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Watermelon Tops Ramadan Fruits Demands

By Kunle Awosiyan

The fasting period of Ramadan does not only shape religious life; it also significantly influences economic activities. Across many cities, including Lagos, certain businesses experience a noticeable boom as consumers adjust their spending patterns to meet the demands of fasting and evening meals. Foodstuff markets are among the biggest beneficiaries of the Ramadan season. Staples such as rice, beans, garri, palm oil, vegetable oil, semovita and spices often see increased demand as families prepare meals for suhoor (pre-dawn meal) and iftar (the meal used to break the fast).

Traders in major Lagos markets report higher patronage during this period as households stock up on essential ingredients used for soups and traditional dishes. Bulk purchases are also common as families plan meals ahead of time.

Despite the sharp rise in food prices largely attributed to the cumulative effect of fuel price hikes, demand for food items has remained high.

Fruit sellers are also experiencing a surge in patronage. Fruits are widely consumed when breaking the fast because they provide quick energy and hydration.

An Echonews visit to several markets in Lagos revealed that commonly purchased fruits include watermelon, pineapple, oranges, bananas, apples, dates, pawpaw and tangerines.

However, demand for watermelon appears to be the highest during this Ramadan period.

A fruit seller at the Ketu-Alapere Market, Seidu Alidu, told Echonews that watermelon has become the most sought-after fruit among fasting Muslims.

He said hundreds of customers patronise him daily, adding that he now orders larger supplies of watermelon from northern Nigeria to meet the growing demand in Lagos.

The high patronage has also pushed up the price of the fruit. While a whole watermelon previously sold for between 1,500 and 2,000, it now costs about 3,000 in many markets.

"The fact that we can buy from retailers who cut it and sell portions between 200 and 500 makes it the best fruit to break my fast," a fasting Muslim, Abdulmateen, said.

Watermelon is a highly hydrating (92% water) and nutrient-dense fruit rich in citrulline, lycopene, vitamins A and C, which promote heart health, reduce muscle soreness, and support skin health. It is low in calories, aids digestion, and contains antioxidants that help protect cells from damage. Abdulmateen, an auto electrician, added that oranges though cheaper are less appealing this season.

"I love oranges and they are cheaper than watermelon, but they are not juicy now, perhaps because the rains have not started," he said.



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Watermelon Tops Ramadan Fruits Demands

Continued from page 2

An orange trader who identified himself simply as Wakil said four oranges currently sell for about 500 but admitted that watermelon has overtaken oranges in popularity during Ramadan.

"People still buy oranges, but during Ramadan our customers prefer watermelon," he said, noting that he has also added watermelon to his fruit stall.

Dates also remain popular because of their religious significance during Ramadan. They are traditionally consumed when breaking the fast, especially among northern Muslims living in Lagos.

Prices range from 100 to 200 for about four pieces, depending on the size and quality.

Businesses dealing in beverages, yoghurt, pap, smoothies and light snacks also record increased patronage in the evenings. Street vendors selling grilled foods, pastries and local delicacies often experience higher sales just before sunset when people prepare to break their fast.

Restaurants and food vendors similarly report increased evening traffic as families and groups gather after sunset. Many eateries extend their operating hours to accommodate customers after prayers and social gatherings.

Another emerging trend during Ramadan is the growing reliance on food delivery services. Platforms such as Chowdeck have become increasingly popular among urban residents who prefer the convenience of ordering meals online rather than cooking.

Food delivery riders often experience higher demand in the evening

hours when people prepare to break their fast. Customers order cooked meals, fruits, beverages and snacks through mobile applications, which are delivered directly to their homes.

Recent checks on Chowdeck's social media platforms by Echonews indicate a rise in the number of users downloading the application during the fasting period.

Beyond formal businesses, the Ramadan season also benefits many informal traders. Temporary roadside stands selling fruits, drinks, fried snacks and cooked meals often spring up across neighbourhoods to serve fasting residents.

For many small-scale entrepreneurs, the fasting season presents an opportunity to increase income and attract new customers.

However, some businesses are experiencing reduced patronage. Traders dealing in beer and alcoholic drinks say sales have dropped significantly during the fasting period.

"We are praying for the fasting period to end so that we can sell again," said Okojie, who operates a beer parlour on Makinde Street in Alausa.

"Those who usually drink beer while watching football, especially during



the UEFA Champions League matches, are not drinking now because of fasting," he said.

Despite these shifts, many food vendors say they have adapted their business strategies.

A food vendor on Lagos Island, Alaba Adejokun, said the Ramadan season often comes with both challenges and opportunities.

"What we lose in the morning, we gain in the evening. We adjust our production accordingly. Since the fasting began, we reduced the quantity

of food we cook in the morning, but by evening we prepare koko and akara for people breaking their fast," she said.

According to her, some of the food is taken to nearby mosques.

"We sell some and give some free to those breaking the fast," she added.

Meanwhile, Lekki Central Mosque has been offering free iftar meals to worshippers during the holy month.

The mosque said the initiative is aimed at supporting members of

the community during the fasting period.

Such gestures are common in many mosques across Lagos, where religious organisations distribute free meals and food packages to fasting Muslims to help cushion the impact of economic challenges.

"There is no better place to break fast in Lagos than Lekki Central Mosque," said Jelil, an Uber driver who frequently visits the mosque during Ramadan. "Free food is plentiful there," he added.

While Ramadan remains primarily a period of spiritual reflection and devotion, it also continues to create unique economic opportunities for businesses linked to food supply, street vending and digital delivery services.

From traditional foodstuff traders to modern delivery platforms like Chowdeck, the fasting season continues to reshape consumption patterns and stimulate commercial activity across Lagos.



DSVA Enlightens Oloko, Ifesowapo Communities On SGBV Prevention

The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) has continued its grassroots advocacy with a sensitisation programme held at Oloko Community in Iju-Ishaga, and Ifesowapo Community in Ijaye, reinforcing its commitment to preventing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

across Lagos State. During the engagement, Mr. Akinde Emmanuel and Mrs. Tolani Adegboyega of the Agency's Community Engagement department enlightened community members on the various forms of abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional, and economic violence.

