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# LIRS Should Expand Tax Net - MAN President

Echonews Editor, Kunle Awosiyan, monitored the Director General of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Mr. Segun Ajayi-Kadir via LIRs online interview where he spoke on the direction of the manufacturing sector, the challenges and gains from the Lagos Internal Revenue Service, LIRS and of course the bright future the Tax Reform Bill is bringing into the sector. Excerpts

Can we talk about manufacturing in Nigeria and where the sector is now?

The manufacturing sector is unarguably the most important sector in the productive space. In manufacturing you actually attend to the needs of Nigeria and it cuts across every sectors whether it is mining, whether it is agriculture and whether it is virtual economy. In fact there are quite a number of things that the manufacturing sector covers. But to talk about the state of manufacturing in Nigeria like the other sectors, the sector is going through quite a difficult time. This is to say that the sector is not insulated from the challenges that confront the economy in general. We are affected by foreign exchange, inflation and the fact that we do not have infrastructure that support production; the fact that our trade and industrial policies are not focused on delivering a virile manufacturing sector; the fact that the global economy is suffering a backlash itself and in terms of economic nationalism. All of

these have put a lot of pressure on manufacturing sector.

Many believe that the manufacturing sector has no visible impact on the country's economic growth, do you agree with this?

The sector contributes about nine to 11 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product. Although it is not able to generate the kind of employment that it should generate, the manufacturing sector remains the biggest employer of labour. There are quite a number of things that we manufacture in Nigeria, we even export to other African countries and to Europe. I think you are aware of the revolution that Dangote Group has brought into the manufacturing industry. There are quite a number of industries that are blazing the trail in Nigeria economy.

Nigeria is still seen as a consumer economy, what are we really producing in this country?

Nigeria produces quite a lot of things. For instance we refine fuel, we produce and



export cement. We are very good in plastics manufacturing, our electrical cables are one of the best in the world. We produce and export leathers, we produce and export garments. There are quite a number of things we do in pharmaceutical industries. Even in the steel sector, pulp and paper sector. By the way, the manufacturing sector that I lead has 10 sectors and 60 sub-sectors and we have manufacturers that produce in all these sectors. We have quite an array of products that are produced in Nigeria and they are very regulated by NAFDAC and other regulatory agencies.

Most of the manufacturing factories are located in Lagos but there are allegations that some of your members evade taxes, what role is MAN playing to

ensure that its members remit all forms of taxes and levies as required by government?

Tax is one of the no go areas for the manufacturing association. We don't in anyway tolerate any of our members not paying tax and the reason is simple, it's actually enlightening self interest. It is our obligation to pay taxes. We pay taxes so that we can have right to tell government to fulfil its own obligations of build infrastructure too. If we don't pay taxes, where do we expect government to get money to fund the roads we are asking for? Where do we expect government to get money to fund security, knowing how prone we are to insecurity. The manufacturing sector is intentional about paying taxes and we enforce this in all our 16 branches across

the country at different levels and structure in our organization. We have good relationship with the agencies and MAN is one of the best taxpayers in this country and I'm very proud of that. That's why anytime we make demands from government, we do it with a lot of confidence. I want to encourage all Nigerians, especially Lagosians to pay their taxes because government needs revenue and should not be hindered by non-payment of tax by the residents.

MAN members most times complain of tax burdens, is this an issue and how will you describe it?

There is a survey that MAN normally conducts. It is called Manufacturers/ CEO Confidence Index. This is to measure how CEOs of more than 600 companies

in Nigeria feel about the economy. One of the highest issue they raised is the multiplicity of taxes and levies. Tax is key to government revenue and it's also an obligations for businesses and individuals to pay but we have seen that in paying our taxes in Nigeria we have come under intense pressure in the state and federal agencies. We have a proliferation and multiplicity of taxes from federal, states and local governments. We did a survey sometime ago and found out that the least taxes paid by manufacturer in Nigeria is 60 and we have those that pay as high as 120. We have people putting their tax receipts in an album because they are too many. For us we see taxes as necessity but if not controlled, it becomes a real burden that can limit production.

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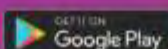
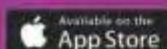
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# LIRS Should Expand Tax Net - MAN President

*continued from page 2*

**The government alleges that some members of MAN do not embrace the Personal Income Tax for their employees?**

For MAN we have always preached that PAYEE is very important. This is because we recognise that the Federal Government does not have any territory. Every company in Nigeria is located in a state or a local government so PAYEE is the best gains for the state a company is located so we take it seriously and we ensure that our members comply with PAYEE. Our challenge is that we cannot predict the amount that we pay. We also have the proliferation of agencies that demand taxes. Some of them are regulatory agencies to control standards; to control environmental issues or to ensure compliance but they have turned themselves to tax agents and this is not specified anywhere in their Act. They enter factory to demand payment. There are also issue of non-state actors that are either tolerated or supported by the state government. They infringe on the rights of our members. They even device means of waylaying our vehicles on the road. Some agents visiti to shut our factories illegally. They seize our trucks and remove tyres of factory vehicles.

**What do you think**

**LIRs can do to ensure compliance and better regulation against non-state actors?**

First we are excited by the Tax Reform Bill because it will bring about the environment that creates predictability, fairness and will be able to ban the proliferation of non-state actors. Government meeting its revenue target is in everybody's interest. There are quite a number of things institution like the LIRS should do. LIRs is probably the best tax institution we have in the country. Its sophisticated with the use of technology and to a very large extent, LIRS is engaging the citizens. But there always the need for us to improve on education. There is need to expand the tax net rather than looking for higher figure from already compliant citizens. There is need

to have more engagements with the taxpayers. Most taxpayers run away from government due to deficit trust from government. LIRs should encourage the government of the day to be more open and transparent in the way they spend taxpayers money and to ensure that those who pay tax get value for money. It is important for budget to be well publicized so that the expectations of the people can be met and one can easily use it to hold government to account. LIRs should not limit itself to collecting tax, it should work with the government to be able to demonstrate how that tax is being used. There is need to move away from taxing poverty. There is no need to be running after small people who are struggling to make a living. Already they are poor, they need help. Let us expand the tax net and make

people pay the right taxes. There are so many Nigerians that are not paying their taxes.

**What about tax incentives, hope your members are really enjoying this?**

Tax incentives are used to direct government's policy to certain industry in order to promote economic growth and it's a worldwide concept. There are quite a number of them that we have in Nigeria. We have the pioneer status and the Export Expansion Grant, we also have the infrastructure tax, which for instance gives tax holidays for those who have their industries established in rural areas. They have tax holidays. All of these are welcome development in manufacturing space. Most of our members are tapping into this, especially

those engaging in foreign direct investment. We participated actively in the fiscal reform and tax committee . We were able to make a lot of submission and indicate what is necessary. We are of the opinion that government should tax the fruits and not the seeds so that it does not tax the capital of the manufacturers. There have been quite impressive record on this. For instance, reducing CIT from 30 to 25 per cent, which I hope will be sustained. Nigeria is joining the global trend. The Export Expansion Grant of the government should be refocused because it has suffered disruption in terms of incentives to the manufacturers. If well refocused, the manufacturers can use the proceeds to pay all tax obligations to the government without any form of limitations.

**What's your general assessment of LIRs?**

I want to say that LIRs has always made us proud as people who live in Lagos. There is need for the agency to be interested in what the non-state actors are doing in the state. I know LIRs is not a law enforcement agency. There is need for deliberate collaboration because the proliferation of non-state actors is negatively impacting the business community, especially the manufacturing sector. Many of us have our trucks impounded and our raw materials are not able to reach our factories due to this. We are daily confronted by all sorts of demands for tax, both those that are remitted and not remitted to government. LIRs should step out to help us overcome these challenges.



# LASODA, LAGAME Partner To Promote Inclusive Education for PWDs

In a significant move to bolster educational opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Lagos State, the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA) is actively pursuing enhanced collaboration with the Lagos State Agency for Mass Education (LAGAME). This strategic partnership aims to dismantle barriers to learning, foster self-worth, and empower PWDs to become impactful contributors to society. Leading a delegation to LAGAME, Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal, General Manager of LASODA, emphasised the critical importance of inclusive education. She highlighted that accessible and tailored educational programmes are vital for equipping PWDs with essential skills, thereby improving their employment prospects, fostering independence, and enhancing their overall well-being.

Mrs. Oyetunde-Lawal underscored that true inclusivity hinges on accessibility within educational systems, advocating for accommodations that cater to the diverse needs of various disability clusters. "No one should be left behind," she stated, reiterating LASODA's commitment to ensuring equitable access to quality education for all. In response, Mrs. Kalesanwo, Director Lagos State Agency for Mass Education affirmed LAGAME's readiness to collaborate with LASODA, outlining several ongoing initiatives designed to promote greater inclusion. These, according to her, include dedicated admission quotas, disability-friendly curricula, and the integration of assistive technologies, all specifically tailored for learners with disabilities. She added that LAGAME is keen on fostering



progressive partnerships that support the academic, social, and emotional development of PWDs, reinforcing her agency's commitment to creating a more inclusive and accepting learning environment. This burgeoning collaboration between LASODA and LAGAME signifies a shared ability, have unhindered access to quality education, paving the way for a more equitable and empowered future for PWDs in Lagos State. It underscores a collective vision where all students, irrespective of

A new chapter has officially begun at the Lagos State College of Nursing Igando, as Dr. (Mrs.) Ayodeji Ogunmuyiwa was sworn in as the new substantive Provost. In her inaugural address on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, Dr. Ogunmuyiwa pledged to elevate LASCON's academic and professional standards with a clear vision to ensure its graduates are globally competitive and equipped to meet the evolving healthcare needs of Lagos State and beyond. Acknowledging LASCON's pivotal role in addressing the state's healthcare demands by producing world-class health professionals, the new Provost expressed unwavering commitment to raising

## LASCON's New Provost Vows To Ensure Global Competitiveness for Nursing Profession

the institution's profile nationally and internationally. She also emphasised her dedication to maintaining a consistent and smooth academic calendar. "There is work to be done," Dr. Ogunmuyiwa stated during her official welcome ceremony at the College. "We need to cover more ground if we hope to elevate the standards of nursing education in this institution and, by extension, the State. I want all of you to join me in fulfilling this very critical mandate. It is hard, but not impossible." In a show of support, Mr. Adeniran Kasali, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tertiary

Education, reiterated the crucial need for all staff members to rally round the new Provost. He urged them to support her quest to improve the fortunes of the tertiary institution and enhance its competitiveness within the educational landscape. Mrs. Rashidat Adams, Head of Administration and Human Resources, also welcomed Dr. Ogunmuyiwa, affirming the entire workforce's readiness to offer unwavering support. Dr. Ogunmuyiwa succeeds Mrs. Anuoluwapo Priestley, who served as the Acting Provost of the College.



