noted that law reform may be triggered by judicial experiences, stakeholder feedback, public complaints, policy developments, technological advancement, research findings and institutional challenges identified through practical experience.

The Executive Secretary also used the opportunity to

introduce the externs to the Commission's ongoing repositioning initiatives, particularly the Reform Intelligence Desk (RID), which has been established to receive reform signals from courts, government institutions, legal practitioners, communities and members of the public for possible legislative and policy intervention.

She explained that observations made during court externship could contribute meaningfully to future law reform efforts.

"Many reforms begin when someone observes a recurring problem closely enough to ask whether the law, procedure or institution can work better."

Mrs. Ogunlola further highlighted other strategic initiatives being implemented by the Commission,

including the State-wide Law Audit Programme, codification of laws, digital access to legislation, translation of laws into the Yoruba language and broader stakeholder engagement initiatives designed to make law reform more inclusive and evidence-driven.

Addressing the future of legal practice, she urged the students to prepare for a profession increasingly shaped by technology, public policy, governance, institutional design and access-to-justice considerations.

She noted that the most successful lawyers of the future would be those capable of solving complex societal problems rather than merely citing legal authorities.

"The future of legal practice belongs to lawyers who can

combine legal knowledge with critical thinking, innovation, policy awareness and a commitment to public service."

The Executive Secretary also emphasised the importance of ethics, integrity, humility, professionalism and service-mindedness, describing these values as indispensable foundations for a successful legal career.

The engagement, which is an annual professional mentorship created by the Honourable Justice Abiola Soladoye of the Lagos High Court as her contribution to legal education, whereby legal practitioners from both the public and private sectors enlighten Law School externs on professional practice, this year featured legal practitioners and Heads of Agencies of the Lagos State Ministry of Justice.

It concluded with an interactive session where externs reflected on their court experiences and discussed the role of young lawyers in advancing justice sector reform and institutional development.

The Nigerian Law School Externship Programme is designed to expose students to practical legal experience, develop lawyering skills, strengthen professional responsibility and encourage reflective learning through direct engagement with courts, legal practitioners and justice institutions.

# The Demystification of Professors!

I woke up this beautiful Easter Monday morning and began to cogitate on issues, one of which was the elite group called professors and how they have performed in political gerrymandering.

In a country where titles are cherished almost as much as power itself, the word Professor once floated above the national consciousness like a halo—connoting wisdom, integrity, and a certain austere distance from the grubby theatrics of everyday politics. A professor, after all, was presumed to be a custodian of truth, a sentinel of reason, and, in moments of national reckoning, a neutral arbiter. Indeed, some of our professors epitomized this – Hezekiah Oluwasanmi, Ade Ajayi, Adamu Baikie, Tekena Tamuno, Bayo Banjo, Roger Makanjuola, Oritsejolomi Thomas, Eni Njoku, Richard Anao, Saburi Biobaku, Wole Soyinka, Bolaji Akinyemi, Chinua Achebe, and many others, who left and are leaving extremely memorable imprints in the sands of time. To ease potential arguments, I must say that these professors were not perfect – but they operated in an era where academic titles carried an almost sacred expectation of integrity and societal leadership.

When I entered the University of Ife in those days, I saw professors from afar and was lucky to be near them. Professors like Aluko, Igbafe, Grillo, and Adesanya, etc. were looked at as icons and angels who could never do anything wrong.

Things seem to have changed with the entry of professors into the political calculus.

It began, as many noble things do, with good intentions. Who better to

oversee elections than professors? Men and women who had spent decades deciphering obscure theories, grading reluctant undergraduates, and surviving faculty meetings surely possessed the moral stamina to count ballots. The logic was impeccable: if they could endure university bureaucracy, they could withstand anything democracy might throw at them.

And so, the professors were summoned—plucked from lecture halls and research sabbaticals, clothed in the ceremonial vestments of electoral umpiring, and dispatched to the farthest reaches of the republic. For a brief, shimmering moment, Nigerians believed that intellect would triumph over intrigue.

Soon, the professor—once a figure of quiet dignity—found himself in curious company: local strongmen, logistical "facilitators," and security agents who spoke in whispers but carried loud intentions. Ballot papers began to develop a mystical mobility, results sheets acquired a talent for creative writing, and "logistical challenges" became the academic's newest research area.

The transformation was subtle at first. A delayed start here, a missing result there. But then came the more ambitious experiments: figures that defied arithmetic, voter turnout that challenged population statistics, and declarations that seemed to have been authored in a parallel universe where numbers obeyed political allegiance rather than mathematical and algebraic calculations. The internal conflict within the body of academicians has been monumental. Here was the professor—once a



fierce guardian against plagiarism—now presiding over the wholesale copying and pasting of electoral outcomes. Here was the examiner of theses, now supervising a national exercise where conclusions preceded data. Here was the advocate of peer review, now delivering results that no peer dared review.

It was, in many ways, a triumph of applied irony. Naturally, the waring public has begun to ask uncomfortable questions. If the professor—society's supposed intellectual compass—could be so easily repurposed into an instrument of electoral misadventure, what then remained of the title? Was "Professor" still a badge of enlightenment, or merely an accessory—like a well-ironed agbada—worn to confer legitimacy on predetermined outcomes?

The consequences are unfolding but are likely to be extremely profound. The once-revered title now travels with an asterisk. In everyday conversation, "professor" is increasingly uttered with a raised eyebrow, sometimes even

with a wry smile. It no longer signifies only knowledge; it now carries the faint echo of compromise.

Students, ever perceptive, have begun to revise their own understanding. Why struggle through sleepless nights mastering theories when the real national curriculum appears to reward flexibility of conscience? Why aspire to intellectual rigor when societal advancement seems to hinge on one's willingness to bend—gracefully, of course—under pressure?

And yet, the tragedy is not merely that some professors have been drawn into the vortex of electoral manipulation. It is that their participation lends a veneer of respectability to what would otherwise be dismissed as crude malpractice. The professor, in this sense, has become not just an actor but an alibi.

Of course, it would be unfair to indict the entire academic community. Many professors still cling—heroically, even stubbornly—to their principles, resisting the gravitational pull of

expediency (recall Nena Oti – God bless her). But in the theatre of public perception, nuance is often the first casualty. The actions of a few cast long shadows over the many.

Thus, Nigeria finds itself in a peculiar predicament: a nation that still needs its professors, but is no longer entirely sure what they stand for.

Perhaps, in some future election cycle, the professors will stage a quiet rebellion. Perhaps they will rediscover the inconvenient courage that once defined their vocation. Perhaps they will insist that numbers must add up, that results must reflect reality, and that integrity is not an optional elective.

Until then, the professor remains an ambiguous figure in the Nigerian story—half sage, half symbol—caught somewhere between the lecture hall and the ballot box, teaching a lesson no curriculum ever intended: That in a land where everything can be negotiated, even truth may require supervision.

# Naira Steadies at N1,361/\$ as Markets Await Next FX Move

Atume Terfa



**N**igeria's foreign exchange market remained relatively calm on Thursday as the naira held steady against the United States dollar, offering a measure of confidence to businesses and investors closely tracking the country's economic outlook. The local currency traded around 1,361.25 per dollar in the official market, maintaining a stable position despite persistent global and domestic

economic pressures. The performance comes as market participants continue to assess the impact of monetary policies and foreign exchange reforms introduced to strengthen liquidity and improve market efficiency. The naira's stability is being closely watched across sectors of the economy, given its influence on import costs, inflation, investment decisions, and

overall business activity. Companies that depend on imported raw materials and finished goods remain particularly sensitive to exchange-rate movements, while investors continue to evaluate opportunities within Nigeria's financial markets. Recent efforts by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to enhance transparency in the FX market have contributed to a more predictable trading

environment. Analysts say these measures have helped reduce excessive volatility and boosted confidence among local and foreign investors. Market observers note that the next direction of the naira will largely depend on key factors such as foreign exchange inflows, crude oil earnings, external reserves, and investor sentiment. Developments in the global economy, including oil price movements and

international interest-rate trends, are also expected to influence the currency's trajectory. While importers remain cautious about future fluctuations, exporters continue to monitor the exchange rate for opportunities that could enhance competitiveness in international markets. Financial experts believe the foreign exchange market is likely to remain sensitive to

upcoming economic indicators and policy decisions. As a result, investors and businesses are keeping a close eye on signals that could affect the balance between dollar demand and supply. For now, the naira's ability to maintain a stable trading range offers a welcome reprieve, reinforcing hopes that ongoing reforms and improved market conditions can support greater currency stability in the months ahead.

# Nigerian Stocks Gain Ground as Bond Yields Rise

[Atume Terfa](#)

Nigeria's investment landscape is undergoing a noticeable shift as investors increasingly move funds from the bond market into equities, triggering a rise in government bond yields and reshaping market dynamics. The fixed-income market faced renewed selling pressure this week as investors offloaded Federal Government bonds in favour of stocks, which have continued to deliver strong returns amid growing optimism about corporate earnings and

economic prospects. The selloff pushed sovereign bond yields higher across multiple maturities, with long-term debt instruments recording some of the steepest increases. Market analysts say the trend reflects a strategic portfolio rebalancing by investors seeking greater upside in the equities market after months of impressive stock market performance. Nigeria's stock exchange has emerged as one of the major attractions for

investors, driven by strong performances from banking, industrial, and consumer goods companies. The rally has encouraged many market participants to shift from the relative safety of fixed-income assets toward equities in pursuit of higher returns. Adding to the pressure on the bond market are expectations that the government could increase borrowing to meet fiscal obligations and fund key projects. The prospect of fresh debt issuances has

prompted investors to demand higher yields, resulting in the repricing of existing bonds in the secondary market. Despite the movement away from traditional government bonds, appetite for short-term fixed-income securities remains resilient. Treasury Bills and Open Market Operation (OMO) instruments continue to attract investors seeking stable and predictable returns, particularly as interest rates remain elevated under the Central Bank of Nigeria's tight monetary policy framework.