He also highlighted the support services available to survivors and clearly outlined the appropriate reporting channels. Participants were strongly encouraged to promptly report any case of abuse through the DSVA toll-free line: 08000-333-333. He further urged attendees to amplify the zero-tolerance message by sharing

the information with other members of the community who were not present.

The Baale of Oloko, Chief Mathew Oloko, and Chief Wahab Saliu Adisa expressed appreciation to the agency for bringing such an important initiative to the community. He also encouraged the team to collaborate with other relevant bodies

to further promote the agency's mandate. According to him, sexual and gender-based violence is a long-standing societal menace, and sustained advocacy like this is crucial in addressing it.

The programme was well attended, with over 25 community members actively participating in the sensitisation session,

demonstrating the community's interest in promoting safety, accountability, and zero tolerance for all forms of abuse.

The engagements further strengthened community collaboration and reinforced the importance of collective responsibility in preventing and responding to SGBV at the grassroots level.

The Lagos State Health Facilities Monitoring and Accreditation Agency (HEFAMAA) has concluded its state wide sensitisation campaign across the 20 Local Government Areas of Lagos State, with the last engagement in the series held in Ibeju-Lekki on Wednesday. Speaking at the town hall meeting held within the premises of the Ibeju-Lekki council secretariat, the Permanent Secretary of HEFAMAA, Dr. Abiola Idowu cautioned herbal practitioners against administering orthodox medicines alongside traditional remedies without proper authorisation. Represented by the Deputy Director of Health Education, Mrs. Oladunni Omonike, the Permanent Secretary, explained that practitioners operating herbal centres or faith-based establishments are expected to restrict their services to recognised

HEFAMAA Urges Herbal Practitioners to Adhere to Approved Practices

traditional medical practices.

She emphasised that combining conventional medicines with unregulated herbal treatments violates established healthcare regulations and poses potential risks to public health.

According to her, traditional medicine practitioners in Lagos State are required to operate under the supervision of the Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board, the statutory body responsible for regulating traditional medical practice and ensuring adherence to approved standards within the sector.

Dr. Idowu noted that HEFAMAA works in close collaboration with the Board to strengthen oversight, enforce compliance, and protect residents from unsafe or unapproved healthcare services. She further disclosed that the sensitisation

programme formed part of the agency's strategy to educate healthcare operators, improve regulatory compliance, and enhance the quality of healthcare delivery across the state.

"The purpose of these engagements is to ensure that practitioners clearly understand the regulatory framework guiding healthcare services in Lagos State and the importance of

operating within approved standards," she said. Dr. Idowu added that the agency remains committed to continuous stakeholder engagement, stressing that HEFAMAA's approach focuses more on education and guidance rather than punitive measures.

Also speaking, HEFAMAA's Chief Nutrition Officer, Richard Olusanya, stated that the

agency had engaged residents, community leaders, religious organisations and healthcare providers across the state to raise awareness about its mandate and encourage the patronage of accredited health facilities.

He described the engagement at Ibeju-Lekki as the concluding phase of the sensitisation exercise conducted across all 20 Local

Government Areas in Lagos State.

He expressed the hope that the exercise would assist in deepening awareness of regulatory standards guiding healthcare practices and promoting compliance among health facility operators.

Stakeholders in attendance during the engagement were Herbal Practitioners and Community Leaders, among others.



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Congratulations to the first United States of Mexico's Consul to Lagos, His Excellency, Mr. Biodun Otunola.

This is the beginning of greater things to come.

Signed

Kehinde Bamigbetan
& Family



L-R: Ambassador of Mexico to Nigeria, His Excellency, Alfredo Miranda Ortiz, Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu and Mexico's Consul to Lagos, Mr Biodun Otunola during a courtesy visit to the governor at Lagos House, recently

His Excellency
Mr. Biodun Otunola

Consul to Lagos
United States of Mexico

LASRRA, IDENTIKO Solutions Conduct Pilot Test of Android Registration Devices

Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA), in partnership with Identiko Integrated Solutions, has successfully conducted a pilot test of its new Android enrollment devices.

The pilot exercise, held on Thursday at Identiko Integrated Solutions premises, 16 Otunba Jobi Fele Way, CBD, Alausa Ikeja, was organised to evaluate the functionality, usability, and operational efficiency of the device among enrollment staff. The key features of the device including biometric capture, resident data entry, document verification, and system synchronisation were revealed.

The training session, designed for selected registration officers and field operatives, focused on equipping participants with practical knowledge and hands-on experience in operating the devices to enhance data capture, improve efficiency, and ensure seamless registration of residents across the State.

The outcome of the pilot exercise will guide necessary adjustments, upgrades, or additional support measures to ensure the devices meet operational standards and



support LASRRA's mandate of maintaining an accurate and comprehensive residents' database

According to Identiko Integrated Solutions, the pilot test serves as an essential step in identifying potential challenges and areas for improvement prior to a state-wide rollout. Observations from the exercise will guide technical adjustments, workflow enhancements, and additional staff training where necessary.

Speaking during the session, the CEO, Mr. Jide Agbaje who was represented by

Head, Training and Field Operations, Mr. Abiodun Shabi, said that the pilot phase is designed to assess the performance, durability, and efficiency of the devices under real field conditions.

"There will be another review based on the participant's feedback on ease of use, speed of data capture, device stability, and connectivity performance. The participants have been tasked with deploying the devices in select locations and documenting their experiences, challenges, and recommendations", he stated.

The exercise brought together

selected LASRRA enrollment officers including all the supervisors in the five divisions of the State who were tasked with using the Android-based device in simulated and controlled registration scenarios. The objective was to ensure that the device meets operational expectations and aligns with the agency's goal of improving the efficiency and accuracy of resident data capture.

According to the Project Manager, Identiko Solutions, Mr. Enitan Samson, "The pilot phase is critical to ensuring that the Android enrollment device performs reliably in

real registration environments".

Following the review of the pilot test results, Identiko Solutions will work closely with LASRRA to implement the necessary improvements. Once finalised, the Android devices will be deployed across all LASRRA registration stations to support faster, more efficient resident enrollment and enhance the overall registration experience.

The initiative represents a continued commitment by LASRRA and its partners to modernise resident registration processes through the adoption of reliable and

scalable digital technology.

The hands-on training covered device configuration, biometric data capture procedures, troubleshooting techniques, data synchronisation protocols, and best practices for engaging residents during field registration exercises.