Dr. (Mrs.) Ayodeji Ogunmuyiwa

# Hajj 2025: NAHCON Commissioner Commends Lagos Pilgrims, Seeks Support for Tinubu

**T**he have been the masses in the with officials so far, unforeseen Matters/Chairman, Commissioner precarious. country. he assured them that situation, the Central Working for Operations, W h i l e Earlier in his after completing the homebound journey Committee (CWC), National Hajj acknowledging that address, the Amir-ul- third stage of would begin on June Dr. Ahmad Abdullahi Commission of the subsidy removal, Hajj/Lagos State throwing pebbles at 15 or 16, He, Jebe; Prof. Nigeria (NAHCON), floating of the naira Commissioner for Jamarat on Sunday however, cautioned A b d u l K a b i r Prince Anofiu and other genuine Home Affairs, Hon. (12th Dhul-Hijjah), the pilgrims against Paramole (Dawah Olanrewaju reforms came with Olanrewaju Ibrahim they would be carrying luggage and Sensitisation); Elegushi, has initial hardship, he affirmed that the special prayer was moved to Makkah to perform Tawaful kilos, emphasising Shakiru Ayinde peaceful and reforms are now organised for the Ifadah and run the that each pilgrim is Gafer (Mina and Imam (Engr.) exemplary conduct yielding fruitful pilgrims to Sai (Safa and entitled to a 32kg Arafah), Mr. of Lagos State results, as prices of collectively appreciate Allah for and 8kg bag AbdulHakeem pilgrims in the foods and other His protection and stay in their He warned that Secretary), and Dr. ongoing 2025 Hajj items are gradually throughout the their final departure more than the (Medical). exercise in the coming down. He appealed to performance of the approved luggage Others were Alhaji Kingdom of Saudi a p p e a l e d to performance of the might forfeit such or Yusuf Ara (Bags and Arabia. Nigerians, especially major Hajj rites in while appreciating otherwise pay for Luggage), Alhaji Elegushi made the market men and the Holy land; pray the support of excess cargo to Waheed Sanni officials on a visit to w o m e n , for the Governor and his deputy; President Tinubu and entire Governor Babajide private operators and Alhaji to the Lagos tent in reducing the prices sought Allah's mercy a n d D e p u t y G o v e r n m e n t A b d u l W a h e e d Mina, during a they placed on their for safe trip back Governor Kadri functionaries at the Shonibare (Airlifting special prayer goods and services home. While appreciating announced that included, Special amongothers. organised by the to reduce the their cooperation barring any Adviser on Islamic Lagos State Muslim hardship faced by their cooperation barring any Adviser on Islamic Pilgrims Welfare Board.

He urged them to remain calm and peaceful as plans are underway to return them to Nigeria as soon as possible.

He used the avenue to praise the efforts of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) over the bold reforms embarked upon by his administration, saying that if Tinubu had not taken such bold steps, the economic situation of the country would



**T**he Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) has called on the students of the Lagos State University of Technology (LASUSTECH) to utilise the State Social Health Insurance Plan, popularly known as ILERA EKO, to have ready access to good health care.

The Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, made the call during a recent sensitisation of the students on ILERA EKO at the institution in Ikorodu, urging them to prioritise their health and take full advantage of the benefit package covered under the Scheme.

Represented by the Head, Sales and Marketing, LASHMA, Miss Uche Igweonyia, Dr. Zamba said that the enrolment of the students on ILERA EKO was a welcome initiative by the management of the school, to ensure that students are not only academically sound but also have good health.

Commending LASUSTECH for onboarding their staff and students on the Scheme, Dr. Zamba opined

## Ilera Eko: LASHMA Calls on ON LASUSTECH Students To Utilize SHIP

that health coverage is no longer a luxury but a necessity, especially in academic institutions where the pressure of school work and change in the lifestyle of the students can lead to unexpected health challenges.

Dr. Zamba said that with ILERA EKO, students in tertiary institutions in the State can enjoy benefits such as consultation, registration, treatment of common illnesses like malaria and typhoid, dental care, emergency care, laboratory and radiological investigations, as well as minor and intermediate surgery.

The Permanent Secretary said, "As students, your daily routine can be stressful, such as going to classes, having tight schedules, doing assignments and reading late, thereby sometimes making you forget about taking good care of your health".

She called on the students to use the ILERA EKO Telemedicine service at

their convenience, either by dialling 080000-EKO-VBT (080000-356-828) on any phone or downloading the App on Android or IOS. She appealed to them to be ILERA EKO Health advocates to their parents, family members and friends.

The Permanent Secretary urged other tertiary institutions in the State, including primary and secondary schools not yet on ILERA EKO, to enrol both their staff and students or pupils, especially now that the Social Health Insurance is mandatory.

The Vice Chancellor, LASUSTECH, Prof. Olumuyiwa Odusanya, in his remarks, said that good health is the ultimate and that prevention of any illness is better, faster, more effective and cheaper than curative health. He said, "It is cheaper to treat a sickness at the early stage".

He appealed to the students to take advantage of ILERA EKO, visit the clinic in the school

whenever they are feeling unwell and if necessary, get a referral from the clinic to a secondary hospital for further medical treatment.

Prof. Odusanya implored them to stay away from self-medication as this could worsen their medical challenge.

He commended the State Government for the establishment of the Social Health Insurance Scheme and promised that the institution would continue to give full support to the Agency and the State

Government.

The Dean of Student Affairs, LASUSTECH, Dr. Aderogba Ademola, assured the students that the institution is committed to their wellness and good health. He noted that this prompted the registration and enrolment of the students on ILERA EKO.

The Student Union President, Mr. David Gabriel, in his closing remarks, commended Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the Agency and LASUSTECH

Management, for their commitment to ensure that the students enjoy the benefits under ILERA EKO Tertiary Health Insurance Plan so that they could be healthy to cope with their various academic challenges.

He implored the students to access care on ILERA EKO as this would reduce out-of-pocket payment of medical bills by their parents, adding that such money saved could be used by the students for other immediate needs.



## Lagos Deepens Global Push For Adire, African Fashion

**I**n order to spotlight indigenous fashion and textiles on the global stage, the Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, recently hosted a high-level meeting with Her Majesty Queen Ronke Ademiluyi-Ogunwusi, founder of Africa Fashion Week London and Nigeria, alongside the British Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Jonny Baxter.

The strategic engagement focused on advancing the cultural and economic potential of Adire textiles, an iconic Yoruba fabric, as a major export and symbol of Nigeria's rich heritage.

Mrs. Benson-Awoyinka, during the high-level meeting, reaffirmed Lagos State's unwavering support for creative platforms that empower designers, preserve cultural identity, and contribute



meaningfully to the state's economy.

She emphasised that such partnerships are vital in amplifying African narratives and positioning Lagos as the heartbeat of fashion and creativity on the continent.

"As the fashion and creative capital of Nigeria, Lagos remains a catalyst for innovation, style, and enterprise. We are proud to support initiatives that promote our cultural assets and inspire the next generation of creatives," she said.

The Commissioner described the meeting as a major step forward in promoting Adire and African fashion globally while also underscoring Lagos State's commitment to cultural preservation and creative industry growth.

During the meeting, there were discussions on the celebration of the 15th edition of Africa Fashion Week London, a milestone achievement for the global African fashion movement.

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# Lagos Holds Summit To Review Obas, Chiefs Law

In a pivotal move to strengthen and modernise traditional institutions, the Lagos State Ministry of Justice convened a high-level Stakeholders' Meeting on the review of the Obas and Chiefs Law of Lagos State at the Protea Hotel, Alausa, Ikeja. Delivering a keynote address, the Honourable Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro, SAN, emphasised that the meeting marked a deliberate and strategic step by the administration of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu to evolve a more responsive and culturally relevant legal framework for traditional institutions in the State.

