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Commitment



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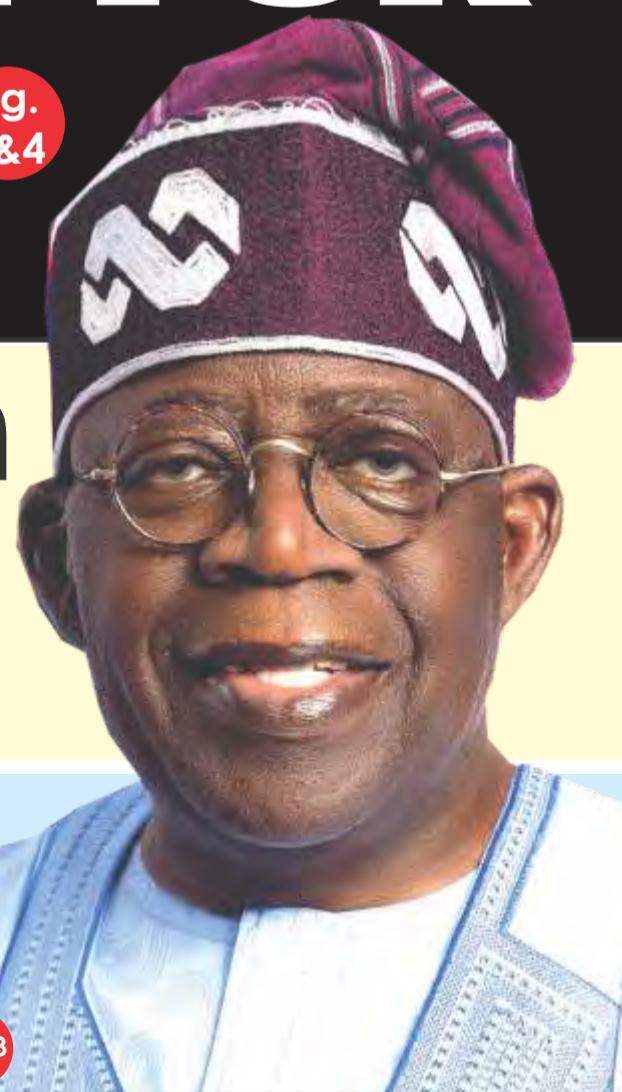
LAGOS COMMUNITIES EDITION

A publication of Echonews Newspapers Limited

Monday 16th February - Sunday 22nd February 2026

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Lagos Creates Over 15, 000 Jobs Through "Agripreneurship"

Tinubu loyalists launch early campaign for 2027 polls

By Kunle Awosiyan

Political mobilisation in support of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's potential re-election bid in 2027 appears to be gathering momentum across Lagos State and among diaspora communities, with a series of grassroots engagements, rallies, and organisational initiatives linked to the administration's Renewed Hope Agenda.

This is seen as a proactive measure to abate the repeat of 2023 presidential poll in which the candidate of the Labour Party, Mr. Peter Obi won the state by nearly 10,000 votes, a 0.77% margin, in a massive upset over the former state Governor Bola Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress.

Mr Obi secured 582,454 votes to defeat his closest challenger, Bola Tinubu of the APC, who scored 572,606 votes while Atiku Abubakar of the PDP came third with 75,750 votes.

However, Lagos State Government, alongside leaders of the All Progressives Congress (APC), has intensified activities aimed at promoting the administration's policies and strengthening party structures ahead of the next electoral cycle.

Last week, Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu inaugurated Renewed Hope Ambassadors across the state's 20 Local Government Areas (LGAs). The ceremony, held in Ikeja, was attended by Conference 57 Chairman, Hon. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa, and other political stakeholders.

The initiative is designed to promote President Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda at the grassroots level, focusing on community engagement, policy implementation, and mobilisation.

Director-General and Chief of Staff to the Governor, Mr. Tayo Ayinde, who also serves as Lagos State's Renewed Hope Ambassador,



President Bola Ahmed Tinubu

played a central role at the event.

Vehicles were presented to the ambassadors to facilitate coordination and outreach across LGAs. According to organisers, the initiative is expected to enhance mobilisation efforts while promoting programmes related to poverty alleviation, inclusive governance, and sustainable development.

Governor Sanwo-Olu emphasised the ambassadors' role in bridging the gap between government policies and

grassroots communities, noting that effective engagement would help ensure federal and state programmes deliver measurable benefits.

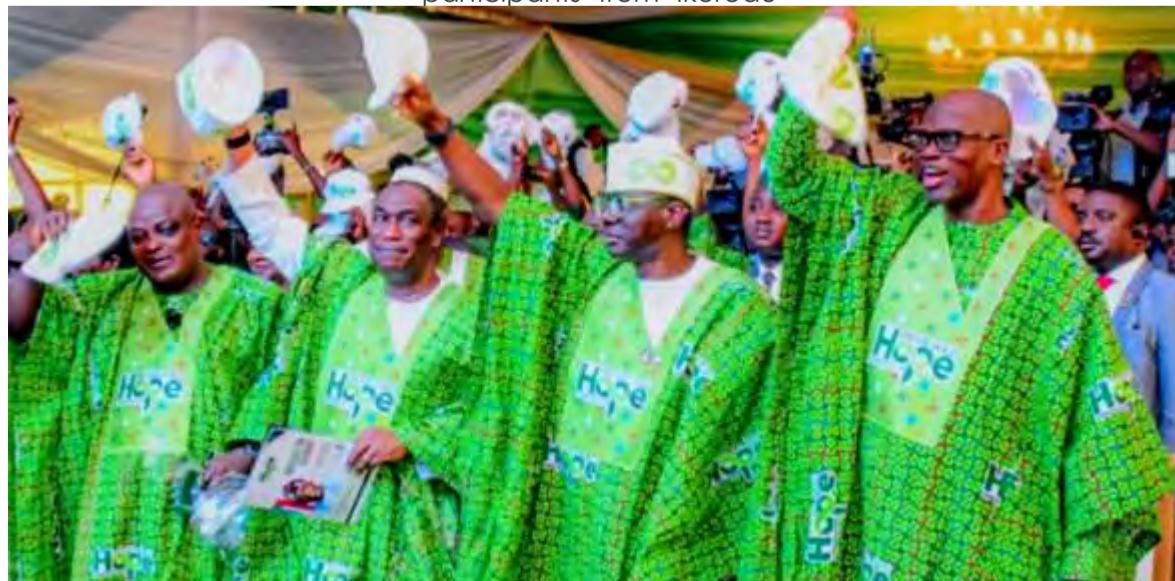
Meanwhile, political leaders, traditional rulers, youth groups, and community stakeholders in Ikorodu Division have publicly declared support for President Tinubu ahead of 2027.

The endorsement was announced during the "Ikorodu Division Unites for 2027 Rally," which drew participants from Ikorodu

Central, Ikorodu North, Ikorodu West, Igbogbo-Baiyeku, Ijede, and Imota.

Speakers at the rally highlighted what they described as achievements of the current administration, including economic reforms, infrastructure expansion, social intervention programmes, and security initiatives.

Traditional rulers within the division also expressed support. Speaking at the palace of the Ayangburen of Ikorodu and Paramount Ruler of the division, Oba



(Engr.) Kabiru Adewale Shotobi, monarchs described the administration as pivotal to national development and stability.

Lagos APC Chairman, Pastor Cornelius Ojelabi, commended residents of Ikorodu for what he described as early mobilisation and longstanding loyalty to progressive politics.

Similarly, Chairman of the occasion, Dr. Onafowokan Bolaji Titilola, described the gathering as driven by conviction rather than party allegiance, while Ikorodu Local Government Chairman, Hon. Adedayo Abayomi Abdul-Lateef Ladega, urged residents to obtain their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) ahead of the elections.

Lawmakers representing the division, including Hon. Ogunleye Gbolahan Adetokunbo and Hon. Aro Moshood Abiodun, acknowledged economic challenges facing the country but expressed optimism that ongoing reforms would yield long-term benefits.

Chairman of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, highlighted infrastructure development, economic restructuring, and gender-inclusive governance as indicators of progress under the administration.

House of Representatives member for Ikorodu Federal Constituency, Hon. Babajimi Benson, cited programmes such as the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND), creation of Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs), and the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway project as examples of strategic leadership initiatives.

Senator Mukhaili Adetokunbo Abiru also reaffirmed the division's support, emphasising collaboration between legislative and executive arms of government as critical to sustaining reform momentum.



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Tinubu loyalists launch early campaign for 2027 polls

Continued from page 2

Also the former Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Kehinde Bamigbetan, has called for sustained grassroots mobilisation in support of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's second-term bid ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Bamigbetan made the appeal during his monthly meeting with grassroots politicians at his Ejigbo residence in Lagos, where he commended party members for their strong turnout at the ongoing All Progressives Congress (APC) membership registration exercise.

He urged attendees to intensify sensitisation efforts within their communities, stressing the importance of voter mobilisation and participation to secure Tinubu's re-election in 2027.

The former commissioner, who currently serves as Special Adviser to the Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Dele Alake, described the meeting as encouraging, noting the large number of loyalists in attendance.

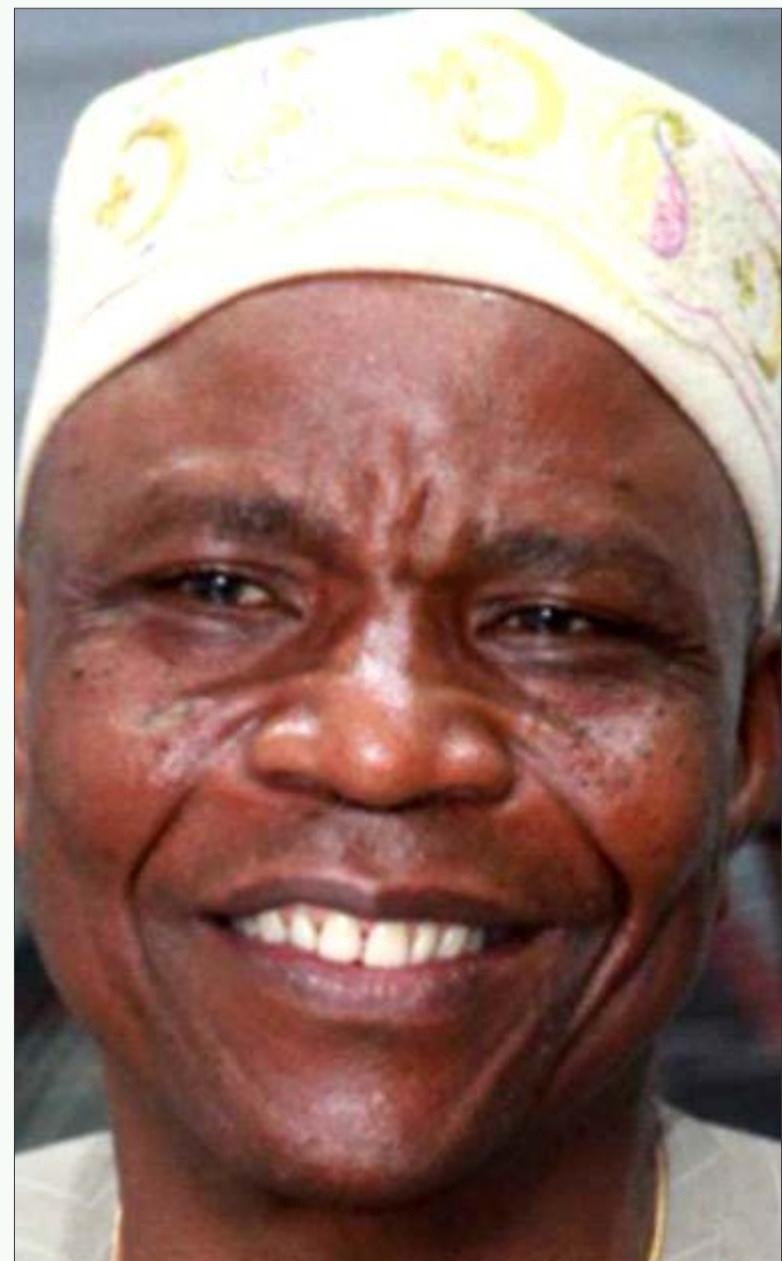
He emphasised that early mobilisation and sustained grassroots engagement remain critical to consolidating party structures and advancing the Renewed Hope Agenda at the community level.