The evolving market sentiment underscores the balancing act investors face between preserving capital and pursuing growth opportunities. While rising bond yields continue to make debt instruments attractive, the momentum in the equities market is proving difficult for many investors to ignore. Analysts expect both markets to remain sensitive to key economic indicators in the coming weeks, including inflation figures, monetary policy decisions,

and government borrowing plans. However, current trends suggest that investor confidence is tilting toward equities, leaving Nigeria's bond market grappling with sustained upward pressure on yields. As the competition for investor capital intensifies, the coming months could prove pivotal in determining whether the stock market's rally has enough momentum to keep drawing funds away from fixed-income assets or whether higher bond yields will eventually lure investors back.



# “I'm Not About to Hand Over to Any Son” — Kumuyi Clarifies Position

Kehinde Adeleye

**T**he General Superintendent of the Deeper Christian Life Ministry, Pastor William Kumuyi, has said that no General Overseer has the right to hand over a church to his son. Kumuyi made the statement while addressing public speculation over whether leadership of the church would be passed to any of his children after his tenure.

In a now-trending video, the cleric emphasised that the church belongs to Jesus Christ and not any individual.

“It's the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, and nobody has the right to hand it over to his son,” he said.

Responding to rumours about succession plans, Kumuyi said people had been searching for information about his sons and speculating about who might take over the ministry.

“Well, it's not his church. And because it's not his



church, Jesus said upon this rock, I will build my church. Jesus said it's His church and not Peter's church; it is

nobody's church. It's the church of the Lord Jesus Christ and nobody has the right to hand it over to his son,” he said. He referenced

biblical figures such as Peter, Paul and John, noting that none of them handed over church leadership to their children.

“I'm not about to hand over to any son. The will of the Lord be done in Jesus name,” Kumuyi stated. The comments

come amid ongoing discussions about hereditary succession patterns in some Nigerian church organisations.

# Ikosi Senior High Wins Lagos Inter-School Debate Competition

Kehinde Adeleve

**I**kosi Senior High School has emerged winner of the Lagos Inter-School Debate Competition organised by The Elevation Church, Maryland Zone 5, in collaboration with the Lagos State Ministry of Education, defeating 11 other public secondary schools from Education District II.

The three-week intellectual contest, which ended in a grand finale held at The Elevation Church in Maryland, Lagos, showcased the debating, analytical and public speaking skills of students drawn from 12 public secondary schools across the district. At the end of the competition, Ikosi Senior High School was declared overall winner, while Eva-Adelaja Girls Senior School came first runner-up, and Ogudu Senior High School placed third. Four schools qualified for the final stage after progressing through earlier rounds of the competition.

In the final championship debate, Ikosi Senior High School competed against Ogudu Senior



Grammar School on the motion: "Total privatisation of social services is the only viable path to drive efficiency in service delivery."

Another debate round featured Eva-Adelaja Girls Senior School and Kosofe Senior High School, debating the motion: "Social media influencers have more impact on youths than teachers."

Speaking after leading his team to victory, the Chief Speaker of Ikosi Senior High School, Martins David, an SSI student, attributed their success to thorough preparation, research and teamwork.

He said the team devoted significant time to understanding the topic and building strong arguments rather than memorising points.

"I worked extensively on the research. It took me about two days to prepare my points and another two days to master them. I focused on understanding the issues rather than cramming because when you cram, you may not know when to pause or how to communicate effectively," he said. He added that clear presentation skills and teamwork contributed to their success, noting that the win marked

another milestone in his debating journey. Chairman of the judging panel, John Wesley, said the contestants were assessed based on depth of knowledge, content quality, critical thinking, teamwork and overall presentation. He explained that both chief speakers and supporting speakers were expected to complement each other in their arguments.

"We had a very interesting debate. The students displayed a high level of intelligence and preparation, which reflected in their presentations and arguments," he said.

Wesley also called for increased investment in young people, noting that many of the participants had demonstrated leadership potential beyond their age.

He said supporting such students would help produce better future leaders and professionals.

Resident Pastor of The Elevation Church, Maryland, Pastor Bolaji Adisa, said the debate competition was part of the church's social impact initiative aimed at promoting academic excellence and youth development under its vision of "making greatness common."

He explained that the church began its educational support programme about seven years ago, initially assisting public school students preparing for the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE).

According to him, volunteer teachers within the church have continued to support public schools, leading to improved academic outcomes over the years.

Adisa added that the initiative has expanded gradually from one school to 12 public secondary schools across Lagos State.

He disclosed plans to introduce teacher development programmes that will provide mentorship and professional training opportunities for educators.

He also said future editions of the debate would include both public and private schools to encourage healthy academic competition.

Adisa further noted that outstanding students would continue to benefit from academic support, including sponsorship for external examinations and assistance toward university education, depending on available resources.

# Ikosi-Isheri Mayoress Bets on Football to Shape the Next Generation

By Emmanuel Daniji

For many young football enthusiasts in Ikosi-Isheri, dreams of wearing a professional football jersey often begin on dusty community pitches, fuelled by determination, talent and hope. On May 29, 2026, that hope received a fresh boost as the Mayoress of Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada, unveiled a new jersey for the MAYORESS FOOTBALL ACADEMY IKOSI-

ISHERI LCDA. Beyond its vibrant design, the jersey carries a message that resonates deeply with the aspirations of young people across the council area. Inscribed with the words "Renewed Hope Ikosi-Isheri," the kit represents a vision of opportunity, youth empowerment and community progress through sports. The unveiling ceremony brought together sports enthusiasts, community

stakeholders and young academy players, many of whom see football not only as a recreational activity but also as a pathway to a brighter future. Addressing participants at the event, Princess Bada described sports as one of the most effective instruments for youth development, stressing that football has the power to transform lives by teaching discipline, teamwork, resilience and

leadership.

According to the Mayoress, the football academy was established to identify promising talents within the grassroots and provide them with opportunities to develop their abilities in a structured and supportive environment. She explained that the newly unveiled jersey serves as a symbol of unity and shared aspirations, reflecting the academy's mission to inspire young people to pursue excellence both on and off the field.

"Sports remain one of the strongest platforms for engaging our youths positively and helping them realise their full potential," she said, noting that the council remains committed to creating opportunities that enable young people to thrive. For many families within the community, such initiatives offer more than sporting opportunities. They provide a

constructive outlet for young people, helping to steer them away from social vices while fostering confidence and ambition.

Princess Bada reaffirmed her administration's commitment to programmes that empower youths and equip them with the tools needed to succeed. She emphasized that investing in young people remains one of the most effective ways to build stronger communities and secure a prosperous future.

The Mayoress also highlighted the importance of grassroots sports development in promoting social inclusion and community engagement. She noted that local football academies play a critical role in discovering talents that might otherwise go unnoticed, while creating pathways for aspiring athletes to achieve their dreams.

Observers at the event described the jersey unveiling as another significant step in the growth of the MAYORESS FOOTBALL

ACADEMY, which has continued to attract young football talents from across the council area.

For the academy's players, the new jersey represents far more than sportswear. It is a badge of belonging, ambition and possibility—a reminder that their talents are recognised and that their community believes in their potential.

As the young footballers proudly donned the new kit for the first time, the atmosphere reflected a sense of optimism and determination. In their eyes were dreams of future victories, professional careers and opportunities beyond the boundaries of their neighbourhood.

For Ikosi-Isheri LCDA, the initiative reinforces a growing belief that when communities invest in their youths, they are ultimately investing in their future. And for the aspiring football stars wearing the "Renewed Hope Ikosi-Isheri" jersey, the journey toward that future may have just taken another important step forward.



# Kosofe Stakeholders Rally Support for Tinubu's Agenda at Post-Ileya Gathering

By Emmanuel Daniji

What began as a post-Eid celebration soon evolved into a broader conversation about governance, grassroots engagement, and the future of Nigeria as members of the Renewed Hope Ambassadors, Greater Kosofe, gathered in Lagos to strengthen community ties and reaffirm support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration.

Held at the Greater Kosofe Renewed Hope Secretariat on CMD Road, the gathering attracted a diverse audience comprising political stakeholders, community leaders, market representatives, religious figures, youth groups, and members of various ethnic communities. The atmosphere was marked by fellowship and celebration, but beneath the festive mood was a clear message about civic participation and grassroots mobilization.

The event was organized as a post-Ileya celebration following the Eid-el-Kabir festivities, offering members and supporters an opportunity to reconnect while reflecting on the direction of the

nation under the current administration.

Speaking at the event, the Coordinator of Renewed Hope Ambassadors, Greater Kosofe, Hon. Yunusa Salami, said the gathering was designed not only to celebrate with members but also to provide updates on government programmes and achievements under President Tinubu's leadership. According to him, the administration has continued to pursue reforms and development initiatives across critical sectors, including infrastructure, education, youth development, and economic transformation.

Hon. Salami expressed optimism about the country's future, noting that ongoing policy interventions and investments were laying foundations for sustainable growth and national development. He maintained that the Renewed Hope Agenda remains focused on addressing longstanding challenges while creating opportunities for Nigerians across different sectors of society.

Beyond discussing government programmes,

Salami emphasized the importance of citizen participation in the democratic process, stressing that electoral victories and effective governance require the involvement of ordinary citizens and community stakeholders.