Identiko Solutions is basically a Tech Solutions company that helps organisations build secure digital systems and IT Infrastructure, especially for identity verification, cybersecurity and enterprise technology projects.

Lagos Cautions Residents of State-Owned Estates on Illegal Structures

The Lagos State Ministry of Housing has issued a strong caution to residents of State-owned housing estates against the construction of illegal structures and violations of estate regulations, reiterating its commitment to restoring order, safety, and the original design integrity of government estates.

The advice was reiterated by the Permanent Secretary, Engr. Abdulhafis Toriola, during a stakeholders' meeting held recently at the Ministry's Conference Room, Alausa Secretariat, between the Management of the Ministry and the Executives of the Ojokoro Estate Residents Association, Meiran.

Addressing the Executives, Engr. Toriola expressed serious concern over the deteriorating condition of Ojokoro Estate, describing the level of contraventions as alarming. He noted that the extent of unauthorised extensions and illegal developments only became fully evident during his recent visit to the Estate.

"The Ministry will

not fold its arms and allow the distortion of the original master plan of any State-owned estate," the Permanent Secretary stated. "All allottees were duly informed of the rules and regulations governing their properties before allocation, as clearly outlined in the Allottee's Guide. Any breach of these provisions will attract appropriate sanctions."

The meeting agreed that all marked infractions should be removed within the next four Months. Engr. Toriola further disclosed that the

Ministry has obtained the necessary approval to remove illegal structures and commence rejuvenation efforts in line with the approved layout and planning standards. He emphasised that the objective is not punitive but corrective, aimed at restoring order, improving security, and enhancing the overall aesthetics of the Estate.

He also addressed claims circulating among some residents that approvals for certain contraventions were granted by

the Lagos Building Investment Company (LBIC). These claims were categorically dismissed as false by the Assistant General Manager of LBIC, ESV. Tosin Olugbile, who clarified that no such approvals were issued.

In his response, the Chairman of the Ojokoro Estate Residents Association, Mr. Taiwo Akinde, expressed dissatisfaction with the proliferation of illegal structures within the Estate and affirmed the Association's support for the Government's restructuring initiative.

As part of

continued stakeholder engagement, Directors alongside the Monitoring and Compliance team of the Ministry attended the Residents Association's General Meeting held on 28th February, 2026. At the meeting, residents were sensitised on the Government's position and the need for full compliance with estate regulations. Restating the Government's stance, Engr. Toriola warned that the preservation of State housing assets is a collective

responsibility. "State-owned housing estates are planned communities developed to specific standards. Any alteration inconsistent with approved plans compromises infrastructure integrity, environmental balance, and public safety," he stated.

Residents across all Lagos State Government Estates are therefore advised to strictly comply with established regulations, as the Government will not hesitate to enforce corrective measures to safeguard public assets and maintain the structural and environmental value of its estates.





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Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates Lagos Electricity Regulatory Commission

• You must ensure Lagosians get value for money, Governor charges Board members

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Monday, rolled back another bold step to operationalise the Lagos State Electricity Law and strengthen institutional framework required for effective regulation of electricity market in the State.

The Governor inaugurated a five-man Board of the Lagos State Electricity Regulatory Commission (LASERC), marking a major milestone in the State's journey toward building a modern, reliable and independent electricity market.

Sanwo-Olu approved the appointment of Mr. Alexander Akinwumi Ogunbiyi, an energy financing expert with over three decades of leadership experience, to serve as Chairman of the Board in Non-Executive capacity. Mrs. Temitope George, a seasoned legal, regulatory, and governance executive, was appointed by the Governor as the LASERC Chief Executive Officer.

The move has further accelerated Lagos' gradual transition from the phase of legislation to building institutional backbone that will transform the electricity market in the State.

The Board will play a pivotal role in strengthening transparency, fairness, regulatory



certainty and investor confidence in the Lagos electricity ecosystem.

Swearing in the LASERC Board members, Sanwo-Olu said the full operation of the agency would give life, leadership and direction to Lagos electricity market, stressing that the inauguration of the Commission's Board would further unbundle power distribution and attract more investment in the sector.

He said: "The LASERC Board now has the opportunity to establish collaboration and work together with the stakeholders in the sector. The mandate of the Board is to serve the interests of Lagosians and bring about purposeful regulatory reform that will strengthen the sector."

"The Board inauguration follows

the enactment of the Lagos State Electricity Law 2024, which is in alignment with the Federal Electricity Act 2023. This establishes an independent, transparent, competitive and investor-friendly regulatory market which created State Electrification Fund in underserved communities.

"This law formally empowers LASERC as a regulator of all electricity utilities and providers in Lagos. The Board's activities will give life, leadership and direction in the sector. The agency must make itself accessible to all stakeholders in the market and must not be the cog in the wheel of progress in the industry."

Sanwo-Olu reminded the Board members that the regulatory commission was not established to create a snag in the market, but to collaborate with

operators to make the industry flourish and give Lagosians the value for their money.

The Governor urged the regulator to bring about a system in the State's electricity market that would lessen the burden of overpricing on consumers and create a win-win market.

LASERC, Sanwo-Olu said, must show exemplary leadership in its statutory responsibilities for other state to copy and learn from.

"Electricity is not a new business; it is only the technology that is changing the environment. The Commission must ensure it deployed A-grade technology to support the efficiency in the sector. When this is achieved, more investors will come in with more capital to de-risk and unbundle the market," the Governor said.

Commissioner for

Energy and Mineral Resources, Mr. Abiodun Ogunleye, said the Commission would be responsible for overseeing licensing, tariff regulation, consumer protection, market monitoring, and the overall governance of electricity activities within the State.

These responsibilities, the Commissioner noted, are essential to building a power sector that will be reliable, efficient and capable of supporting the economic ambitions of the megacity.

He said: "This moment reflects Mr. Governor's bold leadership and foresight in recognising that sustainable economic growth in Lagos must be anchored on a stable and well-regulated power sector. The Governor's commitment has ensured that Lagos continues to lead the

way in implementing new electricity market framework created by recent national reforms."

In his vote of assurance, Ogunbiyi thanked the Governor for the confidence in the capacity of the Board member, pointing out that the Commission recognised the responsibility and expectation that came with its roles.