Late last year, a member of the House of Representatives from Ikeja constituency, James Abiodun Faleke had launched the Presidential Coalition Council (PCC) to advocate for the re-election of President Tinubu in 2027, urging Nigerians to support the consolidation of his reforms.

Faleke, who was the Director General of the 2023 Tinubu Campaign Council, is championing the 2027 bid, arguing that



Gov. Sanwo-Olu



Ojelalabi

Tinubu's reforms are necessary for stability.

In Otto-Awori, the Lagos4Lagos Movement within the APC inaugurated Street Captains tasked with coordinating grassroots mobilisation, voter education, and party organisation across neighbourhoods.

Each Street Captain will supervise 100 mobilisers per street as part of the JAGABAN/JANDOR 2027 Project aimed at strengthening party presence at the grassroots level.

APC State Chairman, represented by Lagos West Senatorial Youth Leader Hon. Rasheed Gbosa, described the initiative as essential to voter engagement and party discipline.

APC leader Chief

Shakirudeen Ola Apena used the forum to advocate greater political consideration for Badagry Division, noting its economic potential in tourism, maritime trade, aquaculture, and the blue economy. He also identified Dr. Abdul-Azeez Olajide Adediran (JANDOR) as a preferred APC governorship aspirant for 2027.

Political mobilisation has also extended beyond Nigeria's borders. In Accra, Ghana, the West Africa Chapter of the APC Youth Wing organised a town hall meeting where participants endorsed President Tinubu for a second term.

The event, themed "Back Home, Still Involved," attracted youth leaders, government officials, stakeholders, and Nigerian youths from

across West Africa.

Organisers said the meeting was aimed at strengthening diaspora participation in Nigeria's political process and expanding party structures across the sub-region. The APC Youth Wing West Africa disclosed that it is already operational in Togo, Benin Republic, and Côte d'Ivoire, with plans to establish additional secretariats.

Lagos State Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mr. Mobolaji Ogunlende, described diaspora youths as a critical constituency capable of influencing national development. APC Youth Leader in Lagos State, Hon. Muritala Ishola Seriki, urged young people to move beyond political awareness to active participation.

Director-General of the APC Youth Wing West Africa, Hon. Gideon Olatunde Igbasan, cited youth-focused programmes such as NELFUND, the Three Million Technical Talent Programme, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) expansion, and housing initiatives as indicators of youth-centred governance.

Organisers disclosed plans to replicate similar town hall meetings across West African countries. Observers Note Early Political Alignments

Political observers note that while the 2027 general election is still some distance away, early mobilisation activities by political stakeholders may signal emerging alignments and strategic positioning ahead of the polls.

LASVO Commences Statewide Infrastructure Assets Valuation

The Lagos State Valuation Office (LASVO) has announced the commencement of a comprehensive statewide valuation of all government-owned infrastructural assets. This was disclosed during a meeting at the LASVO office in Alausa, where the Director, Esv. Dr. Adekunle Awolaja, received the project's Lead Consultant, Esv. Ayoola Oladapo, and other members of the consulting team were appointed to execute the assignment.

Speaking further at the meeting, Dr. Awolaja explained that the infrastructure assets valuation constitutes the eighth phase of Lagos State's implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) on an accrual basis, a reform initiative the State has consistently pursued since 2016.

According to him, the valuation exercise is designed to ensure that all public infrastructure



assets owned by the Lagos State Government are properly identified, measured, documented, and reported in line with international accounting and valuation standards. "All data generated from this exercise will be captured and uploaded to a centralised Lagos State Government assets database," Dr. Awolaja stated. "Lagos State remains a trailblazer

and, to the best of our knowledge, the only state in Nigeria to have undertaken such an extensive and structured valuation of public infrastructure assets."

He identified key stakeholder Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) for the exercise, including the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the Ministry of Waterfront Infrastructure Development, and the

Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA).

The primary objective is to ascertain the total worth of all public infrastructure in Lagos State, Awolaja explained, adding that the valuation exercise is crucial for determining accurate insurance values and enhancing the state's capacity for financial planning and asset management.

He highlighted the vast scope of the exercise,

noting that assets include over 279 roads currently under construction by the state government, along with numerous jetties, canals, and bridges.

In his words, "Lagos State has a history of pioneering financial reforms in Nigeria, notably being the first sub-national government to adopt the accrual basis of IPSAS for its financial reporting. The shift from traditional cash-based

accounting to a comprehensive accrual system aligns the state with global best practices in public financial management.

"This valuation is critical for determining accurate insurance values, strengthening asset management practices, improving financial planning, and enhancing transparency and accountability in public sector financial reporting. It will also provide a reliable basis for informed decision-making, budgeting, and long-term infrastructure sustainability".

The Director of LASVO thanked the entire citizenry of Lagos while enjoining the general public to give the required assistance and cooperation to the team in having a seamless and effective exercise.

In his remarks, the Lead Consultant, Esv. Ayoola Oladapo, thanked the Lagos State Government for entrusting his team with the critical assignment. He reiterated the team's commitment to delivering a thorough and accurate valuation in line with the project's timeline and objectives.

LASRRA, IDENTIKO Solutions Review Registration System

The Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) has held a strategic review meeting with its registration software partner, Identiko Integrated Solutions, to assess the status of critical components of the Agency's registration infrastructure.

The meeting, held on Friday, 6th February 2026, at Ikeja, Lagos, focused on a comprehensive review of the registration system support framework, disaster recovery architecture, and the upgrade from 10 to 20 million record capacity. This review underscores



LASRRA's continued dedication to leveraging technology to improve residents' registration services, enhance data security, and support effective identity management across Lagos State. During the

engagement, Identiko Solutions reviewed the current status of the project, which began in January 2023 to December 2025. The outstanding system performance against agreed benchmarks was identified and

evaluated. Particular attention was given to the robustness of the support system, the effectiveness of disaster recovery mechanisms, and the expanded capacity to accommodate Lagos State's growing

population. The General Manager, LASRRA, Bilkiss Adebiyi-Abiola, in her remarks, commended Identiko Solutions for constantly improving its services.

She also expressed her concern about the Android device for registration that will be deployed in due course. "A field support on the Android should be provided, and the database should easily be managed by LASRRA without running to the service provider", she said.

The CEO of Identiko Solutions, Mr. Jide Agbaje promised to continue improving people's technology. "In the last three years, we

have put technology in place. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is for the benefit of the residents. This should be the next stage of the service, where residents can use this to access government services", Agbaje concluded.

Present were all LASRRA divisional supervisors, station managers, some top management of Identiko Solutions, the project manager, Enitan Samson; the IT Service Manager, Opeyemi Adeyeye; Head, Infrastructure Services, Tope Adesoye; Application and Service Manager, Jide Ogundipe; all heads of departments and Units of LASRRA.

LASEPA, UNIDO, Japan Deepen Cholera Prevention Advocacy

The Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA), in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Government of Japan, have advanced its statewide cholera prevention campaign with a fresh round of public sensitisation and capacity-building activities in the Badagry West Local Council Development Area (LCDA) of the State.

The latest engagement forms part of Project 240236, titled "Emergency Capacity Building of the Informal Food and Water Vendors and Waste Workers in Flood-Affected Lagos to Combat Cholera Outbreaks."

The initiative is designed to equip informal food handlers, water vendors, and

waste workers with practical knowledge and preventive measures to reduce the spread of cholera and other waterborne diseases across Lagos State.

Before the Badagry West LCDA exercise, the Awareness-Raising Seminar Workshop had been conducted in Lagos Island, Alimosho, Ojo, Kosofe, Ikorodu and Lagos Mainland, making the Badagry event the 8th session in the ongoing advocacy drive.

Held at Custom Quarters, Seme Border, Badagry, the sensitisation programme attracted a wide range of stakeholders, including food and water vendors, waste handlers, students, artisans, market leaders, community members, and environmental health officials. Discussions focused on

environmental hygiene, safe food handling practices, access to clean and potable water, and proper waste management - particularly during the rainy season when cholera risks are heightened.

Speaking at the event, the General Manager of LASEPA, Dr. Babatunde Ajayi explained that the agency's responsibilities under the project include identifying sources of water contamination, strengthening public awareness, and building community capacity for effective waste management and pollution prevention.

Dr. Ajayi commended UNIDO and the Government of Japan for their continued support, noting that the project emphasises direct community engagement to ensure

that critical health messages are understood and adopted at the grassroots level.

He added that environmental health enforcement would be intensified to promote compliance with sanitation regulations and curb practices that endanger public health.

Also speaking, the General Manager of the Lagos State Wastewater Management Office, Engr. Adefemi Afolabi, represented by Mr. Olusegun Denasohin praised LASEPA's collaboration with UNIDO and the Government of Japan for bringing the initiative to Badagry West LCDA.

Engr. Afolabi warned that cholera is a highly dangerous disease capable of causing death within a short time if not prevented, stressing that poor

access to potable water, inadequate sanitation, open defecation, and improper wastewater disposal significantly increase the risk of outbreaks.

Representing the Chairman of Badagry West LCDA, the Director of Environmental Health Services, Mrs. Sesi Okoosi-Adepoju emphasised the importance of cleanliness and environmental sanitation.

She reiterated that unhealthy surroundings often lead to adverse health outcomes and applauded UNIDO and LASEPA for driving sustainable development through grassroots sensitisation. She also acknowledged the efforts of food handlers, water vendors, waste pickers (PSP operators), and other government stakeholders.



Lagos Safety Commission Hosts ISPON

The Lagos State Safety Commission (LSC) has reaffirmed its commitment to strategic partnerships aimed at deepening safety awareness and compliance across the state.

The Director-General of the Commission, Mr. Lanre Mojola, reiterated this while welcoming a delegation from the Institute of Safety Professionals in Nigeria (ISPON) on a courtesy visit to the Agency.