“As Lagos State navigates the complex waters of contemporary governance, the enduring presence of traditional rulers emerges as a beacon of cultural continuity and social cohesion,” Mr. Pedro stated. Pedro said that traditional institutions are gradually losing the respect and influence they once commanded, noting that this review is aimed at restoring the dignity of royal institutions by addressing critical gaps, legal ambiguities, and misconduct that threaten the essence of traditions in the state. He further outlined the key focus areas of the proposed amendment, including the roles of traditional rulers in maintaining law and

order, enhancing communication between the government and communities, promoting grassroots development, and resolving conflicts through mediation. Speaking earlier, Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Mr. Hameed Oyenuga, expressed delight at the impressive turnout, noting that the diverse representation underscored the value placed on Lagos State's Chieftaincy Institutions. Oyenuga described the meeting as a timely opportunity for meaningful dialogue and collaboration aimed at strengthening the Obas and Chiefs Law. He emphasised the need to align the law, which was last

reviewed decades ago, with current realities and constitutional principles while preserving the dignity and historical legacy of traditional rulers. The Solicitor-General called for constructive engagement, expressing confidence that the deliberations would shape a more inclusive, just, and development-oriented legal framework for chieftaincy matters in the state. Also speaking at the event, His Royal Majesty Oba Kabir Adewale Shotobi, the Ayangbure of Ikorodu, commended the initiative of the State Government and stressed the importance of restoring confidence in the traditional institution. “We, as custodians of culture and morality, have a sacred

responsibility to uphold the values of our people. However, this responsibility must be matched with a legal framework that protects our roles and ensures accountability. The law must help preserve our heritage, not weaken it. I commend Governor Sanwo-Olu's administration for recognizing this,” the Ayangbure said. The meeting also served as a platform for traditional rulers and stakeholders to provide direct feedback on contentious issues, including the proliferation of chieftaincy titles, prolonged litigations, and the emergence of titles not rooted in community history or custom. The Stakeholders' meeting concluded with a strong call for

continued collaboration as the law progressed toward amendment and eventual passage by the Lagos State House of Assembly. Other attendees include Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Mr. Kayode Robert; The PS, Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development, Mrs. Kikelomo Bolarinwa; The PS, Citizens Mediation Bureau, Mrs Derinsola Olanrewaju; Chairman, Standing Tribunal of Inquiry into Chieftaincy Matters, Hon. Justice O.A Dabiri; Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary, Petitions, Human Rights and LASIEC, Hon. Oladipo Ajomale, Traditional Rulers, White Cap Chiefs, Chieftaincy Officers from LGAs, Directors and Lawyers.



# Lagos Education District IV Promotes Yoruba Culture At Annual Festival



Lagos State Education District IV recently hosted its annual Yoruba Cultural Festival and Vocational Skills Acquisition exhibition, a vibrant celebration aimed at preserving the indigenous language and promoting cultural heritage among students. The Year 2025 festival, held at Lagos City Senior College, Sabo-Yaba, was themed: "My Language, My Identity," drawing significant participation and commendation. Mr. Olusegun Osinaike, the Tutor-General/Permanen

t Secretary for Education District IV, opened the event by expressing gratitude to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the Honourable Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Jamiu Alli-Balogun. He praised their unwavering commitment to indigenous languages, which ensures the learning and celebration of local languages and culture within schools. "It is crucial that we showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Yoruba people to promote cultural

preservation for future generations," Mr. Osinaike emphasised. He highlighted that the Yoruba Cultural Day is specifically dedicated to honouring Yoruba traditions, religions, and cultural practices, fostering unity and cultural preservation among the Yoruba people. Mr. Opadijo, the esteemed Guest Speaker, underscored the unifying power of language. He noted that for a language to truly embody a people's identity, it must be spoken fluently. The Guest Speaker passionately

argued that communicating solely in foreign languages can be likened to "bondage," urging Yorubas to "free themselves from the bondage" by embracing their cultural heritage and speaking their language with pride at all times. He further advised parents to actively encourage their children to speak Yoruba, not just in school, but as part of their daily lives, stressing the parental role in ensuring children embrace their culture and mother tongue. Adding to the messages of cultural pride, Mr. Lanre Lawal,

Assistant Director of the Internal Sector and Special Duties at the Lagos State Internal Revenue Service (LIRS), delivered a goodwill message. He highlighted that promoting cultural heritage fosters unity and encouraged students to proudly exhibit their culture, rather than solely adopting Western lifestyles. The festival was graced by a host of dignitaries, including Chief Adewale Abiodun Owoyemi, Lisa Igbobi Sabe, Yaba LCDA; Chief Lukmon Tunde Shonto Ogundeyin, Odofin Igbobi Sabe; His Royal

Majesty, Chief Sulaimon Ogundoko, Oniwaya of Iwaya Land; Mrs. Kemi Kalesanwo, Director, Agency of Mass Education and Mrs. Taofeekat Oladunjoye, Head of Department, Agency for Mass Education. Other bodies and dignitaries present included All Nigeria Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS) District IV Zonal Chairmen; Mr. Obitayo Jullius, Mrs. Bolodeoku Florence, and Mrs. Bankole Adeola, Representatives from the Parent Forum

Fellows of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy (LJLA) have concluded a high-level leadership immersion in Singapore, offering them first-hand exposure to one of the world's most admired models of inclusive nation-building, visionary governance, and sustainable development. Led by Executive Secretary Mrs. Ayisat Agbaje-Okunade, the visit was anchored at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP), National University of Singapore. Over five days, Fellows engaged in an intensive executive course on Transformation, Governance, and Leadership, exploring the core pillars of Singapore's national progress: long-term planning, disciplined public service, economic diversification, and human capital development. They also took part in a guided tour of the Housing & Development Board (HDB) Gallery, where more than 80% of Singaporeans live in government-supported housing. The Fellows observed firsthand how public policy serves as a

# LJLA Fellows Wrap Up High-Impact Study Tour in Singapore



powerful instrument for promoting equity and social cohesion. Programmes like the Ethnic Integration Policy (EIP) exemplify Singapore's active dedication to fostering multicultural harmony and maintaining social stability. The engagement also featured a strategic dialogue with the

Singapore Business Federation on the prospects and challenges of doing business in Africa, particularly Nigeria. Conversations around trade, investment, and regulatory reform underscored Nigeria's potential to become a key player in Asia-Africa economic cooperation. Another standout moment was a fireside chat with

Professor Lim Siong Guan, former Head of Singapore's Civil Service, who encouraged the Fellows to view governance through the lens of purpose, preparation, and nation-first thinking. At the Marina Barrage, the Fellows explored Singapore's world-class approach to water management,

sustainability, and urban resilience, learning about the "Four National Taps" strategy and the NEWater system, a global benchmark in water recycling. A visit to EON Reality also highlighted how emerging technologies like virtual reality and AI are reshaping education and public administration. Reflecting on the experience, Executive Secretary Mrs. Ayisat Agbaje-Okunade stated: "This International Policy Trip has been a masterclass in what's possible when leadership is intentional and inclusive. Our Fellows have seen how infrastructure, innovation, and integrity can be aligned to build a resilient society. The real challenge now is not just to be inspired, but to act, to take these insights and translate them into homegrown solutions for Lagos and for Nigeria". For the Fellows, the

experience was equally transformative. "Witnessing how Singapore has institutionalised vision, discipline, and equity has completely reframed my perspective on public service", said Marvellous Olusegun, a Fellow of the Academy. "It's clear that great nations are built, not wished into existence. And that responsibility lies with each of us", he added. The trip concluded with a formal certificate presentation at LKYSPP, marking the successful completion of the Fellows' academic programme and reaffirming their readiness to lead with purpose and principle. With every dialogue and every site visit, the Singapore experience reasserted the Academy's mission: to shape a new generation of ethical, visionary leaders committed to transformative public service.

# Lagos Reiterates Commitment To Protecting Coastline

The Lagos State Government over the weekend reiterated its commitment to protecting the State's coastline, building a safer, resilient, environmentally friendly and more sustainable Lagos that can bequeath to the next generation. This was disclosed by the State Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab while representing the state at the ongoing United Nations Ocean conference in Nice, France. According to him, Lagos, as a coastal state, faces severe climate risks such as rising sea levels, extreme rainfalls and

excessive heat, but is not sitting back and watching. In his words: "Lagos as a coastal state, faces severe climate risks from rising sea levels, extreme rainfall and excessive heat. But we are not sitting back. We are building resilient infrastructure". "So as a state, we must face our realities and those realities are that we must build resilient infrastructure which is key and we must also take ownership of those infrastructures which is very key". He added that the state has, in the past two years, invested in its drainage systems through an all-year-round clearing of all primary and secondary drains to reduce the possibilities of flash



Tokunbo Wahab

flooding. "At the last count, in the past two years, we have, as an administration, done about 76 kilometres of

trapezoidal drainage system statewide" Wahab informed that with over 13,000 tonnes of daily waste generation, Lagos is

moving from a linear disposal system of "you pick and dump" to a circular model where waste becomes a resource for energy

and recovery. He stated that the state is also transforming how it manages plastic waste by religiously following a trajectory that has already banned the use of styrofoam food containers and moving on to enforce the ban on single-use plastics from July 1, after an 18-month moratorium on users and producers. "In the last two years, we have chosen to categorise waste as a resource, so we have transitioned from a pick and dump system to a more sustainable, climate-friendly system where waste is now a resource for wealth, a resource for energy. Where waste is not just seen as a waste anymore",

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# Lagos Launches Africa's Biggest Green Credit Project