He argued that political engagement should not be viewed as the responsibility of elected officials alone, but as a collective effort involving residents, traditional institutions, religious groups, market associations, and community organizations.

The broad representation at the event reflected this philosophy. Community Development Committee (CDC) representatives sat alongside market leaders, members of the Arewa and Igbo communities, youth representatives, and religious leaders, creating what organizers described as a microcosm of the diverse social fabric that defines Kosofe. For many attendees, the gathering served as a reminder that meaningful development often begins at the grassroots level, where government policies and programmes directly affect people's daily lives. Salami further

assured members that efforts were underway to strengthen communication channels between government and local communities. He pledged that ward coordinators and grassroots leaders within the Renewed Hope Ambassadors network would work to ensure that information about government initiatives reaches residents directly and promptly.

According to him, reducing communication gaps between policymakers and citizens is essential for improving transparency and ensuring that beneficiaries can access available opportunities

without unnecessary barriers.

He stressed that direct engagement would help residents better understand government interventions while creating stronger accountability mechanisms within communities.

Speakers at the event noted that one of the recurring themes throughout the gathering was the need for inclusiveness and active citizen participation in governance. Speakers encouraged residents to remain informed, engaged, and supportive of programmes designed to improve their communities.

As conversations continued long after the formal

proceedings ended, attendees exchanged ideas on development, community growth, and the role citizens can play in shaping the future of their localities.

For the Renewed Hope Ambassadors, Greater Kosofe, the post-Ileya gathering was more than a festive reunion. It was an opportunity to reinforce a sense of shared purpose, strengthen community bonds, and deepen grassroots involvement in the democratic process. In a diverse and rapidly evolving community like Kosofe, organizers believe such engagements can help bridge the gap between government and the people, ensuring that development is not merely discussed in policy circles but felt in the everyday lives of citizens.



**T**ension continues to mount in the Precious Seed area of Oworonshoki, Lagos, as residents allege that fresh attacks and incidents of arson have compounded an already distressing demolition crisis, leaving many families displaced and uncertain about their future.

Several residents who spoke with EchoNews expressed frustration and anguish over what they described as a prolonged period of destruction that has affected homes, businesses and livelihoods within the community.

According to affected residents, properties were reportedly set ablaze in parts of the area following recent demolition activities, forcing many occupants to flee for safety while scrambling to salvage personal belongings and business assets.

One resident, who spoke emotionally during the incident, lamented the repeated losses suffered by community members.

"We have already lost our homes. Now, the little businesses we depend on for survival are being threatened. People are struggling to rebuild their lives, but each day seems to bring new challenges," the resident said.

The latest allegations emerged after residents claimed that destruction of properties

# Oworonshoki Residents Allege Fresh Attacks as Demolition Crisis Deepens

By Emmanuel Daniji

continued in the area days after demolition exercises commenced. Community members alleged that some individuals linked to influential interests within the area were responsible for the attacks, although these claims have not been independently verified.

Residents said fear spread rapidly through the neighbourhood as reports of fires and property damage surfaced, causing families to abandon their homes temporarily while seeking safer locations.

Eyewitnesses described scenes of confusion as people attempted to rescue valuables from affected structures.

A community source familiar with developments in the area told EchoNews that concerns among residents have intensified due to the perceived absence of immediate intervention capable of restoring confidence and preventing further

escalation.

"The situation has created anxiety across the community. Many residents are unsure of what will happen next and are worried about both their safety and their means of livelihood," the source said.

The crisis follows earlier reports of tensions surrounding demolition activities within the Precious Seed axis, where some residents alleged they were given notices to vacate affected areas before structures were brought down.

Several residents have also raised concerns about the social and economic impact of the exercise, noting that many families depended on the affected properties for shelter and income generation.



members are now calling on relevant government authorities, security agencies and traditional institutions to intervene and ensure that peace is maintained while addressing grievances through lawful and transparent processes.

Residents insist that urgent action is needed to prevent further destruction and provide clarity on the future of those affected by the ongoing developments.

As of the time of filing this report, allegations linking specific individuals or traditional authorities to the reported attacks had not been independently verified by EchoNews, and no official statement addressing the latest

claims had been released.

For many residents, however, the immediate concern remains survival.

With homes damaged, businesses disrupted and uncertainty hanging over the community, affected families say they are hoping for swift intervention that will restore calm and provide a

pathway toward recovery.

The unfolding situation continues to draw attention from community stakeholders and concerned observers, who have urged all parties to embrace dialogue and lawful engagement in resolving the dispute while prioritizing the safety and welfare of residents.



# Lagos Woman Reveals Why Smart Shoppers Head to Mile 12 Before Dawn

By Emmanuel Daniji

**W**hile most Lagos residents are still asleep, another city is already awake. By 3:30am, trucks loaded with fresh produce are arriving, traders are negotiating prices, and buyers are moving swiftly through narrow market aisles searching for the best bargains. It is a routine that has become second nature for many wholesalers and experienced shoppers at Mile 12 Market, one of Nigeria's largest food distribution hubs.

Now, a Lagos-based content creator has sparked conversations online after sharing her experience of visiting the market in the early hours of the morning and revealing why many regular buyers prefer

shopping long before sunrise.

In a video that has generated significant attention on social media, the woman documented her journey to the bustling market, explaining that shopping before dawn often comes with a major advantage: lower prices.

According to her, many consumers are unaware that commercial activities at Mile 12 operate round the clock, with fresh supplies arriving throughout the night and trading activities commencing long before the average Lagosian begins their day.

The content creator disclosed that she arrived at the market around 3:30am and observed that many products

were already available for purchase.

She explained that while she currently travels to the market in a private vehicle, she previously relied on public transportation and was still able to reach the market in the early hours.

Her experience challenges the common assumption that transportation is unavailable during the night.

"There is transport available 24 hours in Lagos," she noted, explaining that commuters can still access the market through various routes during the early morning period.

For many traders, restaurant operators and food vendors, the timing is strategic.

Shopping before daybreak often means access to

fresher produce, fewer crowds and better opportunities to negotiate prices before the market becomes congested.

The video resonated strongly with many Lagos residents, particularly those familiar with the operations of Mile 12 Market.

Several commenters shared similar experiences, confirming that early-morning shopping has long been a common practice among seasoned traders.

One commenter recalled how her late mother routinely visited the market between midnight and 3am because of the affordability of goods, although family members often worried about her safety.

Another observer noted that prices tend to be more favorable before the

market becomes crowded later in the day, when demand increases and traders become busier.

Others recounted experiences of relatives who made multiple trips to Mile 12 daily to secure fresh produce for resale in different parts of Lagos.

Some traders also explained that the overnight hours coincide with the arrival of fresh agricultural produce transported from northern Nigeria, making it one of the best periods to purchase fruits, vegetables and other perishables.

For many small business owners operating within Lagos' food economy, every naira saved at the wholesale level can make a significant difference in profitability.

The discussion has

also highlighted the hidden ecosystem that keeps Lagos fed. While much of the city sleeps, thousands of traders, transporters, loaders and buyers are already hard at work ensuring that markets, restaurants and households have access to fresh food supplies by morning.

Mile 12 Market remains one of the most important agricultural trading centres in the country, serving as a key distribution point for produce arriving from various states across Nigeria.

As food prices continue to dominate conversations among households and businesses, the viral video has provided a glimpse into a lesser-known reality of Lagos commerce—one where timing can be just as important as money.

For regular buyers, the lesson appears simple: sometimes the best bargains are found not during the rush of the day, but in the quiet hours before dawn when the city is only just beginning to wake up.

And for many Lagosians looking to stretch their budgets, the road to cheaper groceries may start at 3:30 in the morning.



# Ibeju-Lekki Fashion Incubator Drives Youth Empowerment



Atume Terfa

**A** new fashion incubator programme sponsored by the Ibeju-Lekki Local Government in collaboration with the Ananse Centre for Design and the IshK Tolaram Foundation is advancing youth empowerment efforts by equipping young creatives with the tools to build sustainable careers in the fashion industry. The initiative brings together government support and private-sector expertise to nurture

emerging designers, with a focus on transforming raw talent into commercially viable fashion businesses. Organisers say the programme is designed to strengthen local capacity while positioning young people within Nigeria's fast-growing creative economy. Participants are being trained across key areas of the fashion value chain, including design development, branding, textile

innovation, business management, and digital marketing. The incubator also provides mentorship from industry professionals, giving beneficiaries practical insights into how to scale their ideas into competitive brands. Stakeholders involved in the programme say the collaboration reflects a broader shift toward public-private partnerships in addressing youth unemployment. By combining local government backing with the experience of creative

development organisations like the Ananse Centre for Design and philanthropic support from the IshK Tolaram Foundation, the initiative aims to create a structured pathway for entrepreneurship in the fashion sector. Across Africa, fashion incubation models have gained recognition for their role in job creation and enterprise development. Similar programmes have shown that access to mentorship, production resources, and market linkages

significantly improves the success rate of young designers attempting to enter the industry. In Nigeria, where the creative economy continues to expand rapidly, fashion remains one of the most promising sectors for youth engagement. Industry observers note that with adequate support, the sector can generate employment, boost exports, and strengthen Nigeria's cultural influence globally. Organisers of the Ibeju-Lekki

programme say the long-term goal is to build a pipeline of skilled designers capable of competing both locally and internationally, while also contributing to economic growth within the community. As the incubator progresses, expectations remain high that it will serve as a model for how strategic partnerships can unlock opportunity, reduce unemployment, and empower the next generation of Nigerian fashion entrepreneurs.