"We will carry out our responsibilities and mission with loyalty, accountability and dedication while working collaboratively with operators to meet the expectations of Lagosians," he said.

Other members of the Board include Mr. Bello Wasiu Oladimeji (Non Executive), a results-driven electricity industry professional with over two decades experience in distribution operations, revenue assurance, customer management, metering, billing, and loss reduction; Engr. Adekunle Olopade (Executive Member), who is a power systems, telecommunications, and project management professional with cognate knowledge of national electricity projects.

Also, Mr. Olakunle Falola, an Executive Member in charge of Licensing and Compliance, is a former CEO of Marine Power Group with experience across Nigeria's power and gas infrastructure.

Sanwo-Olu: Tinubu To Inaugurate Alausa Multi-Agency Building

• Governor, cabinet members inspect LAGIS Office ahead of construction deadline

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has commended the Lagos Boy Child Initiative (LBCI) for its transformative impact over the past four years, describing the programme as a life-changing platform shaping a new generation of responsible and purpose-driven young men.

The Governor gave the commendation during his visit to the ongoing 2026 LBCI Residential Camp, where he also urged participating boys to become worthy ambassadors of the initiative and make the most of the unique opportunities presented to them. Noting that it was his first time attending the programme since its inception, Governor Sanwo-Olu described the initiative as a "rare privilege" not enjoyed by many, including himself while growing up.

He particularly highlighted the exposure given to the boys through the carefully curated activities of the initiative, including educational tours to key security formations.

According to him, the opportunity for the boys to explore military facilities, including warships and aircraft, and interact with high-ranking officers of the Nigerian Armed Forces and other security agencies, is invaluable and uncommon for young people at their age. "These are opportunities many adults today did not have while growing up. It is a privilege that



comes with responsibility," the Governor said.

He stressed that the exposure and investment made by the Lagos State Government in the participants must translate into positive outcomes, urging the boys not to let the State down.

Governor Sanwo-Olu charged them to aspire to become role models in their respective communities, noting that they have a duty not only to succeed but also to guide and mentor others who will come after them.

"You must see yourselves as future leaders and mentors. The knowledge and experience you have gained here should set you apart and prepare you to contribute meaningfully to society", he added.

The Governor also emphasised the importance of responsible use of social media, cautioning against its misuse and encouraging the boys

to leverage digital platforms for personal development, learning, and positive impact.

Speaking against the backdrop of the emergence of a female One-Day Governor in Lagos State and her all-female team, Governor Sanwo-Olu challenged the boys to rise to the occasion. He urged them to be more focused, determined, and competitive, expressing confidence that one of the participants could emerge as a future One-Day Governor, thereby demonstrating the impact of the Lagos Boy Child Initiative.

Addressing the gathering earlier, the Governor's wife, Dr. Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu expressed appreciation to the Governor for his unwavering support for initiatives that empower young people across the state.

She noted that since the commencement of the camp on

Tuesday, the programme has been impactful, engaging, and transformative for the participants.

"I am pleased to inform Mr. Governor that these boys have demonstrated a high level of enthusiasm, curiosity, and a genuine desire to learn since the commencement of this workshop," she said.

The First Lady reiterated that the Lagos Boy Child Initiative was conceived to bridge the gap in attention and support given to boys, ensuring they are not left behind in the collective quest to build a better society.

Through the initiative, she said, the State Government is deliberately nurturing a generation of disciplined, responsible, and impactful young men who will contribute meaningfully to the development of Lagos State and Nigeria at large.

She encouraged the participants to remain focused, disciplined,

and open-minded, noting that the knowledge and values gained from the camp would serve as lifelong tools for success.

Giving a Goodwill Message at the event, the Chairman of Ikoyi-Obalende LCDA, Bola Oladunjoye, averred that being a boy in today's society comes with immense expectations but limited guidance on emotional intelligence and responsible leadership.

He stressed that while boys are often taught to be strong and competitive, they are not always taught to care, serve, or lead with integrity. According to him, true re-orientation begins with redefining strength as self-control and leadership as service.

Mr. Oladunjoye emphasised that the boy child must recognise his responsibility to protect the environment, describing careless waste disposal and unchecked tree

cutting as destructive habits that threaten the future.

He encouraged the participants to see environmental stewardship as an act of patriotism, noting that planting a tree symbolises leadership and discipline. A properly guided boy, he said, will grow into a man who values integrity over status, respects women, chooses peace over violence, and prioritises long-term societal benefits over short-term gains.

The Chairman charged the boys to become builders rather than burdens to society, builders of homes, communities, policies, and a greener future.

He affirmed that when intentionally nurtured, the boy child becomes more than just a man; he becomes an ambassador of societal transformation, stressing that the nation's future depends on how deliberately its boys are raised today.

Biodun Otunola becomes first Mexico's Consul to Lagos

When the news broke during the celebration of the 212th Independence Day of the United States of Mexico in Abuja on September 16, last year, it triggered a buzz in business and diplomatic circles. Mexico's Ambassador to Nigeria, His Excellency Alfredo Miranda Ortiz spoke glowingly of Otunola's sterling qualities as a businessman and engineer and the impactful strides of his construction company, Planet Projects in shaping the dynamics of Nigeria's transport infrastructure. In Lagos, Planet Projects took the government's vision of transforming the crime-ridden and derelict Oshodi into a modern multi-modal transport hub beyond the state's expectations. In Ibadan, the company is responsible for the transport

hub that separates vehicular and human traffic with a skywalk. Across several states across Nigeria, Otunola's gospel of clean mass transit as the basic right of the commuter is changing cities' landscapes and touching lives.

With these accomplishments, including a recent N142 billion contract to build modern bus terminals for the Federal Government, Otunola became a goldfish that could no longer hide. Significantly larger and more diversified economy (\$1.86T GDP) compared to Nigeria (\$252B GDP). Georank.org reports Mexico's economy is over seven times larger than Nigeria's, with higher income per capita, better economic complexity, and a stronger industrial base.

development compelled expansion to new markets. And casting its gaze all over the world, the Latin American country discovered Nigeria's huge potentials for growth and immense possibilities. But it needed a Nigerian who knows Nigeria and who can make Nigeria happen. With his pedigree and performance, Otunola fits the bill perfectly. If last year's announcement was the opening glee, last week's inauguration of the Consulate in Lagos proved to be the spectacular main act. Monday, March 9, this year began with a courtesy call on the Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu by Ambassador Ortiz and Otunola. Then, the grand opening was held later in the evening at the newly-modelled Consulate at 36 Ajisafe Street Ikeja with many distinguished guests in attendance.