The Lagos State Government, through the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget during the week, launched a bold new initiative, the 80 Million Credit Float Project, aimed at tackling climate change, boosting the economy, and improving lives across Nigeria. This initiative, a partnership with GreenPlinth Africa, will roll out 80 million eco-friendly loans to people and create 35 million jobs while also improving health, especially for women and children. The Project Advisory Board of the initiative is chaired by Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, his Niger State counterpart, Governor Mohammed Umar Bago as Deputy Chairman, supported by six Vice Chairpersons from Nigeria's geopolitical zones and private sector, developmental, NGO, and CSO leaders. During the launch held at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, the Secretariat, Alausa, the Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. Ope George, said the partnership aligns with Lagos State's THEMES Plus Agenda and demonstrates Lagos' leadership in driving climate-smart solutions that prioritise people, innovation, and sustainability. Mr. George said the initiative is expected to benefit millions, particularly women and children, by expanding access to clean cooking technologies and reducing indoor air pollution. His words, "The programme serves as an economic catalyst, with projections of over 35 million green jobs and the upcoming launch of Africa's first subnational carbon exchange in Lagos. "This partnership is more than an agreement, it is a strategic step towards a cleaner, healthier, and more inclusive Lagos," Mr George said. "Together with GreenPlinth Africa, we are not just implementing a project - we are shaping the future of climate and economic

resilience in Nigeria." Earlier in her opening address, Special Adviser to Governor Sanwo-Olu on Climate Change and Circular Economy, Mrs. Titi Oshodi stated that the initiative would generate 1.2 million carbon credits, bringing in over \$1 billion in revenue over 15 years to support infrastructure, social programmes and climate projects. The Special Adviser, who also heads the Project Compliance Team, stated that Lagos State, being the anchor and gateway for Compliance Carbon Market Leadership, "will spearhead the deployment of the first 6 million free clean cookstoves, with distribution set to commence in June 2025, starting in Makoko." She added that the project will set up free clean food stores for families in need, promote the use of clean cooking technologies to improve health and reduce harmful emissions. "It will support job creation through new green businesses and local projects, provide renewable energy for small businesses and health insurance for families, as well as pay households 10,000 yearly through a 'Pay-to-Cook' programme when they use clean cooking methods," she said. Mrs. Oshodi further stated that Lagos will also launch the Lagos Carbon Exchange (LCX) – the first subnational carbon trading market in Africa, and only the second in the world outside of California. According to her, "The new platform will help Lagos earn money by trading carbon credits, which can be reinvested in clean energy, transportation, healthcare, and job creation." The Special Adviser said through the '80M Clean Cookstoves Project' using a bottom-up approach, "The project will allocate 1 billion each year to all 57 local councils in Lagos for green development, deploy five sustainable projects per year across 1,000 communities, provide health insurance coverage for each beneficiary household and also create 400 Million Economic trees to fight food insecurity and deforestation," she said. The State Working Group (SWG) and the Internal Working Group (IWG) were inaugurated at the media briefing which had in attendance Commissioners: Women Affairs & Poverty Alleviation, Mrs. Cecilia Dada; Mrs. Folashade Kaosarat Bada Ambrose (Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade & Investment); Mr. Biodun Ogunleye (Energy & Mineral Resources); Prof. Akin Abayomi (Health); Special Adviser to the Governor on the Environment, Mr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, Mrs. Olayinka Ojo; President of GreenPlinth Africa, Dr. Olawale Akinwunmi; the Chief Transformation Officer/Project Manager, Dr. Adebola Odunsi, amongst others.

In a clear demonstration of its zero tolerance for indiscriminate refuse dumping, five persons arrested for dumping refuse in the canal along Igando-Iba road Link Bridge have been arraigned and remanded in Kirikiri prison. The accused persons who were arraigned before a Magistrate Court sitting in Oshodi for dumping waste in a canal had their case adjourned till July 9. They were identified as Quassim Jamiu, 44, from Kwara state, Ayo Jamiu, 18, from Kwara state, Alexander Innocent, 40, from Akwa Ibom, Oparinde Taiwo, 55, from Ogun State and Moses Adelowokan, 76 years old, from Osun State. The men who were apprehended by a team from KAI and security men had conveyed the waste in a lorry and were in the process of dumping it into the canal when security men swooped on them. These latest arrests are coming less than 48 hours after the State Government read the riot act to all those who engage in disobeying provisions of the State Environmental laws, stating that if caught, they will face prosecution.

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## Five Men Remanded In Kirikiri For Dumping Refuse In Canal

Speaking on the arrest, Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab reiterated the resolve of the state government to come down hard on all those

who engage in indiscriminate dumping of refuse. He said the State Government will ensure diligent prosecution of all the arrested people to serve as a deterrent to all

those with similar intentions. He reminded all those with similar intentions to be wary because they risk three months' imprisonment and a fine of N250,000.

He said that the state has provided PSP waste operators across all the wards in Lagos State to evacuate waste from all homes and neighbourhoods in the state for a fee.



# LASU To Feature In ECOWAS Moot Court Competition

By Felix Kuyinu



The Lagos State University, LASU, has been shortlisted to feature in the 2025 ECOWAS Court of Justice Moot Court Competition. The varsity alongside seven other Nigerian institutions have been selected for the legal framework to test their knowledge in the profession as well as form collaboration with each other at the event. According to the President of ECOWAS Court of Justice, Ricardo Gonçalves, contestants from other institutions from the country which include: the Ahmadu Bello University, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus; University of Uyo, Afe Babalola University, American University of

Nigeria, Adamawa; University of Jos, Plateau State and Igbinedion University will be put through on deepening understanding of regional legal processes and promoting human rights and integration within West Africa. Gonçalves made the announcement during the opening ceremony of the competition in Niger State on Wednesday,

highlighting that the competition aims to enhance education on the Court's role and contributions; train participants in investigative, advocacy, and legal writing skills; raising awareness of the Court's work in Member States and fostering regional integration. He said that the eight selected institutions emerged from a pool of 13 after a rigorous

Memorial presentation phase, hinting that the court hopes that future editions will expand to include more universities across all ECOWAS Member States. In the role the court has played in the judicial sector, Gonçalves said, "The ECOWAS Court has played a pivotal role in advancing human rights, interpreting community laws,

and resolving disputes between states and institutions within the region.

"The Court has delivered landmark judgments that have reformed national policies, protected individual freedoms, and strengthened democratic governance across West Africa."

The court's Chief Registrar, Yaouza Ouro-Sama, urged the participants to fully engage with the experience, describing it as an opportunity to grow, network, and gain firsthand insight into regional legal mechanisms.

"Through initiatives like this, the Court actively supports regional integration and nurtures a sense of legal community among young law students," he noted.

"We hope this experience inspires you and strengthens your commitment to justice."

# Court Orders EKEDC To Reconnect Electricity To Lagos Facilities

By Felix Kuyinu

The Federal High Court in Lagos has ordered the Eko Electricity Distribution Company, EKEDC, to reconnect electricity at Protea Hotel and Kuramo Waters in Victoria Island with immediate effect following an ongoing blackout at the facilities. Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke, while making the order

berated the outage at both firms which was allegedly caused following the disconnection which took place on June 5.

Aneke made the injunction following an ex-parte application by the defense counsel, Ajibola Aribisala on behalf of Princely Court Limited, franchise owner of the Protea Hotel by Marriott



at Kuramo Waters.

The court granted: "An order directing the defendants to forth with reconnect the plaintiff's

electricity supply at the Kuramo Waters premises

"An injunction restraining the defendants, jointly or severally, from tampering with or further

disconnecting the electricity supply to the plaintiff's premises;

"An injunction restraining the defendants from tampering with the electricity

meter currently installed at the premises;

"An order mandating the third to sixth defendants to comply with all court orders concerning reconnection of electricity to the plaintiff's premises upon being served with the court's order."

The order is to subsist pending the hearing and determination of the plaintiff's motion on notice for interlocutory injunction.

A 45-year-old resident in Lagos has been jailed for indulging in business fraud to the tune of N360 million.

The convict, Chukwudi Goodness, was arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, at the Lagos High Court on allegations of committing the crime for over 10 years.

The Commission stated that the jailer issued 31 dud cheques and met his Waterloo when trying to dupe a fellow

## Lagos Businessman Sentenced To 74-Years In Prison Over N360m Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

businessman, Henry Nwadike.

The court judge, Josephine Oyefeso, said that the EFCC was able to prove that Goodness is guilty of 32 out of the 33-count charge bordering on theft and the issuance of fraudulent cheques imposed on him by the EFCC.

According to a statement issued by the anti-graft

commission, the offences occurred between June and July 2015 in Ikeja, Lagos.

One of the charges read: "That you, Chukwudi Okonkwo Goodness, sometime between the months of June and July, 2015 at Ikeja, within the jurisdiction of the Honorable Court, fraudulently converted and stole the sum of

360,000,000.00, property of one Henry Nwadike."

Goodness had pleaded not guilty to the charges levelled against him by the agency, leading to a lengthy trial during which four witnesses testified on behalf of the EFCC.

The Commission called four witnesses and tendered multiple exhibits to prove

the case.

He was discharged and acquitted on count two, which related to possession of documents containing false pretence. The sentences are to run concurrently. The judge subsequently sentenced Goodness to seven years imprisonment on count one (stealing), and

two years each on counts three to thirty-two for issuing dud cheques.

For count 33; another charge of stealing, the court handed him another seven-year term.

All sentences are to run concurrently, meaning the convict will spend a maximum of seven years in prison.

In addition to his jail terms, the court also ordered the convict to retribute the sum of 215 million to the victim within 30 days.

# Ayuba Pledges Continued Support for Education

Kehinde Adeleye

**E**ducation remains one of the most powerful tools for both personal advancement and societal transformation—a belief underscored during a recent

meeting between the Association of Tutorial School Operators (ATSO) and Hon. Ganiyu Adele Ayuba,

Member of the House of Representatives for Alimosho Federal Constituency.

The meeting, which took place on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at the lawmaker's constituency office in Akesan Town, was focused on deepening collaboration to strengthen educational access and support for students in the community.

Hon. Ayuba warmly received the ATSO delegation, commending their grassroots efforts in supplementing formal education and ensuring no learner is left behind. He reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to making Alimosho a model constituency for quality education and youth development. Highlighting past achievements in the education sector, the legislator also unveiled plans for new initiatives aimed at empowering students and enhancing learning environments across the constituency. These, he noted, would be rolled out

in the coming months.