He said the visit will encourage open engagement and assured the visitors of the Commission's readiness to collaborate with the institute in advancing safety standards.

Mojola noted that greater achievements are possible through collaboration, stressing that the Commission remains open to partnerships that promote safety in Lagos State.

He advised the visiting team to copy the Safety Commission in their correspondence to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, particularly on matters relating to safety initiatives.

The Director-General recalled that some safety-related training had been observed about two years ago, focusing on safe work practices and effective safety management. He disclosed that the Commission's major focus for the year includes market safety and transportation safety, adding that the Commission has already partnered with several professional



institutes and remains open to further collaboration.

"There is no harm in partnering with Lagos State," Mr. Mojola said, emphasising that the state is open to all credible stakeholders in the area of safety.

Speaking earlier, the President of the Institute of Safety Professionals in Nigeria, Chief Stephen Udezi, said the visit, which was long overdue, was geared towards the exchange of views between both parties on strengthening safety culture, especially at the grassroots level. He noted that since

assuming office, he had been eager to engage directly with the Lagos State Safety Commission, just as he expressed appreciation to the Commission's management for receiving his team and requested that the Lagos Safety

Boss convey the Institute's goodwill and greetings to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

Chief Udezi appealed to the Lagos State Government to support efforts aimed at taking safety advocacy to the grassroots, through continuous engagement and progressive visits, to achieve better

safety outcomes for Nigerians, particularly in Lagos State.

He also commended the Governor's safety initiatives, citing a recent safety memo which he described as a "pleasant birthday gift" to him, in recognition of the positive direction of safety governance in the state.

Among other requests, Udezi urged that the Lagos State Safety Commission be formally listed among the Institute's recognised bodies. He further requested the Director-General's support in facilitating a visit to the Governor's

Office, where the Institute hopes to formally honour Governor Sanwo-Olu with a Progressive Safety Award, in appreciation of the safety transformations witnessed in Lagos State as the first in sub-Saharan Africa.

He also expressed the Institute's strong interest in a formal partnership with the Commission, stating that such collaboration would significantly advance safety professionalism and compliance, he added that regulators in the oil and gas industry should partner with

ISPON as corporate members.

Responding to the concern about the possibility of subsidising certification for individuals who may not have a formal education.

Chief Udezi explained that while some categories of participants undergo formal schooling, junior-level cadres are also accommodated within the Institute's training framework. Another member of the delegation Dr. (Mrs) Monica Nwosu emphasised the need to find effective ways to synchronise the activities of the Institute with those of the Lagos State Safety Commission.

Technical Advice, Safety Commission, Mr. Seun Awojobi in his vote of thanks said the Commission is poised to leave a legacy that will endure. He noted that standardisation and basic safety training, sensitisation, advocacy coordination and compliance should be prioritised before certification of the informal sector.

Chairman, ISPON, Lagos branch, Mr. Olusola Ogunleye remarked that improving attendance procedures and streamlining processes would help accelerate engagement and enhance overall efficiency. The meeting ended with mutual assurances of continued dialogue and collaboration towards strengthening safety culture and protecting lives and property across Lagos State.



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Lagos, C40 Cities Partner To Hand Over Ikosi Fruits Market Biogas Plant

The Lagos State Government and the C40 Cities have collaborated to launch and hand over the iconic Ikosi Fruit Market Biogester Plant for the conversion of generated organic waste into energy.

Speaking during the Launch and Handing over ceremony, held at the Ketu Fruit Market, the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab said that the facility is a resounding success for the Ikosi community, the State and for generations to come. He said Lagos State and C40 cities are not commissioning a facility but unveiling a vision on how Lagos can turn the everyday challenges into powerful opportunities, saying the Biogas Plant represents a bold step in re-imagining waste, not as a burden, but as a valuable resource that can drive sustainability, resilience and inclusive growth.

He emphasised that the bio-gas would be used for electricity and cooking gas while the high-quality organic fertiliser can be packaged and sold back to the local farmers in order to strengthen the resilience of the food system by improving the soils, closing the nutrient loop and promoting sustainable agriculture.

He added that the facility will systematically collect the market's organic waste and feed it into an anaerobic digester, saying "In this controlled environment, natural bacteria will break



down the waste without oxygen to produce biogas, and in doing so will carry out a remarkable process of biological transformation that yields two invaluable products, biogas and biofertilizer".

According to him, the project goes far beyond Ikosi. It reflects a much bigger ambition for Lagos State. The initiative is being implemented in partnership with C40 Cities and UK International Development under the Climate Action Implementation programme.

"Through this collaboration, Lagos continues to show leadership by translating international climate commitments into practical, community-level action", he added.

Wahab said the Biogas Plant is more than machinery and pipes but it is a symbol of transformation, adding that the launch affirms a simple but powerful truth which states that the future of sustainable cities is built not only in boardrooms and policy documents, but

right in the markets, communities and in the daily activities of all.

He explained that the Ikosi fruit market, on a daily basis, generates tons of organic waste from fruit peels to vegetable trimmings to unsold produce just like many markets across the state, saying these materials have traditionally ended up in landfills or open dumps.

He added that the wastes clog the drains, create unpleasant odours, pose serious health risks and add to the growing waste problem in the city, adding that when these wastes decompose, it releases methane, a highly potent greenhouse gas that contributes significantly to climate change and also degrades the environment and undermines public health.

He said the project has transformed a long-standing problem into a practical solution instead of rotting in dumps, adding that organic waste from this market will now be converted into clean, sustainable biogas for

cooking and electricity.

He averred that it will produce nutrient-rich organic fertiliser that can be used on the farms, stressing that this is circular economy in action and includes closing the loop, reducing emissions, creating value and improving livelihoods.

The Commissioner said while the world debates climate change in conference halls, Lagos is implementing real solutions on the ground in the markets and in the neighbourhoods. He said the government is proving that climate action can be local, practical and economically sensible as such Lagos is showing that a traditional market can be a leader in the green economy of the 21st century.

He stated further that by formalising and improving waste management in this market, improving sanitation conditions for traders, workers and residents. Clean markets mean healthier communities, reduced disease transmission, and a more dignified environment for

everyone.

He added that the initiative perfectly demonstrates the circular economy: fruit is grown, sold and consumed; the waste is converted into energy and fertiliser; and that fertiliser goes back to the soil to grow more fruit. Nothing is wasted.

He reiterated that Lagos State celebrated a vision where waste transforms into wealth, environmental responsibility meets economic opportunity and local innovation addresses global challenges.

Earlier in his welcome address, the

Permanent Secretary,

Office of the

Environmental

Services, Taiji

Omobilaji said the

project represents the

power of innovation,

collaboration and

technology, adding

that for a long time,

traders have grappled

with the challenge of

waste management.

He stressed that the

Ikosi Fruit Market

Biogas Plant provides

an ingenious solution

that is transforming

what was once

considered "waste"

into valuable

resources. He encouraged everyone to explore the facility, engage with the team and witness firsthand how waste is transformed into energy which is a true symbol of progress and hope for the environment.

In his speech, the C40 Cities Regional Director, Africa, Mr. Anthony Okoth expressed appreciation and gratitude for the completion of the project, saying the biogester will work to treat and convert waste right from the market.

He said C40 Cities collaborates with 14 other countries around Africa, stating that Lagos is the biggest of these cities and their collaboration is working to address sanitation waste matter and climate change issues

In her remarks, the Chairman of Ikosi-Isheri LCDA, Princess Abolanle Bada, represented by the Vice Chairman, Hon. Olayinka Ogunleye appreciated the Lagos State Government and C40 Cities for choosing Ikosi as a beneficiary of the project.

He added that the initiative will improve sanitation within the market as well as empower the market traders thereby strengthening the local economy.

He was elated that the project would provide reliable electricity to support daily activities in the market, saying this would reduce energy costs and increase productivity, translating into a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

Lagos Creates Over 15, 000 Jobs Through "Agripreneurship"



The Lagos State Government has created over 15,000 jobs for its residents through the Lagos Agripreneurship Programme (LAP), an intervention programme aimed at training young people between the ages of 18 and 30 years in modern agricultural practices to showcase the possibilities in the food systems using training, internship, and mentorship platforms. The intervention programme is in line with the role of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Systems in the THEMES+ Developmental Agenda of the State Government, which includes capacity building, employment generation, and promotion of food security, among others. Speaking during the closing ceremony of the four-week training of the 26th cohort of Lagos Agripreneurship Programme (LAP) held at the Agricultural Training Institute, Araga, Epe, Lagos, the Director of the Institute, Ms Folake Ogunlana-Lawal, said LAP emerges as a cornerstone,

focusing on youth training and capacity building in modern agricultural practices. The Director of the Agricultural Training Institute said the Lagos Agripreneurship Programme has trained over 5,000 people, with each trainee or beneficiary empowering and creating jobs for an average of an additional two to three people. She disclosed that the next batch of trainees for LAP will resume on February 22, 2026.

Speaking further, Ogunlana-Lawal said the objective of the Lagos Agripreneurship Programme is to build a resilient and sustainable agricultural sector in Lagos State by equipping youths with modern agripreneurial skills, fostering food security, reducing unemployment, promoting climate-smart agricultural practices, and positioning Lagos as a proactive leader in addressing global economic and food system challenges.

"LAP, which is modelled after Israel's Arava

International Center for Agriculture Training (AICAT) programme, with the fundamental principle of learning by doing, was conceptualised in the year 2020. The programme has trained over 5,000 youths in a four-month period that involved one month of intensive on-site demonstration training phase at the Lagos State Agricultural Training and Entrepreneurial Centre in Araga-Epe and three-month on-the-internship/mentorship phase.

"During the programme, the participants were trained, accommodated, fed and provided with training materials and safety kits for free by the Lagos State Government followed by a three-month internship phase with reputable agro-allied companies/farms with the final phase at the enterprise activation, where successful participants undergo an incubation period at Lagos Food Production and Entrepreneurial Centre, Songhai, Badagry," she said.

Ogunlana-Lawal, while speaking on the success of the Lagos Agripreneurship Programme, which has empowered and produced thousands of entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector, appreciated the steadfast commitment of the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to LAP and other development programmes in the State. She also commended stakeholders and other partners for their support, saying their involvement is crucial to the success of the Lagos Agripreneurship Programme.

"I want to extend my gratitude to our esteemed principals and leaders of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Systems, particularly the Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Systems, Ms Abisola Olusanya; the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Emmanuel Audu; and the Directors of the Ministry for their unwavering support to Lagos Agripreneurship Programme. Their commitment to transforming agriculture in Lagos is truly inspiring," she said. The Director of the Agricultural Training Institute also commended the dedication and enthusiasm of the trainees, saying they have shown great potential in embracing the world of agribusiness. She implored them to keep pushing boundaries and stay committed to transforming agriculture in Lagos, Nigeria, and even the world at large. She said: "Over the past month, you have learnt about the fundamentals of agripreneurship, innovative farming practices, and the importance of market linkages. Now, it is time to put theory into practice. We are excited to see your progress and innovations in the months to come. As you start your own businesses, consider joining the Lagos Agrinovation Club—it is a great platform to connect with like-minded individuals, share ideas, and drive innovation in the

agricultural space."