The Secretary to the Lagos State Government, Barrister Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin represented the governor. Bayo



Mr Biodun Otunola; Consul to Lagos United States of Mexico

Onanuga, the Special Adviser to the President on Media represented the Villa. There were many distinguished ladies and gentlemen representing the private sector. In less than two hours of

music, cocktails and banter, the inauguration was done. The climax was the formal unveiling of the signage formally declaring that the Consulate has opened for business. Speaking, Consul Otunola thanked the

Mexican Ambassador for the honour and the Presidency for approving the appointment. He promised to bridge the gap between both economies and ensure that Nigerians benefit from the handshake across the Atlantic.



L-R: Ambassador of Mexico to Nigeria, His Excellency, Alfredo Miranda Ortiz, Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu and Mexico's Consul to Lagos, Mr Biodun Otunola during a courtesy visit to the governor at Lagos House, recently

The logic of its

Lagos Will Continue to Promote Economic Diversification - Commissioner



Lagos State Government, under the leadership of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, will continue to pursue policies that promote economic diversification across key sectors such as manufacturing, digital technology, agriculture value chains, sustainable energy,

healthcare management, financial services, and the creative economy.

Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment, Mrs Folashade Bada Ambrose stated this at the second edition of India Trade Expo held in Lagos on Thursday.

Speaking at the event, she

revealed the sectors present strong investment opportunities for Indian companies with expertise in technology, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing systems, infrastructure development, and advanced services.

According to her, Lagos State aligns closely with the national priorities on growing the

non-oil export and through her Ministry, highly impactful projects have been initiated among which are the training of 252 SMEs on export readiness in partnership with Afrexim Bank. 20 most outstanding trainees were sponsored to Algeria to participate in the IATF 2025.

The India Trade Expo provides an

excellent platform for deepening economic engagement between our two countries. Nigeria and India share a long history of diplomatic relations, built on mutual respect and shared economic interests. Over the years, Indian businesses have played a vital role in Nigeria's

industrial development, particularly in manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, agriculture processing, and technology. The Expo will build on an already strong foundation and offers a timely opportunity to strengthen investment cooperation in ways that will benefit both nations.

Education District VI Hosts 2026 Ramadan Lecture

Lagos State Education District VI has held its annual Ramadan lecture with the theme: "Ramadan: Shaping Characters and Building a Harmonious Society." In her welcome address, Mrs. Mojisola Christiana

Yusuff, Tutor General/Permanent Secretary, Education District VI, emphasised the significance of this year's Ramadan, noting its alignment with the Lenten season. She described the period as an opportunity to promote societal

harmony, forgiveness, and unity beyond individual interests and conflicts. Yusuff highlighted that Ramadan encourages self-discipline, community bonding, and spiritual growth, urging participants to carry these values into

everyday life to foster dialogue and peace. Delivering the keynote lecture, "Ramadan: Catalyst for Self-Development," Imam (Dr.) Sa'ed Ahmad of the Lagos State Secretariat Community Central Mosque, explained that

fasting is a unique act of worship - a private transaction between the believer and Allah. He noted that Ramadan nurtures discipline, tolerance, and obedience, shaping character and guiding the heart toward righteousness.

The event concluded with participants gaining deeper insight into the spiritual significance of Ramadan and the importance of embracing forgiveness, unity, and self-discipline in building a harmonious society.



Education District II Hosts 2026 Ramadan Lecture

... Advocates Peace, Unity Amid Rising Extremism



The Lagos State Education District II successfully organised the Year 2026 Annual Ramadan Lecture at Immaculate Heart Hall, Maryland, with the theme: "Nigeria, Muslims and Extremism."

In his opening remarks, the Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary, Mr. Omotayo Layemo Sanni, described this year's Ramadan as unique and significant, as it coincides with the Year 2026 Lenten fasting season. He

noted that the convergence of these two sacred observances symbolises unity, shared values, and peaceful coexistence among Nigerians of different faiths. He further stated that the theme of the lecture is timely, especially at a period when insecurity is at a high rate, often camouflaged as religious conflict. He emphasised the need for proper orientation of students on religious practice. "Our students need to be

properly oriented on how to practise religion in a manner that fosters peace, harmony and, by extension, national development. They must shun all forms of extremism that could jeopardise the peace and stability of society."

The Guest Lecturer, Ustadh Saeed Salman, Deputy Registrar of Yaba College of Technology, extensively discussed the importance of mutual respect and healthy

relationships among adherents of different religions. He stressed that no religion permits injustice or the deprivation of others' rights. He firmly stated that killing, banditry, and kidnapping in the name of religion are alien to Islam and were strongly discouraged by the Prophet. According to him, Islam remains fundamentally a religion of peace, compassion, and justice.

Quoting the Holy Qur'an, he recited:

"Because of that, we decreed upon the Children of Israel that whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption done in the land – it is as if he had slain all mankind entirely. And whoever saves one – it is as if he had saved all mankind entirely. And Our messengers had certainly come to them with clear proofs. Then indeed many of them, even after that, throughout the land, were transgressors." (Surah Al-Mā'idah 5:32)

He emphasised that this divine message underscores the sanctity of human life and calls for tolerance, understanding, and mutual respect among all people.

Also speaking at the event, the Executive Chairman of the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), Mr. Hakeem Babatunde Shittu, encouraged students to seek accurate and sound knowledge

of Islam.

He cautioned them against allowing themselves to be manipulated by individuals or groups to act contrary to Islamic teachings. He reminded the gathering that Muhammad (peace be upon him) maintained cordial relationships with people of different faiths and was honoured with the title Al-Ameen (The Trustworthy) by non-Muslims during his lifetime.

Dignitaries present at the lecture included Principals within the District, the SUBEB Board Secretary, Mr. Hakeem Abiodun Lamidi, representatives of the NUT and ANCOPPS in the District, as well as Muslim teachers and students.