Speaking on behalf of the association, Mr. Adejube James, Director General of ATSO, thanked Hon. Ayuba for his continued support and for the recent Eid-el-Kabir gifts extended to members. He emphasized the association's readiness to collaborate on educational programs that will uplift students and provide mentorship opportunities.

Also present were Mr. Obianwa Ben, Secretary of the association, and Mr. Balogun J.D., Chief Whip, who both echoed the group's dedication to expanding learning access and building a brighter future for Alimosho youth.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to sustained partnership and a collective vision of educational excellence in the constituency.



# Uncle Sam Amuka-Pemu Celebrates 80 Years of Journalistic Excellence

**P**rince Sam Amuka-Pemu, the iconic publisher of Vanguard Newspaper and co-founder of The Punch, has marked his 90th birthday to resounding acclaim on Friday, June 13, 2025. Known colloquially as "Uncle Sam" or "Sad Sam," he remains one of Nigeria's most respected and enduring voices in the media landscape

## A Legacy Rooted in Integrity

Born on June 13, 1935, in Sapele, Delta State, Amuka-Pemu began his journalism career at the Daily Times and became the first editor of Sunday Punch. In 1984, he established Vanguard, which has since become one of Nigeria's most influential newspapers

## Tributes from National Leaders and Colleagues

President Bola Tinubu honoured him with the Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON) distinction, describing him as an "eminent statesman" and "media industry doyen" whose dedication helped Vanguard thrive for over four decades .

Former Head of State Ibrahim Babangida (IBB) expressed admiration for their

half-century friendship, lauding Amuka-Pemu as a "man of wisdom, wit and insight" .

PANDEF, Senator Ede Dafinone, the Delta State Government, and the THISDAY Alumni Association also issued glowing commendations, calling him a "trailblazer," "national treasure," and "living legend" .

## A Beacon of Journalism Excellence

From his celebrated "Sad Sam" column to mentoring countless journalists, Amuka-Pemu's influence is profound. His enduring commitment to truth, press freedom, and ethical storytelling has inspired generations . Tribune and Vanguard writers consistently highlight his calm intellect, humour, and resilience.

## Why It Matters



Uncle Sam Amuka

Amuka-Pemu's 90th birthday is more than a personal milestone—it's a moment to reflect on Nigeria's journalistic heritage. His journey underscores the importance of integrity and perseverance in media.

## Quoting the Acclaim

"At 90, Uncle Sam remains a trailblazer in the history of journalism in Nigeria." — PANDEF  
"Uncle Sam embodies perseverance and dedication... his

passion for the industry continues to burn brightly." — THISDAY Alumni  
"Today, I celebrate Prince Sam Amuka-Pemu... not just a leader... a doyen." — President Tinubu

# Celebrating Uncle Sam at 90

A few days after I turned 60, I told Uncle Sam Amuka-Pemu, better known as Uncle Sam of my new status. We were in the course of a nice lunch of amala, ewedu and fish stew at his guest house. He gave me a wry smile and teasingly described me as a "p i k i n". When a soon-to-be 90 year old man calls you a small child, despite your grey beard, all you need to do is acknowledge, with all humility, that 30 years is not a j o k e ! How did I become his guest that Saturday afternoon? I missed his calls earlier in the day on Wednesday, then I received a text: " Call your uncle". It was a directive. So I called. " I need to see you," he said "Okay sir, but I am in Abuja." I r e p l i e d . " I know...you are with Dele in Solid Minerals now!". I got the message. So I promised to break my plan by travelling to Lagos to see him that weekend.

Although the subject of our discussion is not the purpose of this article, the event captures the kind of relationship Uncle Sam maintains with his mentees. He pulls us up from our lower and younger status in life to be his friends. He monitors our progress in the positions we occupy and networks with us. One day in 2019, Uncle Sam invited me to his home. When I arrived, he took me to his bedroom. On the bed was about 12 emboidered native caps already put together. He said: "I see that you like wearing these caps a lot. I don't need these caps because I dont attend occasions the way I used to." He packed the caps into a bag for me to take home. When I tried them at home, I found out they fitted very well! He monitors our projects. I began Echonews as a schools newspaper in 2004 and set up the community version in 2007. Both were on newsprint until they became digital. Uncle Sam ensured that I sent copies



Uncle Sam

regularly and took time to share his experience in publishing with me. When we did a story on the "10 Top Amala Joints in Oshodi-Isolo", he called to commend the choice of the story. He said he was sure it would resonate with the common man on the streets. In my darkest moment, when I was kidnapped for five days in 2013, Uncle Sam stood by me. The editor, Gbenga Adefaye, told me he instructed that my story must be on the front page till I w a s r e l e a s e d . The most significant value I have taken from Uncle Sam is humility. Against the notion that men of modest physique tend to be driven by the urge to force themselves on their environment, Uncle Sam flows peacefully and humbly within any space, without intending to

d i s r u p t o r d i s t r a c t . At the second terminal of the Murtala Muhammed airport, I found him sitting gently in one corner close to the exit one day and offered to drop him at home. He thanked me, declined my offer, jokingly telling me to "carry your motor go, mine will soon be here. " I couldn't leave him there. So I waited, and we continued to chatat. It turned out that the vehicle had some fault and was not available. So he consented to my standing offer to take him h o m e . As soon as we approached Maryland and the street traders began to harass us with different wares, Uncle Sam called the one selling jalamia and asked for one each for us. He insisted on paying for the two dresses and recommended it as fit for r e l a x a t i o n !

Giving and living with what you really need is contentment at its best. I remember the first time I received a cash gift from Uncle Sam. It was 1991. Vanguard had just published a series of my features on immunisation. Uncle Sam arrived the premises of the newspaper and was climbing the stairs when he saw me. He stretched his cash-filled h a n d t o w a r d s m e " Take, you do good features",he said. Soon, I got used to these regular handouts from the publisher each time my story i m p r e s s e d h i m I have moved round a few newspapers, from The Guardian to Vanguard to Concord and The Punch. My toast to Uncle Sam as he clocks 90 is that he provided the most stimulating environment of my journalism

career. I joined as Features Writer in 1990, became Assistant Saturday Magazine Editor in 1991 and Deputy News Editor in 1993. In 1992, I won the prestigious Vanguard Journalist of the Year. To crown it all, in the same year, I led the Vanguard chapel of the Nigerian Union of Journalists to negotiate a 100 per cent end-of-year salary bonus for all the staff of Vanguard newspapers. I couldn't achieve so much without the liberal and professional culture Uncle Sam nurtured at Vanguard. Sir, God shall preserve you to mark a century on earth. And even more. You are a wonderful gift to mankind. I cherish you. Kehinde Bamigbetan is a communicator and former Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy

# Alimosho APC Chairman Hosts Reconciliation Meeting

Kehinde Adeleye

**T**he All Progressives Congress (APC) Chairman in Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Tosin Fatoki, has hosted a crucial reconciliation meeting with the party's Chairmanship candidate for the July 12 local government elections, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, along with the councillorship candidates representing all seven wards.

The meeting, attended by 43 aspirants who contested in the May 10 party primaries, was organized to foster unity and address any lingering grievances resulting from the primary election outcomes.

In his address, Hon. Fatoki emphasized the need to put party interests above individual ambitions. "In every competition, there must be winners and losers, but in this case, there is no winner and no loser. This is the party's decision, and we must all respect it. Party supremacy is the



foundation of our unity," he stated. He called on the candidates to work together in harmony, stressing that the strength of the APC lies in its ability to present a united front. "Let us put the past behind us. The outcome of the July 12 election will reflect our unity and readiness for the challenges ahead—especially the 2027 general elections. We

must retain our dominance in Lagos and ensure the re-election of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu." Chairmanship candidate Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson echoed the call for unity, describing the primaries as a collective win for the party. "There is no victor, no vanquished. The fact that we are gathered here today shows we are all winners. This is my third time

contesting, and I know that not being chosen does not mean one is not qualified—it simply reflects the party's decision at this time," he said. He assured all present of his commitment to inclusive leadership, adding, "We are first and foremost members of the APC, before any group or caucus. President

Tinubu has charged us to work together as one indivisible family. If we do so, and win big in this election and in 2027, we will have stronger leverage to secure more appointments—commissioners, special advisers, and others—at the federal level." Hon. Johnson urged party members to discard divisive narratives and embrace collaboration.

"Let's move beyond the era of 'he is not in my group.' Let's return Alimosho to its golden era of political unity and collective progress," he concluded. All 43 former councillorship aspirants in attendance pledged their full support for the party, vowing to work for a resounding victory for Hon. Akinpelu Johnson and all APC candidates in the upcoming election.

# Johnson Pledges Mechanized Farming and Jobs for Alimosho Residents

**A**s part of efforts to enhance food security and create employment, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, Chairmanship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Alimosho Local Government, has pledged to establish a mechanized farm within the local

government area. He made this commitment during a consultative visit to the Omosu Stakeholders, which includes five Community Development Associations (CDAs): Omituntun 1, Omituntun 2, Modupe Ayoade, Olori, and Sanni Olopa.

Speaking at the

Kehinde Adeleye

meeting, which formed part of his campaign activities ahead of the upcoming Local Government elections, Johnson emphasized that the proposed agricultural project is aimed at boosting local food production and generating jobs. "This vision is within our reach," he said. "We've seen successful agricultural

collaborations at the state level, and some local governments have achieved similar goals. Alimosho can and will do the same."