Speaking at the event, two beneficiaries, Ayodeji Oyindamola John and Balogun Saheed Ololade, appreciated the Lagos State Government and the leadership of the Agricultural Training Institute for the opportunity given to them and promised to be good ambassadors of the Institute.

Ayodeji, who is a graduate of Agriculture Extension and Rural Development from the University of Ilorin, said the programme has exposed him more to the practical aspects of agriculture.

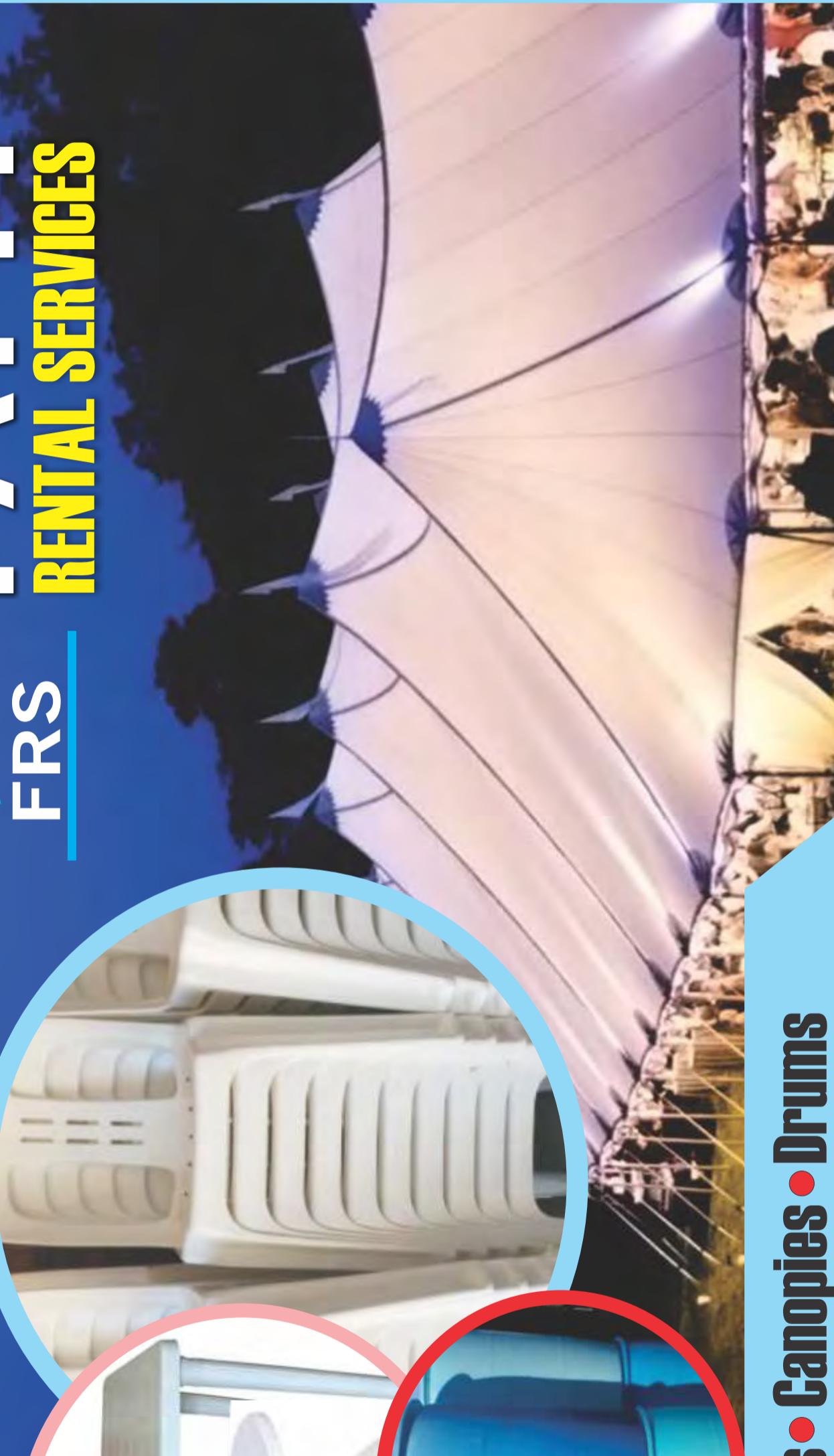
He praised Governor Sanwo-Olu and other Lagos State Government officials for the opportunity they presented to the youths in Lagos State and for investing in the agricultural sector of the State for food security.

Balogun said he obtained a lot of experience and knowledge in aquaculture and pig production through the Lagos Agripreneurship Programme, thereby making him a professional in the agricultural sector.

He praised the Lagos State Government for the programme, promising that he will set up an agribusiness after the training to empower himself and also contribute to meat production in the country.

Photo L-R: Director, Lagos Food Production & Entrepreneurial Center, Badagry, Dr. Gbolahan Saba; Top Performance Cohort 26 Trainee, Lawal Ademola Hammed; Director, Agricultural Training Institute, Araga, Epe, Folake Ogunlana-Lawal and Head of Training Unit, Agricultural Training Institute, Araga, Epe, Mr. Adesola Odofin.

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Eko Cares: Lagos Presents Cheques To 300 More Beneficiaries

The Lagos State described the Government programme as a financial demonstration of assistance to the dividends of commitment to democracy. She emphasised governance and financial support to the people-centred beneficiaries to meet urgent obligations, and support the administration's policies that utilise the financial sustainable livelihood activities to respond to the needs of Lagos residents. The programme reflects the administration's commitment to the welfare of its compassionate residents.

Another 300 promised by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Mr. Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Kadri, under the Eko Cares Programme, reinforcing its commitment to Hamzat.

Conveying the governance, social protection, and responsive service delivery across the State. The event was held recently at the Office of Afolabi Abiodun Tajudeen, she and Civic averred that the Engagement financial (OPL&CE). Addressing the programme is meant to bring the succour to the permanent indigent residents and urged them to take advantage of all the State & Civic Government has made available for Shasore, while the residents of the State. "It's your beneficiaries, right".

Lagos To Replicate Ikosi-Ketu Biogester Across Markets

The Lagos State Government has announced plans to replicate the Ikosi-Ketu Market biogester project across major markets in the state as part of efforts to promote sustainable waste management and advance the circular economy.

The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin, disclosed this during the official

clean energy and economy agenda, other valuable by-products. Dr. Gbadegesin said that markets were major contributors to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and generation in Lagos, mitigating flooding and noted that risks.

replicating the The LAWMA boss biogester model stated that market would help curb indiscriminate dumping, reduce operating costs, assuring that the ease pressure on Authority would landfills and improve continue to provide environmental technical support as sanitation. similar projects are He added that the deployed across initiative aligned with other markets in the state's circular state.

LASCOHET Moves To Strengthen Academic With Digital Teaching

In line with its commitment to enhancing academic delivery, accountability, and institutional efficiency, the Lagos State College of Health Technology (LASCOHET) has taken a significant step towards digital transformation with the introduction of a comprehensive digital college management system and a lecture attendance monitoring platform.

The initiative aims to address longstanding challenges associated with manual lecture attendance registers, the inefficient collation of assignment submissions, and the difficulty in effectively monitoring and evaluating lecture delivery across departments. These issues have, over time, impacted the ease of academic administration and the overall teaching and learning experience.

To bridge these gaps, the College organised a hands-on training session for both academic and non-academic



staff on the use of a digital solution designed to enhance class monitoring, staff and student attendance management, assessment administration, and examination processes.

The training was facilitated by Mr. Oluwafemi Oladeni, a lead partner of the software development company, who provided detailed explanations and live demonstrations of the platform's features. These include digital attendance for staff and students, class monitoring

tools, Computer-Based Tests (CBT) designed to enhance class monitoring, staff and student attendance management, assessment administration, and examination processes.

The participants at the training were also introduced to a Digital Access Card system for students and staff onboarded on the platform.

Speaking during the training, the Provost of LASCOHET, Professor Raheem Olasupo Akewushola, stressed the importance of embracing

technology in modern education delivery, reiterating that all academic and non-academic staff must be technology-savvy to meet evolving institutional and global standards.

A practical demonstration of the Digital Clock-In system, which operates through a unique scan code or QR code via the App, generated keen interest among participants, who followed the session with rapt attention.

During the interactive segment of the training, lecturers

and other ongoing.

The Deputy Provost, Administration, Mrs. Oyeronke Uthman-Izobor, while delivering the vote of thanks, appreciated the Management team of the college and commended the participants for their engagement and openness to innovation.

The training was well attended by academic and non-academic staff of the College and it is expected to assist in digitising academic processes, improving service delivery, and enhancing accountability at LASCOHET.

Lagos Education District 1 Trains School Principals

The Lagos State Government Education District 1, Agege, in collaboration with Africa Brands Review, has successfully organised a capacity-building programme titled "Transformative Principals: Leading 21st Century Schools." The training, held recently at Girls Senior Secondary School Iyana-Ipaja, brought together principals across the district for an engaging, insightful, and impactful learning experience.

The programme was designed to equip school leaders with the skills, mindset, and strategies required to navigate the evolving demands of modern education. In response to the complexities of the 21st-century school environment, the programme emphasised transformational leadership, innovation, accountability, teamwork, and student-centred management.

In her appreciation speech, Dr. Idowu Olufunke Oyetola, the Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary, Education District 1, expressed profound gratitude to Africa Brands Review for partnering with the district to deliver such a timely and relevant training.

She commended the organisers and facilitators for their commitment to

educational excellence and for investing in the continuous professional development of school administrators.

Dr. Oyetola highlighted the critical role principals play as the driving force behind effective school management. She implored principals to remain steadfast in their responsibilities, ensuring that school activities run smoothly and efficiently at all times. She emphasised that effective leadership goes beyond routine administration, urging principals to carry teachers, non-teaching staff, and students along in decision-making processes to foster unity, cooperation, and shared ownership of school goals.

Similarly, Mrs. Abisola Dokunmu-

Adegbite, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Secondary School and Tertiary Education, further encouraged principals to model integrity, professionalism, and dedication. She noted that a principal's leadership style significantly influences staff morale, student discipline, and overall school performance.

According to her, transformational principals are those who inspire, mentor, and empower their teams while upholding high standards of accountability and excellence.

During the interactive sessions, participating principals shared valuable recommendations drawn from their practical experiences in school leadership.

These contributions focused on improving teacher engagement, enhancing communication, strengthening discipline structures, and adopting innovative strategies to improve teaching and learning outcomes.

The exchange of ideas created a collaborative learning environment where participants learned not only from facilitators but also from one another.

The Guest Speaker, Dr. Joseph Ayodele, acknowledged the support of the Education District leadership and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to be trained and empowered. There was a shared sense of unity, purpose, and renewed commitment to raising the standard of education across the district.

In conclusion, the training programme was a resounding success, reinforcing the importance of transformational leadership in education. It served as a reminder that effective school leadership is central to achieving quality education, nurturing well-rounded students, and building resilient school communities.

The collaboration between Lagos State Government Education District 1 and Africa Brands Review stands as a commendable initiative toward sustaining excellence and innovation in the education sector.