# Alimosho Sets Up Task Force to Enforce Sanitation Laws

Kehinde Adeleye

**A**limosho Local Government has inaugurated a 10-man environmental sanitation task force, codenamed "Project Iron Shield," aimed at promoting a cleaner and healthier environment across the council area. The task force is mandated to ensure strict compliance with environmental laws by preventing

residents from littering streets, dumping refuse on road medians, or disposing of waste indiscriminately in public places. Speaking during the inauguration, the Chairman of the committee and Legal Officer of Alimosho Local Government, Mr. Taiwo Onayinka, said the initiative aligns with the environmental agenda of the Executive

Chairman, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson. He stated that the administration has prioritised environmental sustainability and public health as key pillars of its development strategy. "The administration of Hon. Akinpelu Johnson has placed environmental sustainability and public health at the heart of its development

agenda. The inauguration of this special task force is a demonstration of our commitment to ensuring a cleaner and healthier Alimosho for all residents," he said. Onayinka warned that the exercise is not symbolic, stressing that offenders would face strict enforcement measures. "This is not a mere publicity exercise. Anyone caught littering the streets or dumping

refuse indiscriminately will be arrested and prosecuted in accordance with the law. This administration takes the health and well-being of residents seriously and will not tolerate actions that endanger public health or contribute to the spread of communicable diseases," he added. He further assured residents that members of the task force would

undergo proper training and be equipped with necessary tools to carry out their duties professionally and responsibly without a abuse of power. Other members of the committee include Mrs. Elizabeth Odu, Head of the Department of Environment; Hon. Akin Falana, Supervisor for Environment; and Mr. Abayomi Tonteh, Chief of Staff to the Chairman.

# Akinsanya Hands Over Official Vehicles to Councillors

Kehinde Adeleye

In a demonstration of commitment to effective governance and improved service delivery, the Chairman of Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Snr. Comr. Lasisi Ayinde Akinsanya, has presented official vehicles to the Vice Chairman and members of the Legislative Council. The presentation ceremony, held at the Council Secretariat, attracted political office holders, management staff, party faithful, and other stakeholders who gathered to witness the event. Speaking at the ceremony, the Executive Chairman said the gesture was part of his administration's effort to provide the necessary support and working tools required for public office holders to effectively discharge their responsibilities. He noted that the Vice Chairman and councillors play key roles in governance and deserve adequate support to serve residents effectively. The official vehicles were presented to the Vice Chairman, Hon. Prince Adewunmi Dada, and the seven councillors representing various



wards in the council area. They include the Leader of the House, Hon. Tajudeen Olorunfemi; Deputy Leader, Hon. Oluwatosin Opebiyi; Majority Leader, Hon. Olawale Hassan; Chief Whip, Hon. Musbau Abolore; as well as Hon. Rashidat Mohammed, Hon. Engr. Haruna Akinyemi, and Hon. Saheed

Omotosho. Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Hon. Prince Adewunmi Dada expressed appreciation to the Council Chairman for the gesture, describing it as a reflection of his commitment to the welfare and effectiveness of elected officials. He assured that the vehicles would be used responsibly and in support of

policies and programmes aimed at advancing development in Igando-Ikotun LCDA. Also speaking, the Secretary to the Local Government, Hon. Mojisola Badmus, commended the Chairman for his commitment to good governance and inclusive leadership, noting that the initiative would strengthen

council operations and improve service delivery. In her remarks, the Council Manager, Mrs. Kemisola Lucy Adedeji, described the gesture as commendable and a reflection of efforts to enhance administrative efficiency within the council. She also praised the working relationship between the executive and

legislative arms, saying it remained vital to the continued growth and development of the LCDA. Dignitaries at the event included the APC chairman in Igando-Ikotun LCDA, Chief Aruna Ayuba Ikuologun, supervisors, the Council Treasurer, Mrs. Mopelola Dejonwo, and the NULGE branch chairman, Comr. Adesina Arowosafe, among others.

# Ikeja, Agege LGs Begin Plan for Akin Doherty Road Upgrade



Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Ikeja Local Government, Comrade Akeem Olalekan Dauda (AKOD), and the Chairman of Agege Local Government, Hon. Vinod Obasa, on Wednesday conducted a joint inspection of Akin Doherty Road ahead of plans for its reconstruction. The exercise was aimed at assessing the current state of the road and exploring modalities for a collaborative intervention between both local government areas, as the road serves as a boundary linking

Ikeja and Agege LGAs. For several years, Akin Doherty Road has been in a deplorable condition, leading to persistent traffic congestion, loss of productive time, and hardship for commuters, residents and businesses within the Guinness axis and surrounding communities. During the inspection, council engineers from both local governments, alongside private technical experts engaged for assessment, participated in

evaluating the road. Also present were the Council Manager of Agege Local Government, Chief Sogo, and other senior officials. Speaking during the exercise, AKOD reaffirmed his administration's commitment to improving infrastructure and easing transportation challenges across Ikeja. He said the condition of the road had long been a concern to residents and business owners, stressing that the joint effort marked

the beginning of a strategic partnership between Ikeja and Agege LGs to deliver a lasting solution. "The condition of Akin Doherty Road has become a source of concern to residents, business owners, and road users. As a responsive government, we cannot continue to watch our people suffer. This inspection marks the beginning of a strategic partnership between Ikeja and Agege Local Governments to deliver a lasting solution," he said. He

added that the planned reconstruction would ease movement, boost economic activities and improve the quality of life of residents. In his remarks, Hon. Vinod Obasa commended the collaboration between both councils, noting that development is best achieved when neighbouring local governments work together in the interest of the people. He stressed that the road is of significant importance to both communities and

assured that his administration is fully committed to the joint intervention. "Our administration is fully committed to this partnership, and together we will ensure that Akin Doherty Road receives the attention it deserves," he said. The inspection ended with technical assessments conducted by engineers from both councils, who are expected to submit recommendations to guide the planned reconstruction project.

## Books, Bytes and Brighter Futures

# Ikorodu Leo Club Revamps School Library, ICT Hub in Lifeline Project



By Emmanuel Daniji

For hundreds of students at Zumratul Islamiyyah Senior Secondary School in Igbogbo, Ikorodu, the school library was once just another facility in need of attention. Today, it stands transformed into a more vibrant centre for learning, research and digital exploration, thanks to a community-driven intervention led by the Ikorodu Diamond Leo Club and HOA Addicts. In a move aimed at strengthening educational development and promoting digital literacy among young learners, the organisations recently unveiled a fully renovated Library and ICT Hub

within the school premises. The project, commissioned on June 4, represents more than a physical facelift; it reflects a collective investment in the future of students who rely on the facility for academic growth and personal development. The renovation included the installation of a new computer set, replacement of worn-out furniture, provision of modern bookshelves, ceiling fans and window blinds, all designed to create a more conducive environment for teaching, learning and research. For students who spend long hours

preparing for examinations and seeking access to educational resources, the upgraded facility is expected to significantly improve their learning experience while exposing them to essential digital skills increasingly required in today's technology-driven world. The official commissioning and tape-cutting ceremony was performed by Lion Adeyinka Olufunmilola Olukokun, Vice Principal (Administration) of the school, who praised the club members and project partners for their commitment to educational advancement. Spe

aking during the event, President of the Ikorodu Diamond Leo Club, Leo Ashiru Owolabi Ismail, described the project as a legacy initiative designed to create lasting value for the school community. According to him, education remains one of the most powerful instruments for societal progress, making it imperative for organisations and individuals to contribute meaningfully to the learning environment of young people. He explained that the renovated library and ICT hub were conceived not merely as a community service project, but as a long-term investment in the intellectual development of students who will one day become leaders, professionals and changemakers. "We wanted to leave behind something that would continue to impact lives long after today," he noted, while expressing gratitude to members, partners and supporters who contributed to the successful execution of the project. The school's principal, while receiving the facility, expressed appreciation to the Ikorodu Diamond Leo Club and HOA

Addicts for what she described as a timely and thoughtful intervention. She noted that the improved learning environment would positively influence both teaching and learning activities within the school. She also encouraged students to maximise the opportunities provided by the upgraded facility and take ownership of its maintenance. Beyond the immediate benefits to the school, stakeholders at the event highlighted the broader significance of the project in addressing educational challenges within local communities. Leo Advisor, Lion Adedoyin Ogunbiyi, commended the club members for delivering a project that aligns with the humanitarian vision of Lions Clubs International, particularly in the areas of youth development and educational support. He urged young volunteers to remain steadfast in their commitment to community service, noting that initiatives such as the library renovation demonstrate the transformative power of collective action. District President, Leo Tunde

Lasisi, described the project as evidence of what can be achieved when young people unite around a common goal. He praised the club for identifying a genuine community need and responding with a solution capable of impacting generations of students. Similarly, Region 2 Director, Leo Keji Lawal, expressed pride in the accomplishment, describing it as a commendable initiative that reflects the values of service, leadership and community development. She encouraged students to take full advantage of the upgraded facility and remain focused on their academic pursuits. The commissioning ceremony drew an impressive gathering of Leo and Lion members, school administrators, students, community leaders and education stakeholders, many of whom described the project as a significant contribution to educational development in Igbogbo and the wider Ikorodu Division. As students filed through the newly renovated facility after the unveiling, the atmosphere reflected more than excitement over fresh furniture and improved infrastructure. It symbolised renewed hope that access to better learning spaces can help unlock opportunities, inspire ambition and shape brighter futures for the next generation.