He further explained that Alimosho Local Government would serve as a primary off-taker for produce grown by local farmers. "We will buy directly from our farmers at

favorable rates and make food available to residents at subsidized prices," he stated. He also promised regular stakeholder engagements to evaluate government performance and define future goals. In response, Major Rowland Akinlade, a key member of the Omosu stakeholders, voiced support for Johnson's candidacy but raised concern about erosion on

Kwara Street. "This issue has persisted through several administrations. A structure is reportedly blocking a proper drainage solution. We urge your administration to prioritize resolving this," he said.

Alhaji Kunle Salisu, Chairman of the Omosu stakeholders, expressed confidence in the APC team, especially highlighting Engr. Akande Adebayo's technical expertise in addressing environmental and erosion-related issues.

Also speaking at the event, Akinola Bashiru, a member of Johnson's campaign team, encouraged the stakeholders to mobilize local youth in support of the APC in both the upcoming local government elections and the 2027 presidential elections. He referenced a recent meeting with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, noting the President's expressed commitment to the development of Alimosho.



# Raji Addresses Leadership Issues In Epe

By Mohammed Adekola

The coastal town of Epe was live with color, culture and community spirit over the weekend during its iconic Ojude Oba festival, this celebration brings together sons and daughters of Epe in a grand display of tradition. This year's event carried more than just festive cheer, it became a platform for political and communal reflection as the federal lawmaker representing Epe Federal Constituency, Hon. Wale Raji, addressed the ongoing leadership crisis gripping the community. In his remarks, Raji referred to the tensions that have simmered since

the demise of the late Olu-Epe, a respected traditional leader whose passing has left a vacuum and sparked a tussle over succession. "This is a time that calls for maturity and restraint. Let us handle the situation with wisdom, for the betterment of the entire community." Raji urged all parties involved to set aside personal ambitions and prioritize peace, reminding the audience that Epe's strength lies in its unity and its ability to resolve internal disputes with dignity and tradition. The lawmaker's message came during



the peak of the Ojude Oba festival, saying "Our community is watching. The state is watching. Even the world is watching. Let us show them that Epe is bigger than any individual interest." He highlighted his continued commitment to development in the region, including roads, educational projects, and youth empowerment. "I remain committed to serving you not just with words, but with results," he said. As Epe navigates this transitional period, many residents welcomed Raji's words as a timely intervention that could help cool tensions and encourage a consensus-driven solution.

## Lagos Commissioner Lauds Ojude Oba Festival in Epe

By Mohammed Adekola



Lagos State Commissioner, Mr. Ahmed Seriki, has praised the people of Epe for the successful hosting

of the 2025 Ojude Oba Festival, describing it as a shining example of unity, tradition and cultural continuity. Seriki described the annual festival as a powerful expression of identity, unity, and shared history, noting that it continues to play a vital role in preserving Lagos State's cultural heritage. He said the people of Epe have shown exceptional commitment to preserving their customs and promoting peace.

According to him, Ojude Oba is more than just a celebration, it is a homecoming for sons and daughters of Epe, both at home and in the diaspora. The commissioner commends the efforts of Oba Kamorudeen Animashaun, the Oloja of Epeland, for his leadership in preserving tradition and fostering harmony within the community. Seriki stated that the Oloja's

dedication to unity and tradition is worthy of emulation. He emphasized the relevance of cultural festivals like Ojude Oba, noting the impact on intergenerational bonding, tourism, and local economic development. Seriki added that the events are more than cultural showcases. They boost local economies, attract visitors, reconnect families, and serve as reminders of enduring values and reiterated the

Lagos State Government's commitment to cultural preservation and urged other communities across the state to emulate Epe's dedication in promoting indigenous heritage. Seriki expressed optimism that with sustained government support and community participation, traditional festivals like Ojude Oba would remain vibrant, relevant and impactful for generations to come.

# Observers Commend Epe Indigenes For Choosing Dialogue Over Conflict

By Mohammed Adekola



Observers commend the people of Epe for choosing dialogue over conflict, and tradition over tension, a reminder that even in moments of internal contest, a united community can still thrive.

The recent controversies surrounding the selection process of the new Olu-Epe, which led to the temporary suspension of the exercise by the

local government authorities, Epe community has demonstrates a remarkable unity and maturity by maintaining peace and order during key religious and cultural events.

Echonews reports that in the weeks leading up to the Eid-el-Kabir celebrations, tension simmered across Epe over disagreements

regarding the rightful successor to the Olu-Epe stool.

This development prompts the local government to suspend the selection process in a bid to prevent escalation and maintain public peace.

Communal activities such as the annual Eid gathering and Jumat prayers were closely monitored, with concerns that the situation could disrupt public harmony. But in a

commendable display of tolerance, the people of Epe defied expectations of unrest. Both the Jumat service and Eid festivities were conducted peacefully, drawing large crowds of worshippers who came together in prayer and celebration without incident.

Security was present but unobtrusive, with community leaders playing a vital role in encouraging a spirit of unity above division.

More striking was the successful and colourful celebration of the annual Ojude Oba festival, a cherished cultural event that honors the traditional institution. Despite the lingering issues around the chieftaincy matter,

indigenes and residents of Epe Kingdom came out in grand fashion, dressed in traditional regalia, and paid homage peacefully to their respective quarters and royal figures.

The event was not only a testament to the rich cultural heritage of the kingdom but also a reflection of the people's deep-rooted respect for peace, tradition, and communal harmony.

A community elder, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "The strength of Epe lies in our ability to uphold peace, even in trying times. Disagreements will come, but what matters is our collective resolve to move forward without violence."

As the chieftaincy selection process remains under review, stakeholders continue to urge for calm, fairness, and adherence to due process in reaching a lasting resolution that will preserve the dignity and heritage of Epe Kingdom.

# Governor Sanwo-Olu Unveils Numerous Project In Ibeju-Lekki

By Mohammed Adekola

**G**overnor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has inaugurated several landmark projects that signal a renewed commitment to grassroots development in Ibeju-Lekki.

The newly inaugurated projects were a purpose-built multi-storey administrative building named after President Bola Tinubu, a modern legislative council chamber and a standard interlocking road.

The Projects were all delivered by the Ibeju-Lekki Local Government under the leadership of Egnr. Abdullahi Olowa.

The projects are part of a larger effort to rebuild and reposition the council after its former secretariat was tragically destroyed during the October 2020 #EndSARS protests. The newly unveiled secretariat stands not only as a physical structure but as a symbol of resilience and visionary leadership. With high-speed internet, solar-



powered lighting, CCTV surveillance, and a dedicated ICT centre, the facility is being hailed as one of the most technologically advanced council offices in Nigeria. "This secretariat provides a spacious, modern workspace that fosters efficiency and innovation," Olowa said.

"It's a huge step forward from the inadequate and outdated structures we had in the past."

Governor Sanwo-

Olu performed the groundbreaking ceremony for Citrus Gardens a public-private partnership housing initiative that aims to redefine urban living in Ibeju-Lekki. The estate is set to feature well-designed residential units, paved roads, indoor recreational spaces, green areas, and round-the-clock security.

"The Citrus Gardens will not only provide quality housing but also

stimulate economic activity and set a new benchmark for urban development in this axis," Olowa added. The newly commissioned road named in honour of Governor Sanwo-Olu will improve access to previously underdeveloped areas, laying the groundwork for more inclusive growth.

Governor Sanwo-Olu emphasized that the projects are aligned with the broader THEMES

Plus development agenda of his administration.

"This moment reflects the progress inspired by purposeful and transformational leadership," the Governor said, "The new infrastructure will enhance operational efficiency, boost staff productivity, and deepen democratic governance at the local level."

He shared plans for more infrastructure in the region,

including the construction of the Eleranigbe Road and the ongoing bridge project from Sangotedo to the future Lekki Airport corridor via Omu Creek.

The ceremony was more than just an event, it was a testament to the resilience of Ibeju-Lekki and the possibilities that emerge when government, private partners, and communities work together for shared progress.

# Ayuba Reaffirms Commitment to Constituency Development

Kehinde Adeleye

**T**he Member representing Alimosho Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, Hon. Ganiyu Adele Ayuba, Esq. (Mayor K.K.), on Tuesday hosted representatives of the League of Imams from across the constituency. Hon. Ayuba expressed sincere

appreciation to the religious leaders for their visit and their continued service to humanity. He used the opportunity to inform them of several upcoming initiatives designed to improve the lives of constituents, in alignment with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR. Speaking on behalf of the delegation,

the Grand Chief Imam of Agbado/Oke-Odo LCDA, Alhaji Raji Ajani, thanked Hon. Ayuba for his consistent outreach, particularly his thoughtful Eid El-Kabir gifts, which have become a tradition of support to the League. He also presented the group's concerns and requests. The meeting was described as impactful and memorable,

reflecting the vital role of religious leaders as key stakeholders in community development. The continuous prayers and guidance of the League of Imams were acknowledged as crucial to sustaining peace and progress across the constituency and the nation at large. In attendance were respected leaders of the League of Imams from the six

LGAs/LCDAs in Alimosho Federal Constituency:

Alh. Imam Ibrahim O. – Alimosho LGA

Alh. Imam Jamiu Olayemi – Igando/Ikotun LCDA

Alh. Imam Rafiu A. – Egbe-Idimu LCDA

Alh. Imam Ashiru Musa – Ayobo/Ipaja LCDA

Alh. Imam Muslim B. Nojeemdeen – Mosan-Okunola LCDA

Alh. Imam Raji Ajani M. – Agbado/Oke-Odo

LCDA

Alh. Bashiru Akanji Koshebinu – Chief Imam of Akesan Town

The engagement reaffirmed Hon. Ayuba's dedication to inclusive governance and his commitment to maintaining strong partnerships with faith-based and community leaders for the continued growth and unity of Alimosho.