Lagos Assembly Backs Proposed Water City Project For Demolished Areas

Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly have backed the state government's proposed water city project planned as part of the promised compensation for residents in demolished areas.

The lawmakers, after holding a stakeholders' meeting where a five-point agreement over the initiative was reached, dialogued over the occurrence of waterfront communities affected by the demolition exercise, and need the necessity to implement reform initiative.

The House held that the Makoko, Sogunro and Oko Agbon communities have been massively affected, prompting the executive arm to fashion ways for the measure to benefit the affected residents.

The Majority Leader and Chairman, Adhoc Committee on Rules and Business, Noheem Adams, said that the government would constitute a 10-man committee to conduct a self-enumeration of

By Felix Kuyinu

a f f e c t e d buildings.

Adams further mentioned that the committee would be expected to complete the enumeration exercise and submit its report within two weeks to the Adhoc Committee on Rules and Business.

He called for

transparency in the self-enumeration process, noting that data provided by the community would be cross-checked with government records.

The House directed Makoko stakeholders to submit the list of the proposed 10-man committee to the House upon its constitution.

BUSINESS

CBN Unlocks Dollar Access for BDCs to Narrow Naira Gap

In a decisive move to stabilise Nigeria's foreign exchange market, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has reopened the official FX window to licensed Bureau de Change (BDC) operators, allowing each to purchase up to \$150,000 per week from authorised dealer banks. The policy aims to ease dollar scarcity at the retail level and help shrink the persistent gap between official and parallel market rates. Announced in a circular dated February 10, 2026,

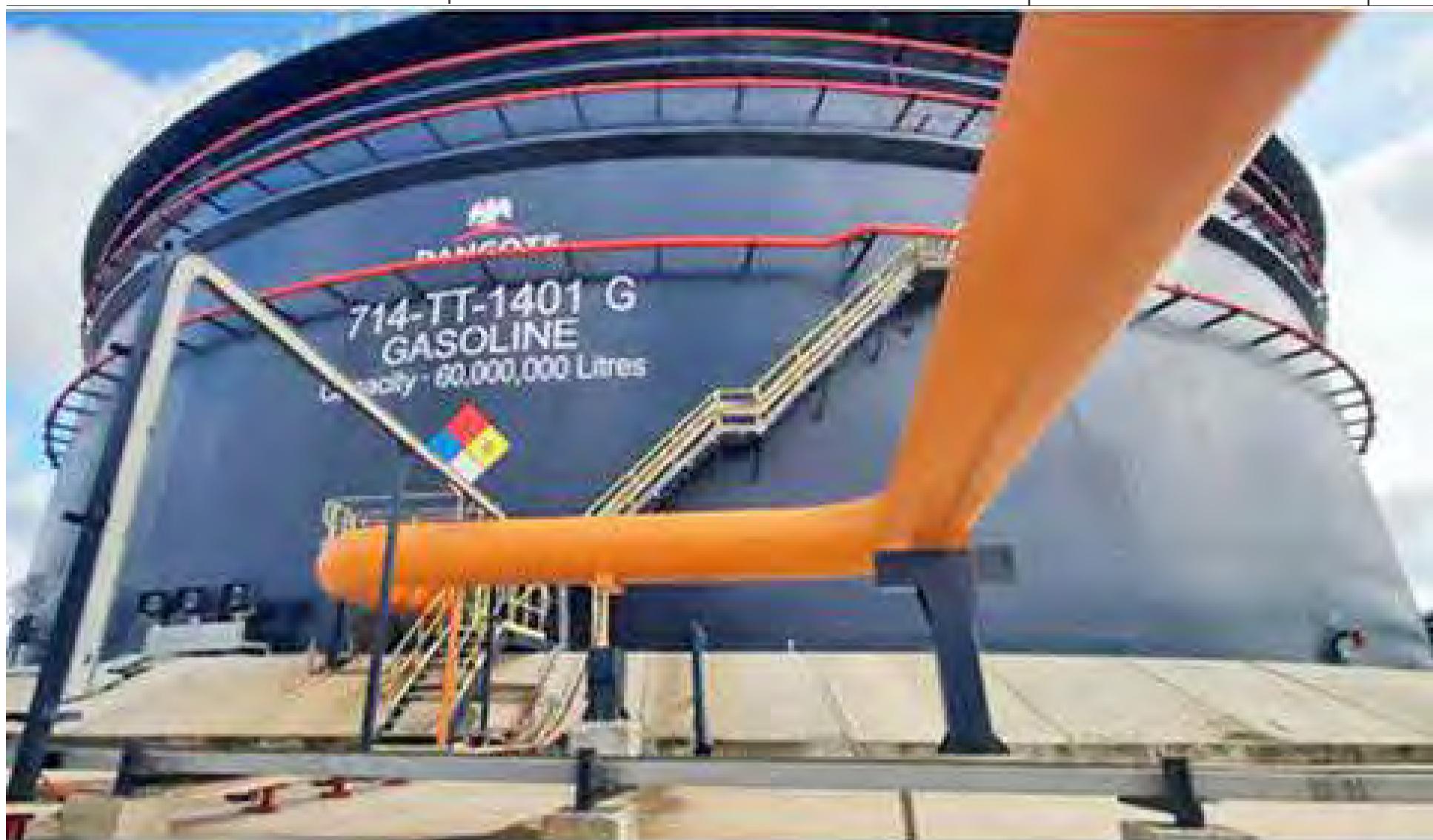
and signed by Dr. Musa Nakorji, Director of the CBN's Trade and Exchange Department, the initiative targets individuals, small

businesses, and travellers who rely on BDCs for daily FX needs. Analysts say the move is a timely intervention as the naira, though strengthening

officially at around 1,348.95 per dollar, still faces a wide premium in the parallel market. The new framework offers flexibility, electronic permitting BDCs to report, and

mandatory return of unutilised FX within 24 hours, aim to prevent speculative hoarding and promote transparency. Market watchers view the policy as a pragmatic strategy to deepen liquidity, increase formal market competition, and improve the effectiveness of official FX policy. While the move may not immediately align official and parallel rates, it is expected to ease dollar shortages, stabilise the naira, and strengthen investor confidence in Nigeria's financial system.





Nigeria's push for industrial revival received a major boost in 2025 as the Bank of Industry (BOI) rolled out a historic

636 billion to businesses nationwide — the largest annual disbursement in the development finance institution's history.

The funding wave reached over 7,000 enterprises, cutting across critical sectors of the economy and reinforcing BOI's position as a central driver of industrial growth, job creation, and economic diversification. At a time when access to affordable capital remains a challenge for many entrepreneurs, the scale of the intervention signals a deliberate effort

BOI Sets Record with N636bn Disbursement in 2025

Atume Terfa

to energise productivity and unlock private sector potential.

The bank's financing strategy was carefully targeted to maximise impact. The agro-allied and agriculture value chain emerged as the biggest beneficiary, receiving roughly

202 billion to strengthen processing capacity, storage systems, and market linkages. Infrastructure projects followed with 100 billion, aimed at supporting

networks, energy supply, and industrial facilities.

In the manufacturing sector, 79 billion was deployed to modernise equipment and reduce reliance on imports, while the extractive industries secured

77 billion to promote responsible resource development. The services sector, spanning health, education, and ICT, attracted 55 billion, empowering businesses operating in Nigeria's fast-growing knowledge and

service economy. Strengthened by commitment to its developmental mandate, aligning its operations with national priorities to deepen industrialisation, foster inclusive growth, and enhance private sector competitiveness.

As global economic pressures persist, BOI's unprecedented disbursement marks a decisive step in strengthening Nigeria's productive base, from rural agribusinesses to large-scale manufacturers, positioning the bank at the heart of the country's long-term economic transformation.

The record performance was proof of BOI's

Pension Funds Power Nigerian Stocks as Market Surges N970bn

Nigeria's equities market roared back to life as institutional capital from pension funds propelled a 970 billion gain in market value, sending the NGX All-Share Index (ASI) up 0.78% in a strong showing on the Lagos bourse. Traders and analysts say the rally reflects growing confidence in equities as a preferred outlet for long-term investment. The market's momentum was driven by heavy buying in major

blue-chip stocks, including Nestlé Nigeria Plc, Julius Berger Nigeria Plc, and Transcorp Hotels Plc, with 49 gainers outpacing 32 losers, signalling widespread investor optimism. Experts point to pension fund administrators (PFAs) as the primary catalysts, increasingly shifting funds from low-yield fixed-income instruments into equities. With over 27.45 trillion in assets under management, PFAs are seeking higher returns in companies with strong

Atume Terfa
fundamentals, providing a steady stream of liquidity to the stock market. The surge also lifted broader benchmarks, with the Pension Index advancing tandem, highlighting institutional investors' appetite for equities as a hedge against inflation and low fixed-income yields. Key performers included: Nestlé Nigeria, whose shares jumped nearly 10%, boosting portfolio values.

Julius Berger

Nigeria Plc is climbing over 8% on robust 2025 earnings reports. Transcorp Hotels and other market leaders are becoming a major force in Nigeria's stock market, drawing sustained inflows. Analysts say pension-linked exchanges this year.

While market risks

remain, the rally underscores the growing influence of institutional capital in shaping Nigeria's equities landscape and points to a sustained period of growth as long-term investors continue to back fundamentally strong stocks.



IKEJA NEWS

The Chairman of Onigbongbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Moyo Adebanjo, has lauded the leadership of the LOK Foundation for its sustained investment in education, describing the initiative as a strong example of people-centred governance.

Adebanjo made the remarks on Wednesday, 5 February 2026, during the 7th edition of the LOK Foundation Free JAMB Form Disbursement held in Onigbongbo,

Adebanjo Backs Academic Excellence, Pledges Stipends

Kehinde Adeleye

where hundreds of students benefitted from the programme. He commended the foundation's consistency, noting that more than 2,000 students have been positively impacted through previous editions of the initiative. In a show of support, the Chairman donated laptop computers to

selected LOK Foundation scholars, describing the gesture as a strategic intervention to enhance learning, research and digital access. He stated that the donation added a unique dimension to this year's edition of the programme. Encouraging beneficiaries to remain focused and disciplined in their studies, Adebanjo assured

them of his pledge to assist the administration's outstanding students with their backing, admission processes, stressing that access to quality education remains central to students who perform well in their examinations and community development. Furthermore, Adebanjo revealed that the Onigbongbo LCDA would, in the coming weeks, distribute free JAMB forms to an

additional 250 students under the council's broader education support initiative.

Stakeholders at the event described the collaboration between the LOK Foundation and the local government as a model partnership that continues to expand access to education and create opportunities for young people within the community.

Omole Senior Grammar School Teacher Makes Global Top 10 List

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Segun Odunmbaku, has congratulated Mrs Adeola Olufunke Akinsulure of Omole Senior Grammar School for her outstanding recognition as a recipient of the 2026 Top 10 World Teachers Award. Mrs Akinsulure emerged as the only African finalist at the last stage of the prestigious global competition, marking a significant milestone for her

school, the council area and the country at large.