# From Ikorodu to the Fast Lane: Meet Kanyinsola Ajayi, the 2026 Fastest Man in the World

By Emmanuel Daniji

Just a few years ago, Kanyinsola Ajayi was another ambitious youngster running through the streets and sports fields of Ikorodu, dreaming of greatness. Today, he is the name on the lips of athletics enthusiasts across Nigeria and beyond after becoming the fastest Nigerian man in history and, remarkably, the fastest man in the world so far in 2026. The 21-year-old sprint sensation stunned the athletics world when he blazed to a breathtaking 9.84 seconds in the men's 100 metres at the NCAA East Regionals in the United States on May 29, 2026. The performance not only secured his place among the elite sprinters on the global stage but also shattered a national record that had stood untouched for two decades. With that run, Ajayi eclipsed the legendary 9.85 seconds set by Nigerian sprint icon Olusoji Fasuba in 2006, officially becoming the fastest Nigerian ever over the blue-riband event. For many Nigerians, particularly residents of Ikorodu, the achievement is a source of immense pride. It is the story of



a local boy whose journey from community tracks in Lagos to international athletics stardom embodies resilience, talent and determination. Born on September 14, 2004, and raised in Ikorodu, Lagos State, Ajayi's sporting journey did not begin on the track. Like many young Nigerian boys, his first love was football. However, fate had other plans. His raw speed soon caught attention, leading him to switch his focus to athletics. His breakthrough came in 2021 when he dominated the Maltina School Games, winning both the 100 metres and 200 metres events. That performance announced him as one of Nigeria's

brightest sprint prospects. Under the guidance of Coach Olapade in Ikorodu and later with the Arena Athletics Club in Yaba, Lagos, Ajayi steadily refined his craft. His performances eventually earned him an athletic scholarship to Auburn University in Alabama, United States, where his rise accelerated dramatically. Today, he competes for the Auburn University Tigers and has become one of the most feared sprinters in collegiate athletics. Ajayi's meteoric rise has been marked by a series of milestones that continue to elevate his profile. In 2024, he captured the Nigerian National Championship title in the 100 metres, confirming his status as the country's

leading sprinter. That same year, he represented Nigeria at the African Championships in Douala, Cameroon, finishing fourth in the individual 100 metres and helping the national relay team secure a silver medal in the 4x100 metres event. His biggest moment of 2024 came at the Paris Olympic Games, where he announced himself to the world by winning his opening heat ahead of defending Olympic champion Marcell Jacobs. He subsequently advanced to the semi-finals, delivering one of the standout performances by a Nigerian athlete at the Games. If 2024 was his breakthrough year, 2025 was the year he became a global contender. At the NCAA Indoor Championships, Ajayi won silver in the 60 metres, clocking an impressive 6.52 seconds. Months later, he etched his name into Nigerian athletics history by becoming the first Nigerian man in 18 years to qualify for a World Athletics Championship 100-metre final. His semi-final time of 9.93 seconds at the World Championships in Tokyo ended a drought that had persisted since

Olusoji Fasuba reached the final in 2007. Ajayi eventually finished sixth in the world, a remarkable feat for an athlete still in the early stages of his career. Then came 2026. The year that transformed a promising athlete into a record-breaking phenomenon. Earlier in the season, Ajayi equalled the collegiate 60-metre record of American sprint star Christian Coleman, running 6.45 seconds to win the SEC Indoor Championships. He followed that achievement by capturing the NCAA Indoor Championship title while matching his own Nigerian and African indoor record of 6.45 seconds. But it was his explosive 9.84-second run at the NCAA East Regionals that truly changed everything. The performance instantly placed him at the top of the global rankings for the 2026 outdoor season and confirmed him as the new king of Nigerian sprinting. For athletics observers, Ajayi's rise signals a new era for Nigerian track and field. His success comes at a time when the country is searching for the next generation of

sporting heroes capable of competing consistently at the highest international level. Back home in Ikorodu, his story has become a powerful reminder that world-class talent can emerge from local communities when given the right support, guidance and opportunities. Beyond the medals and records, Ajayi's journey represents the aspirations of countless young Nigerians who dare to dream beyond their circumstances. At just 21 years old, he already holds the Nigerian and African indoor 60-metre record of 6.45 seconds and the Nigerian 100-metre record of 9.84 seconds. Yet many believe his best days are still ahead. As the world looks ahead to future World Championships and Olympic Games, one thing is becoming increasingly clear: the road to global sprinting glory may well pass through Ikorodu. And leading the charge is a young man whose speed is redefining what is possible for Nigerian athletics.

*\*Kanyinsola Ajayi is no longer simply Nigeria's fastest man. In 2026, he is the fastest man in the world.\**

# Imota Chairman, Northern Leaders Unite to Strengthen Community Peace

By Emmanuel Daniji

In a period when security concerns continue to dominate conversations across many parts of Nigeria, leaders in Imota Local Council Development Area (LCDA) are taking a different approach—one built on dialogue, inclusion and shared responsibility. Determined to preserve the peace and stability that have long defined the community, the Executive Chairman of Imota LCDA, Hon. Benson Sunday Ayodele, convened a high-level strategic meeting with leaders of the Hausa and Fulani communities resident within the council area. Held at the council secretariat on Tuesday, the meeting brought together key northern stakeholders, traditional leaders and government officials to discuss ways of strengthening security, promoting social harmony and preventing activities that could threaten the peaceful coexistence enjoyed by residents. For many participants, the gathering represented more than a routine stakeholder engagement. It reflected a growing recognition that effective security cannot be achieved solely through law

enforcement agencies but requires active collaboration between government, community leaders and residents themselves. Addressing attendees, Hon. Benson stressed that maintaining peace remains a collective duty that transcends ethnic, religious and geographical boundaries. According to the council chairman, every resident has a role to play in safeguarding the community and ensuring that Imota remains a safe environment for families, businesses and future generations. He called on the leadership of the Hausa and Fulani communities to strengthen internal monitoring mechanisms and encourage greater awareness among their members, particularly newcomers arriving from different parts of the country. The chairman emphasized the importance of educating new residents about the customs, values and peaceful traditions of the Imota people to foster mutual respect and understanding. "Imota has historically been a peaceful and hospitable home for all law-abiding Nigerians," Hon. Benson said.



"To sustain that peace, community leaders must serve as anchors of responsibility. They must know their members, monitor developments within their communities and continually promote peace, lawfulness and security consciousness." He noted that proactive sensitization remains one of the most effective tools for preventing misunderstandings, discouraging criminal infiltration and protecting communities from individuals seeking to exploit ethnic or social divisions for unlawful purposes. The chairman further observed that early intervention and information sharing often prove more effective than reacting after incidents have occurred. Responding on behalf of the northern communities, the Seriki Hausa of Imota LCDA, Mallam Ibrahim Bala, expressed appreciation to the council chairman and his administration for fostering an inclusive environment where

all residents feel represented and valued. He described the meeting as timely and necessary, noting that members of the Hausa and Fulani communities regard Imota as their home and remain committed to its peace, economic growth and development. Mallam Bala assured the council leadership that the message delivered during the meeting would be communicated to community members across the area. He pledged that the northern communities would continue to support efforts aimed at preserving law and order while promoting peaceful coexistence among all ethnic groups. Beyond the discussions, stakeholders reached several resolutions designed to strengthen community-based security structures and improve communication between residents and authorities. Among the agreements reached was a commitment by community leaders to hold regular sensitization

meetings focused on law-abiding conduct, responsible citizenship and the dangers of spreading unverified information capable of causing tension within communities. Participants also agreed on the need for improved identification and documentation of new migrants settling within local communities. The measure, stakeholders noted, would help prevent criminal elements from taking advantage of anonymity while posing as traders, artisans or labourers. Another key outcome of the meeting was the decision to establish a direct communication framework linking community leaders, the local council administration and security agencies. The initiative is expected to facilitate faster reporting of suspicious activities and enable authorities to respond proactively before situations escalate. Observers described the resolutions as practical steps toward

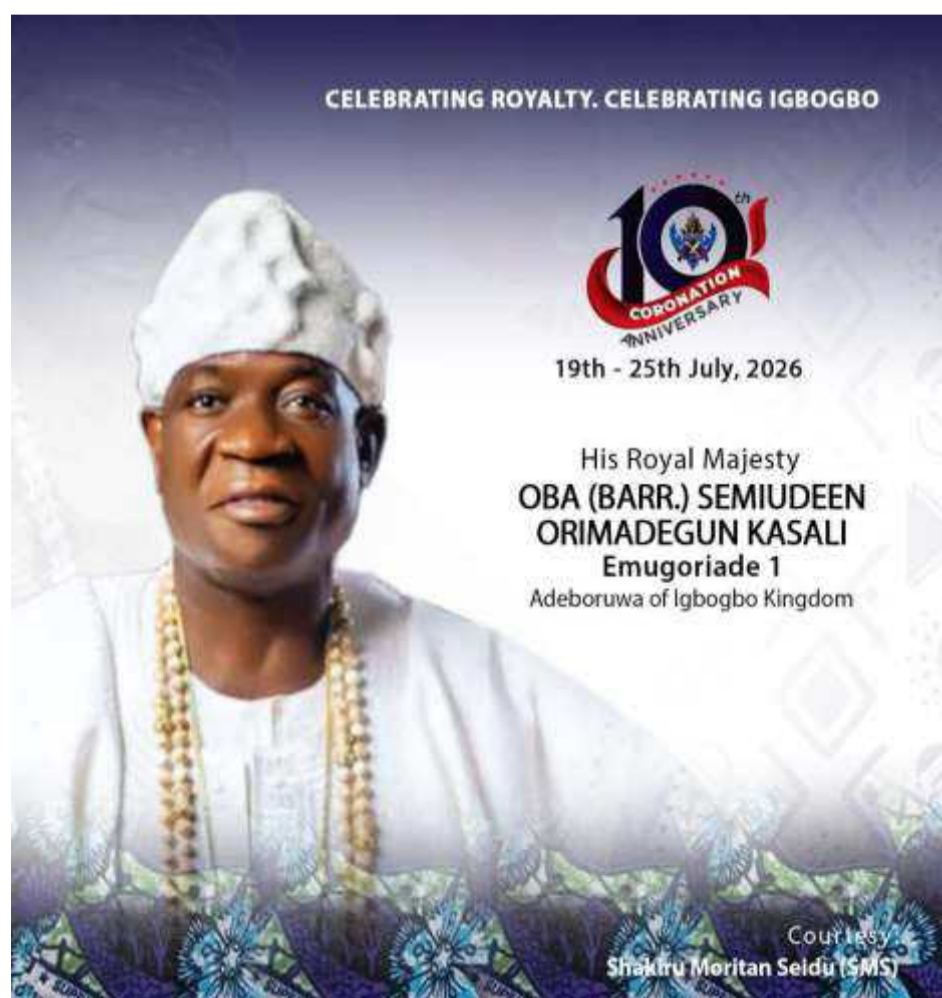
strengthening grassroots security and building trust among the diverse ethnic groups that call Imota home. The meeting also underscored the importance of dialogue as a tool for conflict prevention in a multicultural society where different communities live and work side by side. Present at the gathering were several top government officials, including Vice Chairman of Imota LCDA, Princess Abisoye Omowunmi Jimoh, and the Secretary to the Local Government, Hon. Mohammed Fagbesan. The legislative arm of the council was also strongly represented by its leadership, including Hon. Oluwole Adeshina, Leader of the Legislative Arm; Hon. Sunday Aberuagba, Deputy Leader; Hon. Jelili Busayo, Majority Leader; and Hon. Saidat Orewale, Chief Whip. As the meeting concluded, participants departed with a shared understanding that peace is not merely the absence of conflict but the result of continuous engagement, vigilance and mutual respect. For Imota LCDA, the gathering served as a reminder that sustainable security begins at the grassroots—where communities work together, trust one another and remain united in protecting the place they all call home.