The programme also featured Qur'an recitation, Qur'an competitions, and quiz sessions for students in both Junior and Senior categories, making the event spiritually uplifting and intellectually engaging.

One Hour a Day Can Change Your Life: Masterminds Community Foundation Inspires Teens to Read

The emotional Masterminds Community Foundation has marked this year's International Women's Day by encouraging secondary school students in Lagos to develop a culture of reading and personal development. The foundation celebrated the day with students from Obanikoro Baptist High School, Lagos State Senior High School, and Wasimi Community Senior High School. The outreach aimed to promote reading culture, cultivate the habit of daily reading.

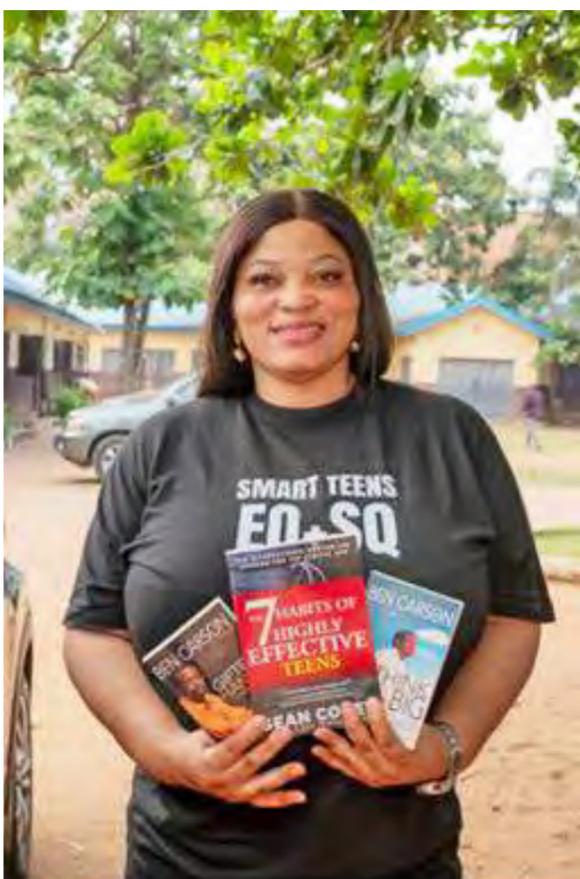
“Reading an hour a day is only four per cent of your day — and that four per cent can put you at the top of your game, a head of everyone else in 10 years,” she said. According to her, small and consistent habits such as daily reading can produce extraordinary long-term results. To support teenagers in building good habits, confidence and a growth mindset, the Foundation

donated several motivational books, including: The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey, Gifted Hands and Think Big by Ben Carson, Rich Dad Poor Dad by Robert T. Kiyosaki, The Power of Positive Thinking by Norman Vincent Peale. As part of the initiative, the Foundation also launched the Virtual Masterminds Teens Community, an online platform designed to keep teenagers engaged beyond the one-day event. Through the platform, students are encouraged to dedicate at least one hour daily to reading, participate in discussions and engage in activities that foster emotional intelligence, leadership and personal development. The visit aligns with this year's International Women's Day theme, “Give To Gain,” which highlights the importance of investing in young people to create long-term societal impact. By empowering teenagers with knowledge, guidance and a love for learning, the Masterminds Community Foundation said it remains committed to inspiring young people to dream big, grow every day and become responsible future leaders. If you want, I can also help you create 3–5 stronger newspaper headlines for this story the way editors at Silverbird, The Guardian, or Punch might frame it.

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Endgame: PDP's Long Walk to Oblivion



Oladejo

The Lagos State chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) notes, with a mixture of concern and inevitability, the steady descent of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) into political irrelevance across Nigeria. Once presented as a national platform with lofty promises, the PDP has now set an unwanted record in the annals of Nigeria's democratic journey - becoming a party that appears to be

actively counting down to its own expiration. The crisis of leadership, lack of ideological clarity, and persistent internal divisions that plague the PDP have reduced what was once touted as Africa's largest political party into a shadow of its former self. Nigerians still recall with shivers what the PDP represented during its years in power - years in which many citizens now

remember as the better-forgotten era of the locust, a period that set our nation back by decades. The scale of mismanagement, institutional decay, and economic distortion that characterized that period left behind a gargantuan mess whose consequences Nigeria is still working tirelessly to overcome years after the party's unceremonious rejection at the polls. Rather than learning from

history, the PDP has continued along the same troubling path of internal discord, opportunism, and absence of a unifying national vision. What Nigerians are witnessing today within the party is not accidental; it is the natural consequence of years of political arrogance, poor leadership culture, and disregard for institutional discipline. Indeed, the unfolding crisis within the PDP resembles a classic

demonstration of the law of karma. A party whose governance philosophy many believed worked against the long-term interests of the Nigerian state now finds itself trapped in a cycle of implosion and self-inflicted decline. What remains today is a political structure struggling to stay relevant while visibly edging toward institutional exhaustion.

At this stage, what appears left is merely the formalities - the appointment of an undertaker and the determination of the party's final resting place in the pages of Nigeria's political history. In Lagos State, the PDP's presence has steadily diminished as the people continue to place their trust in the progressive governance and development-oriented policies of the APC. The Lagos APC remains committed to delivering people-centered governance, sustaining economic growth, improving infrastructure, and expanding opportunities for all residents of the

state.

While we believe that a vibrant democracy benefits from responsible opposition, it is unfortunate that the PDP has repeatedly failed to rise to that role. Instead of reinventing itself, the party continues to sink deeper into self-inflicted crises that signal a troubling countdown toward political extinction.

The Lagos APC therefore urges the PDP to reflect deeply on the state of its affairs. Nigerian democracy deserves better than a disorganized and directionless opposition.

As a party grounded in progressive ideals and accountable governance, the APC in Lagos State will remain focused on what truly matters: delivering tangible development, strengthening democratic institutions, and improving the quality of life for the people.

Mogaji (Hon) Seye Oladejo.
APC Publicity Secretary, Lagos Chapter

Obasa Promises Effectiveness As Commonwealth Representative

By Felix Kuyinu

The Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Mudashiru Obasa, has received the appointment as representative of the Commonwealth promising to act effectively add to the current successes of it. Obasa expressed delight following his appointment to serve as a Sub-National Representative in the Commonwealth

Parliamentary Association African Executive Committee for period of three years...