Represented by the Head of Department, described the

Education, Mr Hakeem Adekoya, the Chairman

achievement as a proud moment for Ojodu LCDA and Nigeria. He

commended Mrs Akinsulure's dedication, professionalism and transformative impact on her students.

The Global Teacher Prize, presented by GEMS Education and the Varkey Foundation in collaboration with UNESCO, recognises exceptional educators who have made remarkable contributions to the teaching profession

worldwide.

The Principal of Omole Senior Grammar School, Mrs Lloyd Akintunde, expressed appreciation for the Chairman's continued support for the school, noting that the recognition has served as a strong source of inspiration for both staff and students.

The honour, stakeholders said, further underscores the Ojodu LCDA administration's commitment to advancing quality education under its HEYSRELOADED Agenda.



Business Owners Urged to Participate in Enumeration Initiative

Onigbongbo Local Council Kehinde Adeleye

improve the local business environment, and officially implemented a targeted interventions that directly address the needs of businesses within the community.

As part of preparations for the exercise, the council organised an orientation and training session for corps members engaged to conduct the enumeration. The training focused on data collection procedures,



engagement protocols, and professionalism in handling sensitive information. The corps members have been

deployed in structured teams, each led by designated Area Officers and supported by supervisory

collection. The council has called on all business owners and operators in Onigbongbo LCDA to cooperate fully with the enumerators by providing accurate and timely information.

Authorities assured stakeholders that all data gathered during the exercise will be treated with strict confidentiality and used solely for developmental planning and economic support initiatives aimed at strengthening the local economy.

Ikeja Youths Set for Solar Skills Boost as Bashir Backs Tinubu

Kehinde Adeleye

Oluwadamilare Sonayon Adebowale Bashir has declared that his multimillion-naira solar empowerment initiative is part of broader efforts to mobilise grassroots support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's re-election in 2027. Bashir described President Tinubu's leadership as one built on opportunity, enterprise and

inclusive growth, noting that political support must be matched with practical initiatives that directly benefit the people.

He also commended Seyi Tinubu, the President's son, for what he termed consistent humanitarian outreach and grassroots engagement in Ikeja and across Lagos State. According to Bashir, Seyi Tinubu's

interventions have provided relief and practical assistance to youths and vulnerable residents.

In addition, Bashir praised Tayo Ayinde, Chief of Staff to the Lagos State Governor, acknowledging what he described as Ayinde's fatherly role and longstanding contribution to the unity, stability and development of Ikeja. He noted that Ayinde's leadership behind

the scenes has played a key role in strengthening community cohesion.

Against this political backdrop, Bashir unveiled a solar empowerment training scheme targeted at youths in Ikeja. He explained that the initiative is designed as a skills-acquisition programme rather than a handout, with a focus on equipping participants for sustainable careers in the

renewable energy sector.

The programme will train 100 beneficiaries between the ages of 18 and 40 in batches to ensure quality delivery. The first batch of 20 trainees is scheduled to commence in March as part of the pilot phase.

According to Bashir, participants will receive hands-on training in solar installation and maintenance, enabling them to pursue employment opportunities or establish their own businesses. He

added that the initiative addresses both youth unemployment and energy access challenges, positioning renewable energy as a tool for empowerment and development. Bashir maintained that meaningful political alignment must translate into measurable impact, describing the solar empowerment scheme as a strategic investment in Ikeja's youth and a contribution to building a skilled workforce for Nigeria's evolving energy future.

IKORODU NEWS

The Chairman of Ikorodu North Local Council Development Area, Mayor Ameen Olawale Ibrahim Apanishile, has commissioned a newly renovated and upgraded six-block classroom project at Farm Settlement Community Primary School, Odogunyan, Ikorodu, facilitated by Senator Mukhail Adetokunbo Abiru. The project, aimed at improving the learning environment and strengthening public education infrastructure, was officially handed over during a ceremony attended by education stakeholders, community leaders and council officials.

By Emmanuel Daniji

Representing the Council Chairman at the event, the Deputy Mayor, Hon. Mathew Aliu Adesanya, reiterated the administration's commitment to educational advancement and youth development. He described the project as a reflection of collaborative efforts between elected representatives and local authorities to enhance teaching and learning across the council area.

In her welcome address, the Head Teacher of the school, Mrs. Lawal

Oluwakemi, expressed appreciation to the council leadership and Senator Abiru for the renovation and upgrade of the classroom blocks. She noted that the improved facilities would create a more conducive atmosphere for pupils and teachers, ultimately enhancing academic performance.

The Education Secretary of the Ikorodu Local Government Education Authority (LGEA), Alhaji Taiwo Odumobo, commended Senator Abiru for what he described as consistent investments in education across

Lagos East Senatorial District. In the chairman's address, delivered by the Deputy Mayor, he underscored the senator's commitment to human capital development and sustainable growth.

Speaking on behalf of Senator Abiru, Hon. Saheed Ibikunle reaffirmed the senator's dedication to education as a critical driver of development. He stated that strategic investments in educational infrastructure remain central to the senator's vision for societal progress and long-term prosperity.

the gesture as a demonstration of commitment to community development. The six-block classroom project, he added, would significantly reduce congestion, improve comfort and enhance the overall quality of teaching and learning in the school.

The chairman assured stakeholders that the facility would be properly maintained and protected to guarantee sustainability. He also urged the school management, parents and members of the host community to take collective responsibility for safeguarding the structure as a shared public asset.

Leaders and stakeholders across Ikorodu Division on Monday, February 9, 2026, formally endorsed President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for a second term in office, passing a unanimous vote of confidence in his leadership at a rally held at the historic Ikorodu Town Hall. The gathering, tagged Ikorodu Unites for Tinubu, brought together an extensive cross-section of the division's political, traditional and community leadership, including monarchs, Arewa and Igbo community leaders, members of the National and State Assemblies, Local Government and LCDAs chairmen, councillors, repositioning Community Nigeria's economy Development and stabilising Committee national structures. executives, market leaders, religious leaders, figures and party faithful.

term thinking, Speakers at the event described reforms of such the endorsement magnitude as a collective demand time to decision rooted in yield full results. what they called Member visible reforms and representing the need for Ikorodu Federal continuity. In his opening remarks, Babajimi Adegoke the Organising Chairman, Engr. Onafowakan, PhD, beyond 2027, said President stating that the Tinubu had taken administration's difficult but economic and necessary structural reforms decisions aimed at require continuity

By Emmanuel Daniji



to achieve lasting impact. He commended Ikorodu voters for delivering one of the highest margins for President Tinubu in the 2023 general elections and for leading the APC registration exercise in Lagos State, describing the division as politically organised and consistent.

Senator Mukhail Adetokunbo Abiru, FCA, representing Lagos East Senatorial District, cautioned against disrupting ongoing reforms through

what he termed unnecessary political experimentation. He highlighted key federal initiatives, including major road infrastructure projects and the Nigeria Education Loan Fund (NELFUND), as indicators of structured policy direction under the current administration.

The rally reached its peak with the formal passage of a vote of confidence endorsing President Tinubu as the preferred presidential candidate of

Ikorodu Division for the 2027 election. The motion was moved by Prince Abiodun Ogunleye, former Deputy Governor of Lagos State and member of the Governance Advisory Council (GAC), and seconded by Asiwaju Olorunfunmi Basorun, former Secretary to the State Government. The endorsement was adopted through unanimous affirmation by stakeholders present.

Among dignitaries at the rally were Lagos APC Chairman Pastor Cornelius Ojelabi; Senator Adeseye Ogunlewe; Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa; Hon. Gbolahan Ogunleye; Hon. Abiodun Moshood Aro (AMA); Lagos State Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms. Bisola Olusanya;

Dr. Nurudeen Agbaje; Chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Prince Adedayo Ladega; and other political figures across the division. Chairmen of the five Local Council Development Areas in the division were also

in attendance: Omo'ba Hammed Olalekan Aroyewun (Igbogbo/Bayeku), Hon. Ameen Apanishile (Ikorodu North), Hon. Motunrayo Gbadebo-Aloba (Ijede), Hon. Sulaimon Kazeem Olanrewaju (Ikorodu West), and Hon. Sunday Benson (Imota). They were joined by members of the Governance Advisory Council, party leaders, youth representatives, market associations and religious bodies.

Observers noted that the scale of participation reflected Ikorodu Division's strategic political standing within Lagos State. The event concluded with a pledge by leaders and stakeholders to intensify mobilisation efforts across the division as preparations gradually begin for the 2027 general elections.

With Monday's declaration, Ikorodu Division has formally positioned itself among early supporters of President Tinubu's re-election bid, signalling unified backing from one of Lagos State's most politically active blocs.

Ikorodu Division Passes Vote of Confidence on Tinubu

Abiru Delivers New Classroom Blocks to Ikorodu Schools

Classroom blocks newly facilitated by Senator Mukhail Adetokunbo Abiru have been delivered to several public schools across Ikorodu Division in Lagos East Senatorial District, drawing commendation from community leaders, education authorities and residents. The beneficiary learning

schools are UNA Primary School, Igbalu in Imota LCDA; Anglican Primary School, Isawo; Ipakodo Senior Grammar School; Local Government Primary School, Ipakodo; and Farm Settlement Primary School, Odogunyan. The projects are aimed at strengthening public education infrastructure and improving the

environment for pupils and students across the division. The facilities were commissioned on behalf of the senator by the Executive Chairmen of the affected local councils — Ameen Apanishile (Ikorodu North LCDA), Sulaimon Kazeem (Ikorodu West LCDA), and Sunday Benson (Imota LCDA). At the separate commissioning ceremonies, the

council leaders commended Senator Abiru for responding to the growing demand for improved classroom space, noting that the intervention aligns with broader efforts to enhance human capital development in Lagos East. Represented by his Special Adviser on Constituency Matters, Otunba Saheed Oladapo Ibikunle, PhD, Senator Abiru reiterated his

commitment to delivering people-focused projects across the senatorial district. He described the classroom blocks as part of a series of interventions facilitated to support education and other critical sectors, assuring constituents that additional impactful projects are underway.

The senator also acknowledged President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for providing the enabling funding support that made the projects possible, highlighting the administration's focus on national development. He further commended the Lagos State Government under Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu for sustained investments and policy initiatives targeted at improving learning outcomes in public schools.

Education stakeholders welcomed the development. The Education Secretary of the Local Government



Imota Chairman Registers 250 Candidates For UTME

By Emmanuel Daniji

The Chairman of Imota Local Council Development Area, Hon. Benson Sunday Ayodele, has commenced the online registration exercise for 250 beneficiaries of the council's free Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) forms. The initiative, targeted at indigent and brilliant students within Imota LCDA, is designed to ease the financial burden associated with UTME registration and expand access to higher education opportunities.

The exercise, coordinated by the council's Education Department, is structured to ensure transparency, fairness and accessibility for eligible applicants. The Head of Department, Education, Miss Olufowobi A.O., explained that shortlisted candidates would complete their registration at a designated centre within the community to guarantee proper

documentation and guidance.