## A Decade on the Throne

# Igbogbo Kingdom Prepares to Celebrate Adeboruwa's 10 Years of Leadership and Legacy

By Emmanuel Daniji

The ancient town of Igbogbo is set to come alive in celebration as residents, traditional institutions, community stakeholders and well-wishers prepare to mark a significant milestone in the history of the kingdom—the 10th Coronation Anniversary of His Royal Majesty, Oba (Barr.) Semiudeen Orimadegun Kasali, the Adeboruwa of Igbogbo Kingdom. The week-long celebration, scheduled to hold from July 19 to July 25, 2026, will commemorate a decade of royal leadership that many residents credit with fostering development, peace, cultural preservation and community progress across the kingdom. For the people of Igbogbo, the anniversary is more than a ceremonial event. It is an opportunity to reflect on ten years of traditional leadership and the role the monarch has played in strengthening the social, cultural and developmental fabric of the community. Since ascending the throne in 2016, Oba Kasali has emerged as one of the most prominent traditional rulers in Ikorodu Division, earning recognition for his commitment to community development, youth empowerment, cultural promotion and advocacy for improved infrastructure within the kingdom. Over the years, his reign has coincided with numerous developmental initiatives and increased engagement between the traditional institution, government agencies and community organizations working towards the advancement of Igbogbo and its people. Residents and stakeholders often point to the monarch's ability to unite various segments of the community while preserving the rich cultural heritage that has defined Igbogbo for generations. The forthcoming anniversary celebrations are expected to feature a series of activities showcasing the kingdom's history, traditions and achievements over the past decade. The events will also provide an avenue for indigenes at home and in the diaspora to reconnect with their roots and celebrate the progress recorded under the monarch's stewardship. Community leaders have described the occasion as a moment of gratitude and reflection, highlighting the importance of traditional institutions in promoting peace, preserving identity and supporting grassroots development. For many residents, the celebration will also serve as recognition of a reign that has witnessed growing cultural visibility for Igbogbo Kingdom and strengthened the town's position within the larger Ikorodu Division. As preparations gather momentum, anticipation continues to build across the community, with expectations that the anniversary will attract dignitaries, traditional rulers, political leaders, cultural groups and sons and daughters of the kingdom from across Nigeria and beyond. The event is expected to showcase the enduring relevance of traditional leadership in contemporary society while celebrating a monarch whose decade on the throne has become closely associated with unity, stability and progress. As Igbogbo Kingdom counts down to the historic celebration, one message resonates across the community: a decade of royal service is not merely a measure of time, but a testament to leadership, legacy and the enduring bond between a king and his people. For the people of Igbogbo, the forthcoming anniversary is both a celebration of the past and a hopeful look toward the future. And as the kingdom prepares to honour its revered monarch, the echoes of goodwill remain unmistakable—long live the Adeboruwa, and long live Igbogbo Kingdom.



# Oyekan Urges Residents To Combat Climate Challenges

By Saheed Afolabi



Prince Taiwo Oyekan, Chairman of Lagos Island Local Government, has raised the alarm over escalating environmental threats facing the area and the urgent need for proactive action to protect the community's future. In a statement addressing residents, Oyekan highlighted the pressing issues confronting the local environment. "Our environment is facing many challenges such as climate change, flooding and pollution," he said. The chairman stated that preserving a habitable environment is critical for the survival and well-being of current and future generations. "Our lives and future depend on habitable environment, let's keep the environment clean and green." The council boss remarks come amid growing concerns over recurrent flooding, poor waste management, and the broader impacts of climate change in Lagos. Lagos Island, with its dense population and historic significance, has often borne the brunt of these environmental pressures. Local government officials are expected to intensify sensitization campaigns, promote proper waste disposal practices, and encourage tree planting and green initiatives across wards in the area. Residents have been called upon to play active roles in maintaining cleaner surroundings, from avoiding indiscriminate dumping of refuse to supporting drainage clearance efforts.

# Folawiyo Boosts Sanitation Workforce With New Recruitment Drive

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Lagos Island East Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mr. Muibi Folawiyo, has approved the recruitment of additional members into the sanitation corps of the council's Environmental Sanitation Department. The move forms part of the administration's renewed commitment to strengthening environmental enforcement and sustaining a cleaner, healthier city. Announcing the recruitment, Folawiyo stated that the new officers will join existing corps members to intensify monitoring and compliance efforts across the LCDA. "The new recruitment drive is aimed at maintaining orderliness, ensuring public health and promoting environmental sustainability across Lagos Island East LCDA," he said. According to the chairman, the expanded sanitation team will focus on key areas including monitoring compliance with



environmental laws, curbing indiscriminate dumping of refuse, discouraging street trading in restricted areas, and enforcing proper waste management practices in all parts of the LCDA. "This expansion will boost

our capacity to ensure strict environmental compliance and maintain cleaner, healthier and more orderly public spaces across Lagos Island East." Reaffirming his administration's dedication, the chairman noted the

broader importance of the initiative. "I want to reaffirm my administration's commitment to creating a Cleaner City that prioritizes public health, safety and environmental sustainability, noting that effective sanitation enforcement

remains crucial to the city's broader beautification agenda." Once trained and deployed, the new officers are expected to collaborate closely with existing sanitation teams and community stakeholders to

promote a culture of cleanliness and environmental responsibility. The recruitment aligns with the city's long-term Cleaner Initiative, which seeks to embed sustainable environmental practices across Lagos.

# Lagos Island East Montessori Pupils Gain Real-World Insights

By Saheed Afolabi

**P**upils of Lagos Island East Montessori Nursery and Primary Schools recently embarked on an educational excursion to the Lagos Island East Local Council Development Area (LIELCDA) Secretariat, where they experienced firsthand the practical applications of their classroom lessons. In

a statement, the Chairman of Lagos Island East LCDA, Mr. Muibi Folawiyo, underscored the value of such outings. "Learning goes beyond the four walls of the classroom. Excursions are special times when books are packed up and pupils step out for real world experiences that bring lessons to life," he said. The pupils visited the LIELCDA

Secretariat at 64 Freeman Street. Although the Chairman was unavoidably absent due to an official assignment outside the council, the students were warmly received and guided by senior officials including the Council Manager, Mr. Johnson-Agiri, Alhaji Habeeb Abass, Mr. Oshodi (Head of

Department, Education), and Mr. Kolawole Ope (Special Adviser on Education). During the tour, the pupils were taken round the new LIELCDA Secretariat complex. A highlight of the visit was their tour of the R.F. Balogun Legislative Building, where the LIELCDA Legislature holds its sessions. The students had the unique opportunity to

observe and interact with the 10 LIELCDA Ward Councillors while they were in session. Folawiyo noted the educational impact of the visit, which will deepen their understanding of complex and curiosity issues. "observed, explored and engaged directly with what they study in class. This hands-

on approach deepens their understanding, sparks curiosity and makes learning memorable." He added that excursions like this are designed to connect theory with practice. "The excursion experience helps build confidence and inspire pupils to see education as both practical and exciting."

## MUSHIN

**T**he Chairman of Odi Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Mr. Seyi Jakande has revealed discussion with better health facilities with Otunba Lekan Ewenla, Managing Director of a leading Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), at the council secretariat. The high-level meeting focused on strategies to significantly improve towards healthcare infrastructure and services across the LCDA for the benefit of all residents. During the cordial

# Jakande Reveals Plan For Improved Health Facilities

discussion, Jakande emphasized that the health and well-being of the people remain a top priority of his administration. He assured Otunba Ewenla of the LCDA's total support and commitment towards upgrading existing clinics, enhancing accessibility to medical care, and reducing the cost of treatment for families in the

community. Ewenla commended Jakande for his dedication to residents welfare and expressed the HMO's readiness to partner with the LCDA. He stated that the organization is prepared to collaborate closely to ensure residents receive prompt and quality medical attention without unnecessary delays. Both parties agreed to work

By Saheed Afolabi

together on a concrete action plan aimed at delivering tangible improvements in healthcare service delivery across all wards of Odi Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA. Jakande reiterated his administration's openness to strategic partnerships that will bring lasting development to the health sector in the council area.