In his remark, the Speaker appreciated his colleagues and urged the members to put the House of Assembly first and as well, not to relent on their efforts in moving the legislature forward.

He thereafter directed the Clerk of the House to send an appreciation letter to the Commonwealth

Parliamentary Association African Region for the honor bestowed on him.

The letter which was sent by the Africa CPA region was read on the floor by the Clerk of the House, Barr. Olalekan Onafeko, stating the formal notification of the Speaker's appointment to serve for a period of three years from 2026 to 2029.

As stipulated in the letter, the Speaker will commence his tenure by participating in the

90th Executive Committee scheduled to take place in Swakopmund, Namibia.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association African Region is known for promoting and protecting the interests and perspectives of African parliaments within the Commonwealth.

The Association also advocates gender equality, women's empowerment, and respect for human



Obasa

rights, freedom, parliamentarian, democracy, and good governance across member countries. Lawmakers took turns to congratulate the Speaker for being a devoted

parliamentarian, acknowledging his consistent efforts to be a shining light, whose hard work is not just doing Lagos proud, but the country at large.

BUSINESS

Adeniyi Advances Digital Reforms in Cargo Clearance

The Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service, Adewale Adeniyi, has reaffirmed his commitment to deepening digital reforms to transform cargo clearance processes and eliminate persistent delays at Nigeria's seaports.

Adeniyi pledged during a strategic meeting with the Director-General of the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council, Zahrah Audu, where both institutions explored new strategies to modernise port

operations and strengthen Nigeria's position in global trade.

According to the Customs chief, the Service is intensifying efforts to build a fully paperless port system by deploying advanced digital technologies to manage cargo documentation, processing and clearance. The initiative, he said, is designed to remove longstanding administrative bottlenecks while improving transparency, speed and

efficiency across Nigeria's maritime trade corridors.

Adeniyi also revealed that the Service has stepped up consultations with key stakeholders in the shipping and trade sectors, including the American Business Council Nigeria and other industry groups. These engagements, he noted, provide valuable insights into the operational challenges businesses face and help Customs refine its reform strategies.

As part of its

modernisation agenda, the Nigeria Customs Service recently conducted a Time Release Study in partnership with the World Customs Organisation at Tin Can Island Port. The study analysed the time and cost associated with cargo clearance, offering critical data to guide ongoing improvements in port efficiency.

The Customs boss explained that several procedures—ranging from pre-

arrival documentation and cargo declarations to duty payments and release notifications—have already been digitised. However, he noted that clearance delays still occur when some operators continue to rely on manual paperwork instead of electronic systems.

To address this gap, Adeniyi said the Service is expanding investments in cargo scanning technology and modern ICT

infrastructure. These upgrades will strengthen risk-based cargo management and gradually reduce dependence on time-consuming physical inspections.

Officials say the renewed digital push is part of a broader collaboration between Customs and PEBEC aimed at simplifying trade processes, improving the ease of doing business, and positioning Nigeria as a more competitive hub for international commerce.

Nigerdock, MSC Seal Landmark 45 Year Snake Island Port Deal

Atume Terfa

MSC Group has inked a 45 year concession pact with Nigerian marine and logistics giant Nigerdock to pioneer a world class container terminal at Snake Island Port, Lagos. Officially unveiled on March 11, 2026, the landmark agreement is one of the most significant long term foreign investments in the country's port infrastructure — part of MSC's

broader commitment to pump over \$1 billion into Nigeria's logistics and shipping ecosystem. Under the strategic sub concession accord, Nigerdock, the operator of the expansive Snake Island Integrated Free Zone and port facilities, has handed over the development and operation of a 30 hectare waterfront stretch to MSC. The vision: craft a next generation container terminal that

meets the demands of rapidly evolving global trade networks. At the heart of the project is a 910 metre state of the art quay, purpose built to accommodate deep sea cargo vessels and barges alike, equipped with cutting edge ship to shore and mobile harbour cranes. Initial dredging will carve a 16.5 metre channel, with provisions to deepen to 18 metres in the future — allowing the facility to

handlesome of the largest container ships navigating international waters. The construction contract has been awarded to industry heavyweights ITB Nigeria Ltd. and DEME Group, with full operational capacity expected by 2028. MSC President Diego Aponte hailed the partnership as a game changer for regional trade infrastructure. "This project will unlock new opportunities, streamline cargo flows, and position Snake Island as a

pivotal hub in global shipping," Aponte said, emphasising the boost it will bring to local employment, economic growth, and supply chain efficiency. Stretching across approximately 85 hectares and forming a key part of the broader Lagos port complex, Snake Island Port is poised to relieve congestion at Nigeria's busiest harbours, while strengthening the nation's foothold in international logistics routes. Analysts believe

the expanded capacity and modern facilities will attract more global carriers, catalysing West Africa's maritime competitiveness. The long term concession not only underscores Nigeria's strategic prominence in continental trade but also signals renewed confidence from global logistics leaders in the country's economic potential, a move that could reverberate across Africa's freight and shipping sectors for decades to come.

Lagos to Host 2027 IATF As Nigeria Eyes \$50N Billion in Deals

Atume Terfa

Nigeria is gearing up to showcase its economic clout on the continental stage, aiming to secure over \$50 billion in trade and investment deals at the 2027 Intra African Trade Fair (IATF) in Lagos this November. The announcement signals the Federal Government's determination to boost intra African commerce and cement the country's position

as a trade powerhouse. The ambitious target was unveiled by Dr. Jumoke Oduwole, Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, during the signing of the IATF 2027 Hosting Agreement in Lagos — a formal pact that confirms Nigeria's role as the host for the fifth edition of Africa's flagship trade fair. "We're expecting to welcome over 100,000 participants, both

physical and virtual, and generate more than \$50 billion in deals," Oduwole said, highlighting the event's potential to attract investors, governments, and entrepreneurs from across the continent. Nigeria's successful bid was secured through a multilateral agreement involving the Federal Government, Afreximbank, the

African Union Commission (AUC), and the AfCFTA Secretariat. Observers at the signing expressed confidence that the Lagos edition would outshine the 2025 Algiers fair, which recorded approximately \$48.3 billion in trade deals, setting a new benchmark for Africa's commercial ecosystem. The IATF is not just

about big-ticket deals. It is expected to open doors for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), connecting them with buyers, financiers, and strategic partners, while providing a platform for value-chain expansion and export growth across Africa. Hosting the trade fair in Lagos underscores the city's emerging role as Africa's commercial hub. With its strategic

location, robust infrastructure, and dynamic business ecosystem, Lagos is poised to lead the continent in fostering greater economic integration, investment, and job creation. As preparations accelerate, the Federal Government is mobilising public and private sector stakeholders to ensure the Lagos IATF becomes a transformative event, not just for Nigeria, but for the entire African trade landscape.