Speaking at the commencement of the exercise, Hon. Benson described the free JAMB form scheme as a key component of his administration's "H i - S E E " Transformation Agenda, which focuses on human capital development through education, skill acquisition, empowerment and employment. He stated that investing in the academic advancement of young people remains central to building a

prosperous and self-reliant Imota community. According to him, the programme was introduced to remove financial barriers that prevent many talented students from sitting for the UTME.

The chairman assured residents that beyond the free JAMB forms, beneficiaries would also have access to tutorial coaching to enhance their performance, as well as bursary and scholarship opportunities to support their academic journey after securing admission.

Hon. Benson urged

eligible secondary school leavers and prospective UTME candidates within the council area to take advantage of the initiative, noting that the selection process is merit-based, with priority given to indigent students who meet stipulated criteria. He further disclosed that a monitoring and verification mechanism has been established to ensure that only genuine residents of Imota LCDA benefit from the programme. Community leaders, school authorities and other stakeholders, he

added, have been engaged to guarantee credibility and transparency. Parents and community stakeholders who spoke at the event commended the council chairman for what they described as a timely intervention, noting that the rising cost of examination forms has placed significant strain on many families. Among dignitaries present were the Vice Chairman of Imota LCDA, Hon. (Princess) Abisoye Omowunmi Jimoh; Council Manager, Mr. Akinyemi

Olusegun; Head of Department, Education, Miss Olufowobi A.O.; Clerk of the Legislative Arm, Mr. Amoda S.O.; management staff and students.

The free JAMB form scheme is one of several education-focused programmes under the BSA-BOJ administration in Imota LCDA, as the chairman reaffirmed his commitment to policies and projects that promote learning, youth development and long-term socio-economic growth within the community.



Kasali Brings Food Relief to Lekki's Riverine Communities

Atume Terfa



In a hands-on push to bring aid to the most underserved corners of Lekki Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Chairman Bamidele Kasali has extended the council's food distribution programme to riverine communities, directly reaching residents often cut off by geography and logistics. Council officials

carried bags of rice, beans, semovita, and garri door to door, ensuring that elderly residents, widows, and other vulnerable households received much-needed support. The initiative highlights the administration's focus on equity and grassroots empowerment, bringing relief to those who typically face heightened

hardship due to their remote locations. Addressing beneficiaries, Kasali stressed that no community should be left behind in welfare interventions. "Reaching riverine areas is challenging, but it is essential. Every resident deserves access to necessities and the support to thrive," he said. The food outreach forms part of a

monthly programme running through December, with ongoing assessments to ensure the support targets those most in need. Kasali emphasised that the initiative operates on principles of transparency, inclusivity, and community welfare. Local leaders and residents lauded the effort, noting

monthly that riverine programmes aim to cushion vulnerable communities often struggle with populations from limited access to food insecurity, essentials. Beyond complementing immediate relief, national efforts to the programme distribute staples to has fostered hope, communities in unity, and need. As the phased resilience, giving families distribution confidence that the council continues, Lekki's riverine residents are optimistic that such initiatives will close gaps in social support and enhance the quality of life for those living in hard-to-reach areas.



Johnson Administration Adds Second Compactor to Improve Sanitation

Kehinde Adeleye

Alimosho Local Government has acquired an additional compactor truck to strengthen waste collection and environmental sanitation across the council area. The development is part of the administration's ongoing efforts to

improve refuse evacuation and promote a cleaner and healthier environment for residents.

The council had earlier taken delivery of its first compactor truck towards the end of 2025. With the addition of a second truck, administration's waste collection coverage is expected to

expand, allowing more communities to benefit from regular and timely disposal services.

Speaking on the development, the Executive Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, reaffirmed his administration's commitment to fulfilling campaign promises, among several others we

particularly in the area of environmental cleanliness.

"As a government, we owe it to our people to fulfil all our campaign promises, part of which is maintaining a cleaner Alimosho. This is one of the promises we are fulfilling, among several others we made during the electioneering,"

the Chairman said.

He added that environmental sanitation remains a key component of the council's development agenda and assured residents that service delivery would continue to receive priority attention.

"We will not stop or rest on our oars until our people

are fully satisfied and Alimosho is recognised as a model of cleanliness and responsible waste management," he stated.

The acquisition is expected to enhance operational efficiency and improve the overall sanitation outlook of the local government area.

British Rapper Tinie Tempah Attributes Talent to Igbo Roots

Award-winning British rapper and singer, Tinie Tempah, has

revealed that his Igbo roots have played a significant role in shaping his creativity and artistic outlook. In a video shared on his YouTube page on Monday, Tempah highlighted the

exceptional talents emerging from the Igbo nation, citing literary icons such as Chinua

Achebe, winner of the Booker Prize, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, a Booker Prize nominee and contributor to Beyoncé's album. "I am from the Igbo tribe and I do believe that there's something very intrinsically creative about Igbo people," Tempah said.

He further explained that growing up, he realised the global impact of Nigerian authors from the Igbo tribe and believes that his artistic abilities are deeply

influenced by his ancestry.

"So, I think my talent and creativity has something to do with my heritage and lineage and origin. And that's beautiful," the multi-platinum selling artist added, celebrating his cultural roots as a source of inspiration.

Tempah's revelation shines a light on the influence of heritage in nurturing creativity and has been widely welcomed by fans celebrating Nigerian culture globally.



Kehinde Adeleye

Uche Ogbodo Attributes 95% of Divorce Cases to Men

Kehinde Adeleye

Nollywood actress Uche Ogbodo has sparked discussion after sharing her view on the primary cause of divorce, asserting that men are responsible for the vast majority of failed marriages. The movie star, currently in her second marriage, claimed on her Instagram page that men

contribute up to 95 per cent in marital breakdowns, citing neglect, emotional abuse, betrayal, and infidelity as major factors.

"Many marriages fail because a significant number of men neglect, cheat, devalue, emotionally harm, emotionally stress, or betray their wives," she wrote.

Ogbodo also noted that the lack

of accountability behaviour within relationships ultimately and society undermining the stability of

marriages. The actress entered her second marriage

in October 2023 to Boby Maris, after her first marriage to Norway-based football agent Ato Ubby in 2013 ended barely a year later.

Her comments have reignited conversations on social media about gender roles, accountability, and the factors contributing to the rising divorce rates in Nigeria.



I'm Not a Womaniser, I'm a Lover Boy – 2Baba

Kehinde Adeleye

Nigerian music legend Innocent Idibia, popularly known as 2Baba, has addressed long-standing assumptions about his private life, insisting that he is not a womaniser. In an exclusive interview with the Voice of Nigeria, the award-winning

artiste described himself as "straightforward" and a "lover boy," while reflecting on fatherhood, fame and the pressures of public scrutiny.

"The biggest misconception about me is that I'm a womaniser. I like women; I'm just straightforward. But I'm a loverboy.

"I love hard," 2Baba said. Beyond the rumours, the singer spoke candidly about the emotional weight of being a father to eight children. While expressing gratitude for his family, he admitted that balancing a demanding music career with

parenting has been one of his most difficult personal challenges. "I have eight kids now. I feel blessed and happy, but the sadness comes from the fact that I haven't gotten to spend the type of time I should have spent with them collectively. It does something to me

sometimes," he said. Despite the occasional regret, 2Baba described his children as a constant source of pride and joy. "They're amazing, brilliant people. I just wish I was there more. It touches me from all corners," he added.

The singer also

responded to public commentary about his wife, Natasha, particularly claims suggesting that she exerts excessive influence over him. According to 2Baba, such narratives often misrepresent the reality of their relationship.

"Everybody has a say in everybody's business now. Sometimes people say very nasty things. You grow thick skin, but sometimes it gets to you. Reality is reality, she's a brilliant woman, a strong woman," he said.

Away from the spotlight, 2Baba revealed that he is naturally shy, despite his commanding stage presence.

"My profession doesn't permit me to be shy, but I'm actually a very shy person. Sometimes I just want to be alone and chill. Other times I want to hang out. I like nature; I have my moments."

The interview offered fans a rare glimpse into the personal side of one of Nigeria's most enduring music icons, highlighting the man behind the fame.

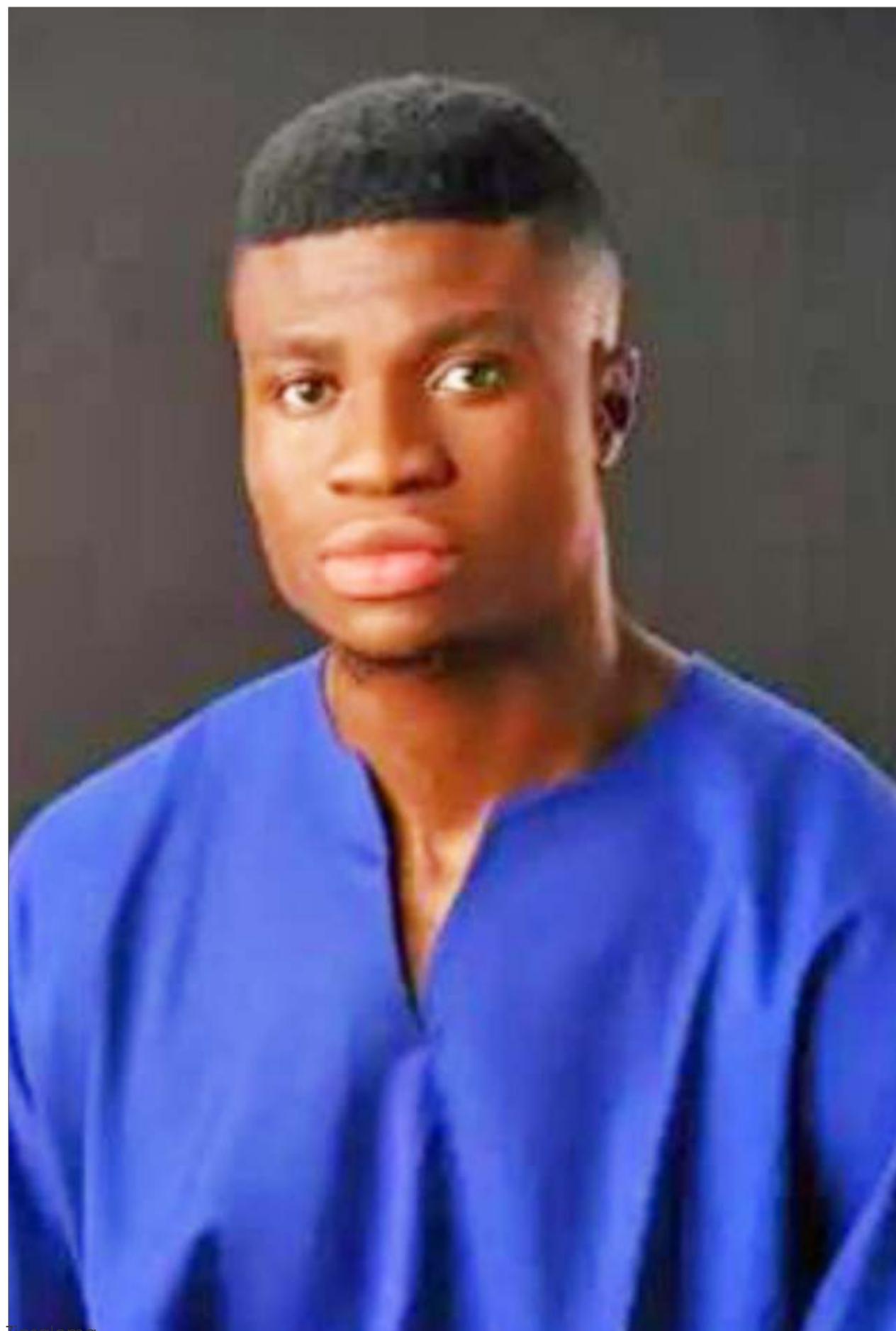


Family Expectations Slowed My Progress - Zicsaloma

Kehinde Adeleye

Popular Nigerian skitmaker Isaac Aloma, widely known as Zicsaloma, has revealed that family expectations significantly delayed his journey to financial independence. The content creator made the disclosure in a recent video broadcast where he shared his views on wealth creation and financial discipline. According to him, many of his early business ventures failed largely due to pressure and financial obligations from family members, whom he described as feeling entitled to his earnings. "I did a lot of business while growing up but most of them failed because of family. African family and even your own family are very entitled to your wealth. Even when

the purpose of working is to save money and build a better future," he said. Zicsaloma stressed the importance of setting firm financial boundaries, arguing that achieving true financial freedom often requires difficult decisions, even when they involve close friends and relatives. "It is very, very okay to be financially heartless even to your friends and family so that you can save up and break that circle. They will hate you for it but trust me, it is for your own good," he added. The skitmaker's comments have since sparked conversations online about financial responsibility, cultural expectations and the pressures young earners face within extended family systems.