# Jakande Urges Staff To Be Proactive

**C**hairman of OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Mr Seyi Jakande has urged the council staff to be efficient and productive while doing their job on duty. Jakande embarked on a comprehensive inspection tour of all departments within the council secretariat, using the opportunity to personally assess operational challenges and staff welfare needs while charging workers to be more proactive in the discharge of their duties. Addressing staff during the tour, Jakande said the need for greater commitment and initiative from every worker. "I came here to see things for myself. When I know your genuine needs, I can vigorously fight for the resources required to meet them," Jakande said. He continued by urging every member of staff to be proactive, take ownership of their responsibilities, and show dedication to their work. A motivated and proactive workforce, he stressed, is the foundation for better service delivery to the



By Scheed Afolabi

Hon. Sheyi Jakande

people. He called for initiative, creativity, and urgency in how they serve residents. The inspection tour was specifically aimed

at identifying operational bottlenecks, evaluating staff welfare requirements, and ensuring that all departments are

adequately equipped to function effectively. At the end of the tour, the Chairman directed that comprehensive reports from the

various departments be compiled immediately to enable swift action on identified critical areas. He reaffirmed his

administration's unwavering commitment to building a more efficient, responsive, and people-oriented local government.

# LASIEC Schedules June 23 Bye-Election For Ward H Seat In Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA

By Saheed Afolabi



The Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission (LASIEC) has announced bye-elections in three electoral wards across the state to fill vacancies created by the untimely deaths of newly elected councillors shortly after their inauguration. In a notice signed by the Commission Chairman, Justice Bola Okikiola-Ighile (RTD), LASIEC stated

that the polls will be conducted in 2022. Ward H, Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA (Kayode/Fadeyi area), Ward C, Orimedu I, Ibeju-

Lekki Local Government, Ward F, Bajulaye, Shomolu Local Government. The bye-election in Ward H became necessary following the death of Councillor Zainab Shotayo, who represented the ward. She reportedly passed away on Monday after a brief illness. LASIEC has fixed Tuesday, June 23, 2026, as the date for the bye-elections across all polling units in the three wards. Registered political parties are required to collect nomination forms for their candidates at the LASIEC headquarters as preparations for the exercise begin. Ward H (C3) in Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA consists of 50 polling units within the Kayode/Fadeyi axis. The Commission has urged all stakeholders, residents, and voters in the affected areas to participate peacefully and adhere strictly to electoral guidelines.

# NAFDAC Lauds Aruwe, Seals Partnership On Drug Abuse Awareness

By Saheed Afolabi



awareness campaigns and delivering impactful community interventions to curb the menace of substance abuse. As part of the collaboration, a major sensitization programme on drug abuse awareness and prevention has been scheduled for Wednesday, 17th June 2026. Aruwe expressed gratitude to NAFDAC for the visit and the confidence reposed in his administration. He assured the agency of the council's full support and readiness to work together in safeguarding public health. "We will continue to back every initiative that protects the health and future of our people." Mushin Local Government is fully committed to this partnership for the benefit of all residents." The Chairman further pledged to mobilize Community Development Associations (CDAs), traditional rulers, and other key stakeholders to ensure the success of the health and developmental programmes in the area.

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has praised the Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe, for his exemplary leadership and strong commitment to public health and community

development. During a courtesy visit to the Chairman, a NAFDAC delegation led by Pharm. Chidi Uche, Pharmacovigilance Coordinator of the Lagos Office, highlighted that the agency's mandate extends far beyond seizing counterfeit and harmful drugs. The focus, they said,

is now on proactive awareness creation to combat drug abuse, misuse, and overdose, particularly among youths, pregnant women, and children. The delegation noted that Mushin was selected for this special initiative because of the Chairman's

outstanding people-oriented programmes, which have earned the local government recognition from both national and international stakeholders. The NAFDAC team expressed admiration Aruwe's accessibility and hands-on approach. "Unlike many public

officials who are often unreachable, Chairman Aruwe is always available and deeply committed to initiatives that improve the lives of residents." The visit culminated in a formal partnership between NAFDAC and Mushin Local Government aimed at intensifying health



# Animashaun Leads Expanded Security Dialogue in Epe

Atume Terfa

In a renewed push to strengthen safety and community protection, local stakeholders gathered in Epe for an expanded security engagement hosted by community leader Animashaun, bringing together traditional rulers, security agencies, youth representatives, and residents to address emerging security concerns in the area. The meeting served as a platform for open dialogue on improving intelligence sharing, strengthening collaboration between communities and security operatives, and enhancing rapid response to potential threats. Participants also reviewed existing security structures and identified areas where coordination could be improved to ensure more effective policing at the grassroots level. Security representatives at the engagement emphasised the importance of community participation in maintaining peace, noting that timely information from residents remains a critical tool in preventing crime and responding to incidents. They encouraged continuous cooperation between local vigilante groups, traditional institutions, and formal security agencies. Community leaders at the forum expressed concerns over issues affecting local safety, including sporadic criminal activities and the need for improved surveillance in vulnerable areas. They called for stronger government support in terms of equipment, personnel deployment, and sustained security presence. Animashaun, while addressing participants, reaffirmed the importance of unity in safeguarding the community, stressing that security is a shared responsibility that requires constant engagement and vigilance. He noted that the expanded forum was designed to move beyond discussions and on the need for stronger focus on practical, actionable steps that can improve safety outcomes in Epe. The engagement also highlighted the role of youth involvement in lasting peace and security stability in the area. The forum was widely viewed as a step forward in strengthening grassroots security coordination, with expectations that similar engagements will be sustained to address evolving challenges in the community.

# Oby Ezekwesili, Nollywood Stars Pay Tribute to Alex Ekubo



Kehinde Adeleye

Ekubo during a service of songs held ahead of his burial. The solemn event took place at the Monarch Event Centre in the Lekki area of Lagos State and attracted a large turnout of family members, friends, colleagues and admirers of the late actor. Among the dignitaries present was former Minister of Education, Oby Ezekwesili. The service featured

prayers, worship sessions and tributes led by renowned clerics, including Ituah Ighodalo and Jerry Eze. Gospel artistes who ministered at the event included Peterson Okopi, Ebuka Songs, Moses Bliss, Mercy Chinwo and the Laud Urban Choir. Several Nollywood stars were also in attendance, including Funke Akindele, Kate Henshaw, Omoni Oboli, Nancy Isime, Ini Edo, Ruth Kadiri, Ike Ogbonna, Stan Nze and Kunle Remi. Other notable guests included AY Makun, Frank Edoho, Cubana Chief Priest, Kcee, E-Money and Chike. Alex Ekubo passed away in a Lagos hospital on May 11, 2026, after a prolonged battle with advanced kidney cancer. The late actor is scheduled to be buried on June 18, 2026, in his hometown of Ujari Village, Abia State, where family, friends and fans are expected to pay their final respects.

**P**rominent Nollywood actors, gospel ministers and dignitaries gathered in Lagos on Wednesday to honour the memory of late actor Alex

# Joanna Rejects Jason Jae's One-Night Stand Narrative

Kehinde Adeleye

**F**ormer Big Brother Naija Season 10 housemate, Joanna, has denied claims made by her colleague Jason Jae that they had a "one-night stand" while in the BBNaija house. Joanna and Jason Jae shared an intimate moment the night before her eviction, although the camera angle shifted, leaving viewers uncertain

about what transpired between them. However, Jason Jae later described the incident in a post-show interview as a "one-night stand." Speaking during the second episode of the BBNaija reunion aired on Tuesday night, Joanna dismissed the claim, insisting that nothing intimate happened between them. She explained that she

was asleep when Jason came to her bed on the night in question, noting that the situation was misunderstood and misrepresented. "The very first interview Jason Jae had, he claimed that the incident was a 'one-night thing'. I was shocked like, 'Are you a baby?'" she said. Joanna added that she noticed Jason was visibly aroused and attempted to cover him up, but was later surprised

by his public narration of events. "I was sleeping when he came to my bed. I was very emotional because it was the night Thelma got evicted. I woke up to see him in my bed. He was hard as rock. I noticed it, and I tried to cover him up. Only for him to go out and say we had a one-night stand," she said. Jason Jae later apologised for his comments,

admitting that he should not have made such an

insinuation, although he maintained that he was not romantically interested in Joanna.



# BNXN Claims Lagos More Costly Than Los Angeles

**N**igerian singer Daniel Benson, popularly known as BNXN, has claimed that Lagos is more expensive than the United States. The singer, who disclosed that he has relocated to the US, said that apart from paying bills, life in America is less stressful compared to Lagos, where he noted that people often face constant

financial demands from strangers. Speaking during a recent livestream on TikTok, BNXN said he has observed significant differences in cost of living and daily experiences since

Kehinde Adeleye  
moving abroad. "I was telling someone, since I got to the United States, nobody has asked me to give them money. And people

are also suffering here," he said. He added that Lagos remains extremely expensive compared to cities like Los Angeles. "Lagos is super expensive. It is more expensive than Los Angeles. Aside from housing, every other thing in LA is not expensive. For instance, I am paying \$12,000 monthly for my rent. Here you just pay your rent, and you're good," he stated.