## BADAGRY

# Lagos LG Election: Onilude Calls For Support Of Babatunde

By Saheed Afolabi

**T**he chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude has called on eligible voters to vote for the Badagry LG All Progressives Congress (APC) chairmanship candidate, Hunpe Babatunde in the forthcoming Lagos State Local Government Elections scheduled for July 12. Onilude assures residents that there will be continued

collaboration with Hunpe as he urged voters to remain peaceful ahead and during of the election. "We'll be holding elections to usher in a new administration on July 12, 2025. Together, we've maintained peaceful elections in this local government, and I urge us all to uphold this standard." He further assured the residents of his

successor's capability and experience as a former political experience.

"My successor is no novice. He has served as a Special Adviser to the Governor of Lagos State and is also a former member of the House of Representatives."

Onilude further implored residents and council staff to avail the support given to him to his successor.

"I implore you to give him the same



APC chairmanship aspirant for the Lagos State Local Government Elections, Hunpe Babatunde

cooperation and support you've given me. I'm

confident that, together, we'll continue to

protect and serve the good people of Badagry."

# LG Poll: APC Unveils Ejigbadero, Shobayo as Flag Bearers for Agbado/Oke-Odo LCDA

Kehinde Adeleye

**A**s part of its preparation for the July 12, 2025 local government elections, the All Progressives Congress (APC) has officially presented Hon. Ishola Ejigbadero and Hon. Kehinde Shobayo as its Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship candidates for Agbado/Oke-Odo Local Council Development Area (LCDA).

The official unveiling took place during a strategic visit to Ward G—the largest ward in Lagos State—highlighting the importance the party places on grassroots mobilization and voter engagement. During the event, Hon. Giwa Wasiu Aduragbemi was also formally introduced as the APC Councilorship candidate for Ward G.

The gathering was well-attended by prominent party

leaders and stakeholders, including the Ward G Apex Leader, a former Lagos State Commissioner and G14 member, and the Secretary of the Alimosho Central Working Committee, Pharm. (Mrs.) Uzamat Akinbile-Yusuf (Moremi).

Other notable party faithful, community influencers, and grassroots mobilizers were also in attendance, signaling strong internal support and cohesion.

In their remarks, the candidates expressed gratitude to the party for the

confidence placed in them and reaffirmed their commitment to inclusive leadership, community empowerment, and developmental governance. They also engaged with residents from Ajasa, Amikanle, and surrounding

communities, emphasizing the importance of unity and active participation in the forthcoming elections.

Thursday's event doubled as a mobilization effort and a reaffirmation of APC's commitment to retaining its stronghold in

Alimosho through people-centered policies and robust grassroots engagement.

With momentum building and support consolidating across Ward G, the APC appears well-positioned to secure victory in the upcoming elections.



# Keke Senior High School Wins 2025 Akintola Williams Youth Debate Competition

Kehinde Adeleye

**K**eke Senior High School, Ifako-Ijaiye, has emerged as the overall winner of the 2025 Akintola Williams Youth Debate Competition, held in Lagos. The intellectually engaging event brought together talented students from 12 secondary schools across Nigeria, showcasing critical thinking, eloquence, and leadership potential. By claiming the top spot, Keke Senior High School received a trophy and a brand-new laptop. Rainbow College, Surulere, secured second place, earning tablets and a trophy, while Oriwu Senior Model College, Ikorodu, came third, taking home mobile phones and a trophy.

Sapphire Ekeng of Rainbow College was named Best Speaker of the competition. She and the top-performing student from Keke also received internship placements with the British Council and will be featured on a radio programme, providing further platforms for their development and recognition. Speaking at the event, Mr. Sola Oyetayo, President of the Nigeria-Britain Association (N-BA)—organisers of the debate—praised all participants for their excellence and sportsmanship. He highlighted the competition's role in nurturing young leaders and promoting civic engagement. Now held annually in memory of Akintola Williams—Africa's first chartered accountant and a long-time N-BA patron until his passing in 2023—the debate celebrates a legacy rooted in integrity, education, and youth empowerment. This year's event was supported by NEM Insurance Plc, Scib Nigeria & Co. Limited, and the British Council, whose continued backing was vital to the competition's success. With its focus on communication and analytical thinking, the Akintola Williams Youth Debate Competition remains a leading platform for inspiring future leaders and strengthening UK–Nigeria relations through youth engagement.

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Council, whose continued backing was vital to the competition's success. With its focus on communication and analytical thinking, the Akintola Williams Youth Debate Competition remains a leading platform for inspiring future leaders and strengthening UK–Nigeria relations through youth engagement.



# APC France Chapter Secretary Pays Courtesy Visit to Ikosi-Isheri LCDA Chairman

Kehinde Adeleye



In a gesture of solidarity and continued political engagement, the Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC) France Chapter, Akogun Olamikekan Akanni, popularly known as Torino, paid a courtesy visit to the Chairman of Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Princess

Samiat Bada, on Monday, June 2, 2025.

The visit, held at the council secretariat, was to congratulate Princess Bada on her emergence as the APC flagbearer for the upcoming local government elections scheduled for July 12, 2025.

Akogun described the visit as both personal and

political, referencing his deep-rooted ties to the community and his admiration for Princess Bada's track record in office.

"This is where I grew up. This is my route," he said. "I've witnessed firsthand the remarkable projects she has executed in Ikosi-Isheri. That's why I visited her office—to express my appreciation and show my support."

He also addressed residents of the LCDA, calling for party unity and encouraging collective support for the APC chairperson's re-election bid.

"My message is simple: rally around the elected chairlady and give her the support she needs."

Whatever internal issues exist within the party, now is the time to unite. I'm confident she won't disappoint. Her second term will be even more impactful."

As part of his community engagement, Akogun participated in Eid-el-Mubarak prayers on Friday, June 6, at Maidan Primary School field, where he joined the Muslim

faithful in prayer, including Alhaji Shehu Usman, Chairman of the Mile 12 International Market.

Later that day, he paid a visit to Hon. Femi Saheed, the member representing Kosofe Constituency II in the Lagos State House of Assembly, at his residence.

# Malaika Thrills Crowd at Ehingbeti Day

Kehinde Adeleye

**T**he Chairman of Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Olasaju Adebayo, has reaffirmed his administration's dedication to fostering social integration, unity, and community pride.

He made this declaration during the inaugural edition of Ehingbeti Day, held on Monday in the Ehingbeti neighborhood of Isolo. The event marked a new milestone in the council's efforts to promote inclusive governance through cultural celebration.

Describing the maiden celebration as a "veritable tool for unity and togetherness," Hon. Olasaju reiterated that his administration would continue to support socially impactful programs alongside its commitments in other sectors of development.

Reflecting on his personal roots in

the community, the chairman proudly identified as a product of Ehingbeti—a neighborhood he said has produced several prominent figures, including a former council chairman and past Lagos State Commissioners for Finance and Commerce. He urged young people not to let their background define their limits, noting that their

aspirations are valid regardless of origin.

"I grew up here, and I know the strength of this community. Ehingbeti has a proud history, and we must continue to uplift and inspire the next generation. No investment in our youth is too much," he stated. He also spoke about the spirit of communal support that once defined the neighborhood, where well-meaning

individuals frequently sponsored education and extended humanitarian assistance to the less privileged. He emphasized his administration's readiness to revive these values through deliberate policy and grassroots engagement.

Chairman of the Planning Committee, Wasiu Ajamole, commended Hon. Olasaju for his consistent

efforts to promote peace, love, and unity in the council. He noted that the success of Ehingbeti Day reflects the chairman's vision for a more cohesive and culturally vibrant Isolo.

A major highlight of the celebration was the electrifying live performance by renowned Fuji star Alhaji Sulaimon Alao Adekunle, popularly known as Malaika. The veteran performer

lit up the atmosphere with his captivating stagecraft, thrilling thousands of residents and fun lovers with his signature hits and infectious energy.

With an overwhelming turnout and positive reception, the maiden Ehingbeti Day has set a strong foundation for what is poised to become an annual tradition celebrating identity, resilience, and community spirit.



# Be Patience with President Tinubu, Ogundipe Urges Constituents

Kehinde Adeleye

**H**on. said. "But Stephen President Tinubu Olukayode has shown sincerity. He has asked for time and understanding, and member of the Lagos State House of Assembly representing Oshodi/Isolo Constituency I, has called on Nigerians to exercise patience with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, assuring that current economic challenges will ease with time."

Ogundipe, who serves as Chairman of the Bola Ahmed Tinubu House Committee on Information, Strategy and Security, described Tinubu's recent visit to Lagos as a "reassuring sign" of the President's commitment to inclusive development. He added that the All Progressives Congress (APC) remains a party of progress and urged the public to support its leadership through this transitional period.

"We must give our party a breathing space," he said. "This is a government that came in with a struggle. Now is the time to allow the policies take shape." He also appealed to fellow political leaders to stay grounded and work with empathy, urging the wealthy to extend their resources to help those in need.

"One rich man among 100 poor people is still poor," he noted. "Those whom God has blessed should share with others." On his role as a legislator, Ogundipe expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and shared some of his ongoing efforts. As a first-time lawmaker, he is currently working on three bills focused on development and human capacity building. Drawing from his background in human resources, he emphasized the need to prioritize worker training and welfare.



training and welfare.

He further highlighted key infrastructural needs within his constituency, especially road rehabilitation, adding that discussions with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu are ongoing and site inspections have been promised.