Lagos State Education Districts Kick Against Drug Abuse

Lagos State Education Districts recently hosted an impactful awareness program for secondary school students, focusing on the dangers of drug and substance abuse. The six Tutors General/Permanent Secretaries led the initiative, encouraging students to become ambassadors of healthy living in their schools.

Mrs. Mojisola Christiana Yusuff (TG/PS, District VI) reminded students: "You are the privileged few who will carry this message back to your schools—about the harm drug abuse causes to your health, wellbeing, and your relevance to society."

Mr. Olusegun Oguniake (TG/PS, District III) urged students to embrace the knowledge shared, noting it will help them excel both locally and globally.

Experts including Dr. L. O. Kotun, Deputy

Commander of Narcotics Titilope Ogunluyi, and Mrs. Olojede Oluwafunke spoke on the wide-ranging effects of substance abuse—from broken relationships and poor decision-making to serious health risks like brain damage and organ failure. They emphasized the importance of awareness, open conversations, and support for recovery. Key takeaway: Addiction often starts small, but with courage, education, and community support, students can break the cycle and build a healthier future.

This program reflects Lagos State's commitment to protecting its youth and fostering a drug-free society. Together, we can create a community where seeking help is courageous, not shameful.



Police Arrest Two Suspects Over Theft Of Bag of Rice

By Felix Kuyinu

Twomen, Agbo Agbonopo and Salisu Abubakar, have been arrested for allegedly stealing bag of rice. The police, while arraigning the duo at the Badagry Magistrates' Court stated that Agbonopo and Abubakar of ages 20 and 25th respectively are standing trial on a count charge stealing as imposed on them by the security

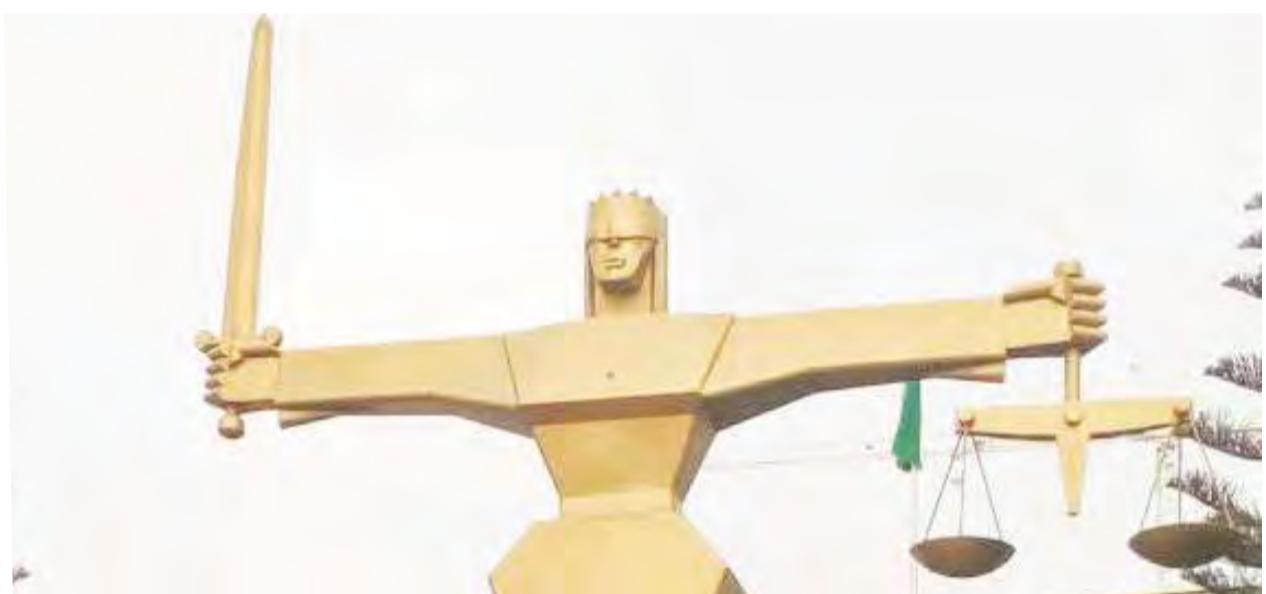
agency. The prosecutor, Edet Ekpo, offences submitted that the litigant, on February 2, stole the item valued at N58,000 belonging to one Francis Adeyemi, the complainant, at the Gbagi area of Seme border, Badagry. Ekpo relayed that the defendant were arrested while they were planning to sell the bag of rice, and consequently, handed over to the police.

According to the Prosecutor, the contravene the provisions of Sections 287 and 411 of the Criminal

Law of Lagos, 2015. The suspects pleaded not guilty after which the Magistrate, Nurudeen Layeni,

granted them bail in the sum of N500,000 each, with two sureties each in the like sum.

Layeni ordered that one of the sureties must be a community leader. He thereafter adjourned the matter till March 4.



Police Arraign Suspect Over Theft, Cybercrime

By Felix Kuyinu

The Police have arraigned one Esiieen Akpama in court over allegations of theft, impersonation and a cybercrime. Operatives of the Criminal Investigation Department in Alagbon, Ikoyi, Lagos arraigned Akpama before the Federal High Court in Lagos before Justice Ambrose Lewis-Allagoa on a charge marked FHC/L/186c/2026.

The prosecution counsel, Morufu Animashaun, told the court that the defendant committed the alleged offences sometime in 2025 at the local wing of the Murtala Mohammed Airport, Ikeja, Lagos by impersonating two Brazilian nationals, Jose Carlos and Joseph Belotti, using their Facebook accounts to carry out the fraudulent acts.

Animashaun added that Akpama defrauded a victim, Linda Schnur, of several high-end electronic gadgets and cash. The prosecutor also told the court that the items allegedly obtained included a MacBook Pro 14 laptop, an iPhone 17 Pro Max, two Google Pixel 10 Pro XI phones, one Google Pixel 10 Pro phone, and the sum of N1.6m. He further alleged that the defendant

also fraudulently obtained the sum of \$5,000 from the same victim, and proceeded to utter that the offences contravened Section 484 of the Criminal Code Act, Cap C38, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and Section 14 of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, 2015. Following a non-guilty plea by the defendant, the prosecutor urged the court to fix a trial date and remand the defendant in the custody of the Correctional Centre, pending the determination of the case.

In response, counsel to the defendant urged the court to grant Akpama bail on liberal terms, assuring the court that the defendant will make himself available for trial and will not jump bail. After listening to arguments from

both sides, Justice Lewis-Allagoa admitted the defendant to bail in the sum of N2m, with one surety in like sum.

The judge ordered that the surety must be a landed property owner within the jurisdiction of the court or a public servant on Grade Level 14 or its equivalent.

He ordered that the defendant be remanded in the custody of the Correctional Centre pending the fulfilment of the bail conditions and adjourned the case to March 27, 2026.

Bolaji Storms into SL3 Final; Nnanna Secures Historic Bronze

Nigeria's reigning African champion, Bolaji Eniola Mariam, delivered a commanding performance to defeat China's Gaoying Yuan in straight sets, 21-12, 21-16, in the women's SL3 semifinal at the New Capital Indoor Hall. Bolaji's clinical display ensured her

passage into the final, where she will face Japan's Shino Kawai on February 14.

The Nigerian star will be aiming to clinch her first world title, a feat that would further cement her rising profile on the global para-badminton stage. In the men's SL4 category, Nigeria's Chigozie Nnanna also made history, c

earning a bronze medal after reaching the semifinals.

His impressive run ended with a defeat to India's world No. 2, Naveen Sivakumar. Nnanna's podium finish marks a significant milestone for Nigerian para-badminton, underscoring the country's growing presence in international competition.



Motsepe Confirms Morocco as Host of WAFCON 2026

The Executive Committee of the Confederation of African Football has confirmed that Morocco will remain the host nation for the 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON), with no changes to the tournament schedule.

The decision was ratified during the CAF Executive Committee meeting held in Dar es Salaam, under the leadership of CAF President Patrice

Motsepe. Speculation had surfaced in recent weeks suggesting that Morocco might withdraw from hosting duties, sparking concerns over a potential venue change or adjustment to the competition timeline.

However, CAF moved swiftly to dismiss the rumours, reaffirming its confidence in Morocco's hosting preparations and maintaining the originally approved

schedule for the continental

showpiece. The confirmation provides clarity for

participating nations and stakeholders as

for Africa's premier women's football tournament.



Chelle in Talks with Marseille; NFF Insists on 2027 Commitment

French Ligue 1 side Olympique de Marseille have opened discussions with Éric Chelle as the club begins its search for a new head coach following the departure of Roberto De Zerbi. According to French publication La Provence, preliminary talks have already taken place between Marseille officials and Chelle, who is currently in charge of Nigeria's senior national team under the Nigeria Football Federation.

De Zerbi's exit was confirmed in the early hours of Wednesday, prompting the former European champions to accelerate their search for a successor ahead of the new season. However, sources within the NFF

maintain that Chelle remains under contract and is expected to stay committed to Nigeria's long-term project through 2027. The federation is reportedly keen to avoid instability as preparations continue for major

continental and global qualifiers. The coming weeks are expected to determine whether Marseille will formalize their interest and whether negotiations—if any—will take place regarding Chelle's future.



Éric Chelle



Fuel Prices Continue To Fall

This is the second week in a row that fuel prices have fallen. The latest

figures show

that fuel

prices

have

fallen

by 10%

in the last

month.

Analysts

say

that

fall

in

fuel

prices

is

due

to

the

fall

in

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prices



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