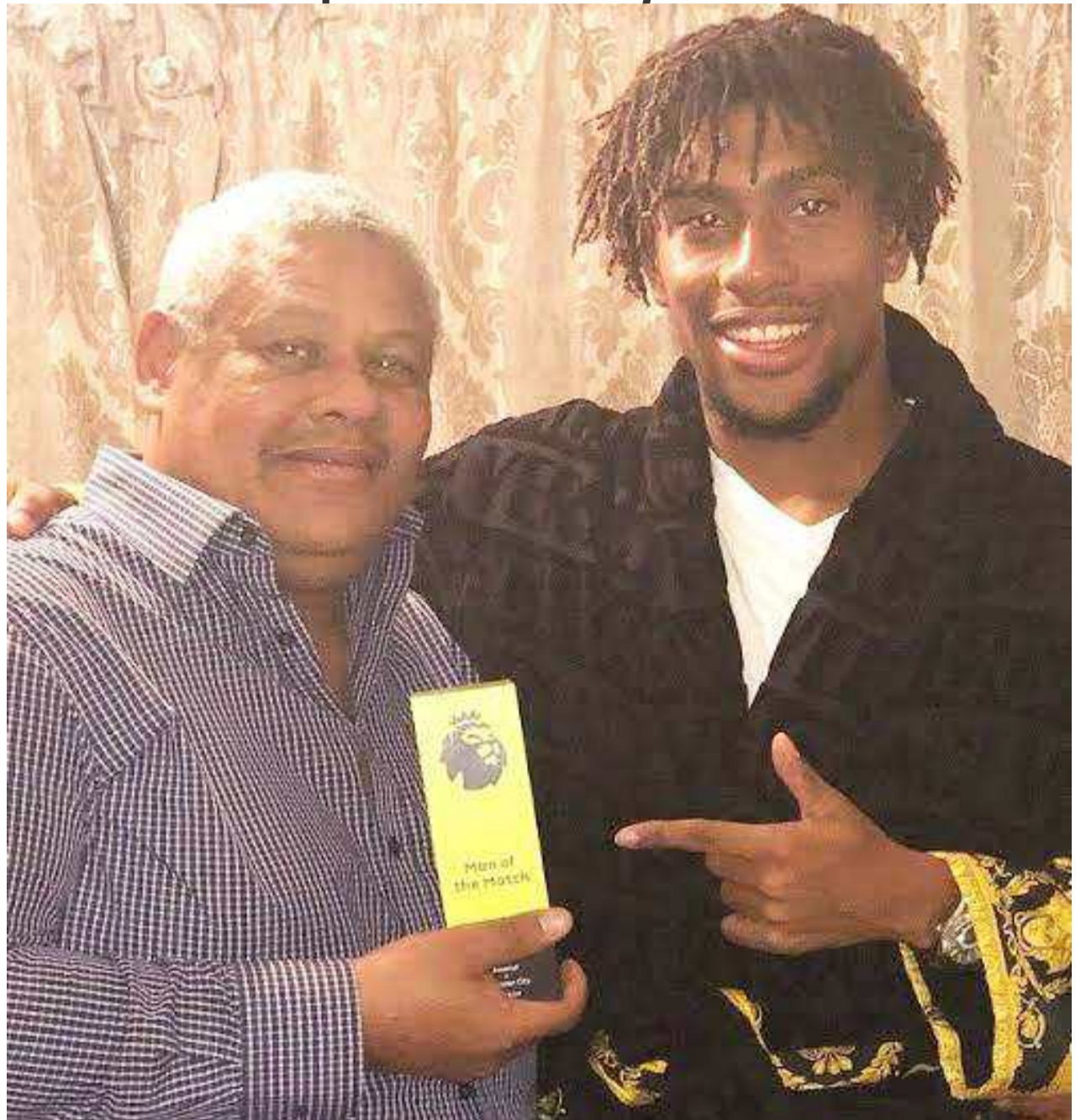


# Alex Iwobi Poised For Even More Super Eagles Caps, Says Proud Father

By Saheed Afolabi

**F**ulham star Alex Iwobi has been described as a determined and committed player with the potential to go well beyond his landmark 100th cap for Nigeria's Super Eagles. Barrister Chuba Iwobi, the player's father and a former footballer himself, expressed immense pride as his son reached the century mark. He reflected warmly on a journey that began in 2015, calling it an amazing chapter in the family's story. "We remain ever grateful to the nation for the opportunity Alex has been given. Little did we know that this was the beginning of an incredible journey, which would lead to him achieving the milestone of a hundred caps and the potential of many more." The former Arsenal youth captain has already

featured in four Africa Cup of Nations tournaments winning silver in 2023 and bronze medals in 2019 and 2025 as well as the 2018 FIFA World Cup. His father highlighted Alex's unwavering commitment whenever he pulls on the green-and-white jersey. "Alex loves playing for the nation and always gives his best. No one can ever question his commitment, devotion and patriotism," he added. "There have been highs and lows over the years, but he has emerged stronger. We are incredibly proud of his achievements and the experience of playing for the country. We pray that he continues to excel and that the Super Eagles repay the fans for their love and



support." Iwobi himself expressed deep gratitude to Nigerians at home and in the diaspora for their consistent support throughout his international career. Speaking ahead of his 100th appearance a friendly against Portugal in Leiria on Wednesday the attacking midfielder recalled his debut against DR Congo in

a similar friendly in Visé, Belgium, on October 8, 2015. "I am proud to be where I am today; proud to wear the green-and-white," Iwobi said. "I am grateful to everyone, including the coach who called me up to the team for the first time. I have no regrets choosing Nigeria." After 10 years and eight

months, I won't say I am a legend, I only see myself as a Super Eagles player. It feels great to be looking at a 100th cap, and on a lighter note, I wish I can add another 100 caps. I have enjoyed my time with the Super Eagles." The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) noted that Wednesday's Nigeria's match comes exactly 128 months after Iwobi's debut, with the milestone appearance also coming in a European friendly. One of the midfielder's most cherished moments remains his goal against Zambia at the Godswill Akpabio Stadium in Uyo in October 2017, which helped secure Nigeria's qualification for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

# Lagos Ex-internationals Cup: Dosu Responds To Narrow Defeat Against FC Barbington

By Saheed Afolabi



**F**ormer Nigerian international Joseph Dosu has expressed satisfaction with his team's performance despite a 2-1 defeat to FC Barbington in the opening match of the Lagos Ex-internationals Cup. The match, played at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena (popularly

known as Onikan Stadium), saw FC Barbington who adopted Ikorodu City FC for the competition edge past FC Dosu in a tightly contested encounter. The tournament, organised by the Lagos State Football Association (LSFA) and sponsored by Bet9ja Foundation, kicked off with 32

ex-internationals, each adopting and managing a team throughout the competition. Reacting to the slim loss, Dosu, a gold medalist from the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, praised his players for their spirited display. He described the game as tough but noted that his side gave everything until a defensive error led

to the decisive second goal. "It was a good outing for us despite our narrow defeat," Dosu said. "My boys were fantastic throughout the game and they gave everything to win. Unfortunately, we conceded the second goal as a result of an error from our defenders." "I want to commend and congratulate our opponents for

the hard-fought victory. Their victory was well deserved." Dosu further appreciated the match officials and the LSFA commissioner for ensuring a smooth and incident-free game. When asked about the return leg, Dosu remained optimistic but realistic, noting that both teams would face a difficult

challenge with equal chances of progressing. "It will be a tough game for both teams. The two sides have equal chances to move to the next round." Other Match Results (Day One) FC Giwa whipped FC Temile 5-2 FC Ekpolost Dosu remained 1-3 to FC Ipaye at home FC Oguntuase suffered a 0-1 defeat to FC Omoruyi at home

# NSC Selects Aberdeen As Nigeria's Pre-Commonwealth Games Training Base

By Saheed Afolabi



in addition to the overseas camp, local training camps will commence across the country this Tuesday. These will focus on early conditioning, comprehensive medical screenings, technical preparations, and improved logistics. "The welfare of our athletes is non-negotiable." They are the heartbeat of our mission to Glasgow, and every decision we make must reflect that priority. The era of excuses is over. Glasgow 2026 is about delivering results. "This is our opportunity to show that Nigerian sports is firmly back on track

The National Games in Glasgow. NSC Director-General, Mr Bukola Olopade, made the announcement while unveiling a comprehensive preparation roadmap for Team Nigeria. The Games are scheduled to run from July 22 to August 2, 2026, with preparations set to kick off this Tuesday. Olopade said the need for federations to uphold rigorous selection standards and prioritise athlete welfare, discipline, and performance excellence. He urged all stakeholders to align with the NSC's performance-driven strategy. "Aberdeen was selected because of its world-class facilities, climate that closely mirrors that of Glasgow, and its proximity to the Games Village," Olopade explained during a meeting with officials from various national sports federations. In addition to the overseas camp, local training camps will commence across the country this Tuesday. These will focus on early conditioning, comprehensive medical screenings, technical preparations, and improved logistics. "The welfare of our athletes is non-negotiable." They are the heartbeat of our mission to Glasgow, and every decision we make must reflect that priority. The era of excuses is over. Glasgow 2026 is about delivering results. "This is our opportunity to show that Nigerian sports is firmly back on track and truly athlete-centred." The NSC chief expressed strong confidence that the 2026 Games will mark Nigeria's most successful Commonwealth Games performance to date.



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Published by Echoneews Newspapers Limited

21, Ona Iwa Mimo Street, Ori Oke Bus Stop, Ejigbo, Lagos. www.echoneews.ng Email: echoneews1111@yahoo.co.uk  
 Managing Editor: Obe Rasheed • Editor: Kunle Awosiyan Circulation: Opeyemi Akinlade • Adverts: 08025378799