"You can ask my people—I am always on the ground," he said. "These past two years have allowed me to understand the workings of the Assembly. I've taken that experience and turned it into service. Our impact is being felt."

Ogundipe concluded by thanking his constituents for their continued support and reaffirmed his commitment to inclusive governance and community development.

# A Legacy of Peace: Onilude Unveils Successes In Security

By Saheed Afolabi



Chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude flanked by the members of the security council in a group photograph

**B**adagry Local Government Chairman, Olusegun Onilude recently hosted the second to the last Security Council meeting of his administration, a gathering filled with a profound sense of accomplishment, gratitude, and unity.

"Today, I stand before you immensely proud

of everything we've achieved together over the past eight years as partners in safeguarding lives and property," Onilude stated. He reflected on the many obstacles they overcame, which led to the creation of the regular Peace and Security Stakeholders' Meeting. This initiative was

designed to boost cooperation and create strategies that would strengthen the synergy between security agencies, the local government, and other vital stakeholders.

"I'm grateful for our collective progress—from tackling the surge in cult-related activities to witnessing many of our youth voluntarily

abandon cultism, laying down their arms in pursuit of peace."

Onilude also expressed deep appreciation for the collective effort during the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated lockdowns.

"Our success during that crisis wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering

support of our security agencies and the collaboration of all critical stakeholders." Reflecting on the End SARS movement, he praised the local government's peaceful management of the protests.

"Fortunately, we didn't experience any incidents of arson or events that escalated beyond the

control of this administration and our security operatives."

He also highlighted other persistent challenges faced during his tenure, including human trafficking, drug abuse, and smuggling both by land and sea.

"There are too many to mention, but each one tested our resilience and commitment to ensuring the safety of our people."

# GOS Honoured As Mushin General Hospital Unveils New Accident & Emergency Unit



A collage of pictures showing the official opening of the Mushin general hospital by Senator Ganiyu Solomon

**L**agos State health officials and the management of Mushin General Hospital celebrated Senator Ganiyu Olanrewaju Solomon (GOS) for his significant contributions to healthcare in the community. The commendation came during the commissioning of the hospital's newly constructed Accident and Emergency (A&E) Unit.

Dr. Benjamin Eniayewun, Permanent Secretary of the Lagos State Ministry of Health, lauded

Senator Solomon, a former council chairman and two-term senator, for his foresight in donating the Oliyide premises. This site, previously the council secretariat, was relinquished during his tenure as Chairman of Mushin Local Government to

pave the way for establishing Mushin General Hospital. Medical Director of Mushin General Hospital, Dr. Oluyemi Taiwo also expressed profound gratitude to Senator Solomon. She praised his visionary leadership within

Mushin's socio-political landscape, noting its continuous positive impact on healthcare.

Dr. Taiwo highlighted Mushin's role in the hospital's growth, attributing the prioritization of community well-being through advocacy, policy, and grassroots mobilization to Senator Solomon's leadership. She emphasized that the success of the A&E project was a testament to both relentless community support and the Senator's influential voice.

Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr Emmanuel Bamigboye extended his appreciation to Senator Solomon. He commended the Senator's courageous decision to relocate his administrative headquarters, ensuring that

By Saheed Afolabi

Mushin residents would have access to vital secondary healthcare services.

Senator Solomon acknowledged Dr. Oluyemi Taiwo and her team's dedication to providing quality healthcare in Mushin. He recounted how the hospital management passionately sought his support for the center, expressing his prayers for their continued commitment to the people of Mushin.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of an award to Senator Ganiyu Olanrewaju Solomon by Dr. Benjamin Eniayewun. The award recognized his pivotal role in establishing Mushin General Hospital and his outstanding support for the construction of its new Accident and Emergency Unit.

# Lagos LG Election: Ajala Urges Residents To Vote For Jakande

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Mr Rasaq Ajala has appealed to the residents of the community and other eligible voters to turn out in their numbers and vote for the OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA chairmanship candidate of the APC, Mr Seyi Jakande in the forthcoming Lagos State Local Government Elections scheduled to take place on Saturday, July 12.

Jakande who's also the present vice chairman of OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA earned the endorsement of Ajala who believes his antecedents as vice chairman of the council is capable and have the necessary experience to navigate the ship the council.

Ajala said Jakande possesses the positive and progressive DNA to charge the continuity of progress of OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA



Seyi Jakande, APC chairmanship candidate for OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA in the forthcoming Lagos State Local Government Elections

alongside other councilorship candidates of the APC.

"The man that can do the job and he's very capable considering his

antecedents and experience as vice chairman of OdiOlowo

Ojuwoye LCDA for eight years. "He will be leading the team

of other passionate members who have the DNA of the prosperity of OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA. The people that are ready to advance the progress of the community.

"Having work closely with him for eight years, I have no doubt that Seyi Jakande is the best man for the job."

Ajala therefore, urged eligible voters to vote for Jakande in the coming Lagos State Local Government Elections on July 12.

"I want to appeal to you eligible voters to come out in their number and vote for the APC in the chairmanship election scheduled for July 12.

"Please urge your family and children to come out and vote. They shouldn't be found playing football before election but rather they should go and exercise their voting franchise and vote for the APC.

# Ajala Shares Inspiring Story Behind OdiOlowo Chairman's Cup

By Saheed Afolabi

**C**hairman of OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Mr Rasaq Ajala has revealed the achievements and successes of the OdiOlowo Chairman's Cup as his tenure dwindles to an end.

The OdiOlowo Chairman's have become an initiative which has birthed youngsters who has acclaimed national honors at the U17 and U20

level.

Ajala believes the OdiOlowo Chairman's Cup have lived up to expectations with the discovery of talented youngsters over the years who have gone to represent Nigeria at the national team level in age grade competitions.

"The Odi-Olowo Chairman's Cup has produced talented youngsters who have gone on to

represent Nigeria at the age-grade level," Mr. Ajala stated proudly.

"It has also provided an enabling environment for youngsters to showcase their talents with right exposure.

"Through the Odi-Olowo Chairman's Cup, we were able to scout youngsters who have gone on to represent Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA at the Gothia Cup in Sweden. That's a testament

to the raw talent within the community and the platform built to nurture it."

Ajala went on to explain the decision to establish the OdiOlowo Chairman's Cup with the intention of making it a more viable platform for talent discovery.

"When we first conceived this idea, our primary

goal was to create a platform for the incredible talent we knew existed within our community.

"We started with HRA Cup five years ago, in order to make it want to sustain it beyond my administration, we decided to name it OdiOlowo Chairman's Cup and that's why we started it from the third edition to the fifth edition that we are presently in, so

that's how we came about the OdiOlowo Chairman's Cup." The Odi-Olowo Chairman's Cup was more than just a football tournament; it was a testament to community spirit, a launching pad for dreams, and a symbol of Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA's commitment to its youth and its future.



Rasaq Ajala, chairman of OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA, flanked by Seyi Jakande the APC chairmanship candidate of OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA

# Jakande Vows To Sustain Ajala Sport Programs

By Saheed Afolabi



Seyi Jakande, vice chairman of Odi Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA and APC chairmanship candidate for OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA in the Lagos State Local Government Elections

**M**r Seyi Jakande, vice chairman of Odi Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA and APC chairmanship candidate of the council has vowed to sustain the sport programs of the outgoing council chairman, Mr Rasaq Ajala.

Jakande said he's a strong advocate of continuity in governance while stating the fifth edition of the Odi Olowo Chairman's Cup will start during this present administration led by Ajala and come to an end during his administration when elected as chairman in the July 12 Lagos State Local Government Elections.

He praised the visionary leadership and wisdom of Ajala in changing the name of the competition from HRA Cup to Odi Olowo Chairman's Cup which have expanded the

scope of the tournament to Lagos State and neighboring states. "If you look at the Chairman's Cup, you will notice it will start in this present administration and ends with a new administration. So that will tell you that there will be continuity in governance.

"As a strong advocate for continuity in governance, we will definitely sustain all the present sport programs of this administration.

"We have started very well, and I can assure and guarantee you that come September we will definitely end the competition well.

"You will notice that this competition started five years ago as HRA Cup, it's in the wisdom of the present administration led by Honorable Rasaq Ajala the executive chairman that the competition should be expanded to the Chairman's Cup."

# Komolafe Applauds Team Lagos Weightlifters Stellar NSF Performance

Chairman of the Lagos State Weightlifting Association, Kunle Komolafe expressed his immense satisfaction with the exceptional performance of Team Lagos weightlifters at the National Sports Festival held in Ogun State. He visited the athletes at the Mobolaji Johnson Sports Centre, Rowe Park, to personally convey his commendation over their impressive results. Komolafe highlighted that the athletes' remarkable achievements were a testament to their unwavering tenacity, sheer determination, and the strong team spirit synonymous with Lagosians. He emphasized that these athletes were not just participants, but individuals discovered and meticulously groomed within Lagos, showcasing the success of local talent development. He extended his heartfelt congratulations to each athlete, acknowledging their heroic display throughout the 22nd National Sports Festival. Their impressive showing, according to Komolafe, perfectly exemplifies the Lagos State Government's steadfast

commitment to sports development initiatives.

Komolafe also pointed out the significant impact of the government's critical investment in sports infrastructure, which provides the necessary foundation for athletes to train and excel. He believes that the success witnessed at the festival is a direct reflection of these strategic investments.

Team Lagos weightlifters achieved a significant haul of 14 medals, demonstrating their dominance in the competition. This impressive tally included 4 gold medals, 7 silver medals, and 3 bronze medals, showcasing their prowess across various categories.



Chairman of Lagos State Weightlifting Association, Kunle Komolafe with Team Lagos Weightlifters



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