How Digital Transformation Propelled LIRS Performance – Echonews Analysis

The partnership between Echonews and the Lagos State Internal Revenue Service (LIRS) has contributed to the growing visibility and performance of the revenue agency in recent years.

As a digital and online newspaper, Echonews has consistently reported the activities, reforms and innovations of LIRS, including the publication of its official advertisements.

This sustained media engagement has helped project the agency's initiatives to a wider audience and strengthened public awareness on tax compliance.

Beyond publicity, the partnership has also supported LIRS' efforts to reach more taxpayers and stakeholders across the state. Increased awareness of tax policies and initiatives has played a role in expanding the tax net and reinforcing the collaborative relationship between the two organisations.

The Lagos State Internal Revenue Service remained a key pillar of fiscal sustainability for the Lagos State Government in 2025, strengthening revenue mobilisation and expanding tax compliance in Nigeria's commercial hub.

Following its historic achievement of surpassing 1 trillion



Mr. Ayodele Subair

in revenue collection in 2024, the state government set an ambitious Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) target of 1.4 trillion for 2025. The target reflects Lagos' increasing reliance on internally generated revenue to finance infrastructure development, social services and broader economic growth.

Within the first quarter of 2025, Lagos recorded 333.2 billion in internally generated revenue, indicating a strong fiscal start to the year. Out of this figure, 242.6 billion was generated from Pay-As-You-Earn

(PAYE) tax, underscoring the importance of payroll taxation within the state's revenue structure.

To sustain this performance, LIRS continued to modernise its operations through digital innovations aimed at improving efficiency, transparency and taxpayer convenience. The agency upgraded its e-Tax platform and mobile application, integrating additional services such as:

1. Capital Gains Tax filing
2. Stamp duties processing
3. Integration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)

4. Geo-tagging and advanced data analytics tools

5. Expatriate tracking through integration with the Nigeria Immigration Service

These technological upgrades were designed to strengthen tax enforcement, improve compliance monitoring and expand the tax net, particularly by tracking high-net-worth individuals and businesses operating within Lagos.

LIRS also intensified compliance efforts through strategic inter-agency collaboration with several federal and state institutions, including the

Corporate Affairs Commission, the Federal Inland Revenue Service, the Nigeria Immigration Service and the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit.

These partnerships enhanced data sharing and enabled authorities to identify previously untaxed individuals and businesses, particularly within Lagos' vast informal and outsourcing sectors.

In addition, the revenue agency reinforced statutory tax compliance by issuing reminders to employers and individuals on the submission of annual tax returns. Employers are required to file

annual returns detailing employees' income and taxes deducted, while individual taxpayers, including business owners and professionals must submit income declarations in accordance with Nigeria's tax administration laws. Failure to comply attracts statutory penalties.

Under the leadership of its Executive Chairman, Ayodele Subair, LIRS also received recognition in 2025 for its performance and innovation in public sector revenue administration.

Observers note that the agency's leadership reforms, digital transformation and improved compliance framework have strengthened its reputation as one of Nigeria's most effective subnational revenue authorities. With a rapidly expanding population and economy, Lagos continues to depend heavily on internally generated revenue to fund its annual budget.

Analysts say sustained improvements in tax administration, digitalisation and compliance enforcement will remain critical for the state to achieve its ambitious revenue targets and reduce dependence on borrowing.



Taiwo Promises Reward for Best UTME Candidate

The Chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area, Taoheed Adebayo Taiwo, has presented free 2026 UTME registration forms and English textbooks to selected candidates across the council area as part of efforts to support education and empower young people. Taiwo, popularly known as TAT, said the initiative

Kehinde Adeleye

reflects his administration's commitment to ensuring that every child in Ejigbo has access to quality education and opportunities for academic advancement. According to him, investing in education remains one of the most effective ways to empower youths and

promote sustainable community development. The council chairman encouraged the beneficiaries to prepare thoroughly for the examination conducted by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), urging them to take advantage of the opportunity and strive for excellence.

He also assured the students that the best-performing candidate among the beneficiaries would receive a special reward after the examination. Several dignitaries attended the programme, including the Vice Chairman, Hon. Mrs. Abimbola Nicholas-Ike; Leader of the House, Hon.

Oluwaseyi Gabriel Sobande; and members of the legislative council. Others present were the Secretary to the Local Government designate, Mrs. Yemisi Otuyemi; former chairman of the All Progressives Congress in Ejigbo LCDA, Alhaji Hon. Fatai Kasumu; Chief Bayo Okunlola; and retired Major Adebisin. Also in attendance were the Council Manager, Pastor Olusegun Ajagunna; the

Council Treasurer, Mr. Okeowo; and the Head of Department of Education, Mrs. Olufunke Ajasa, among other officials and community stakeholders. The distribution of the free JAMB forms forms part of the Taiwo administration's broader education support programme aimed at strengthening learning and expanding opportunities for students across Ejigbo.



Epe Council Appoints New Supervisors and Advisers

Atume Terfa

In a significant push to strengthen local governance and accelerate development at the grassroots level, Epe Local Government Area in Lagos State has formally inaugurated a new team of Supervisory Councillors, Special Advisers, and Senior Special Assistants to support its strategic agenda. The colourful swearing in ceremony took place at the council secretariat in Ita Marin, Epe, and was led by Princess Surah Animashaun, the

Executive Chairman of Epe Local Government, who described the event as a defining moment for her administration. She emphasised that the appointments signal a renewed commitment to effective, transparent, and people centred governance. Addressing the freshly appointed officials, Animashaun congratulated them and charged them to view their roles not just as titles, but as opportunities to make a measurable difference in the lives of Epe

residents. She reiterated her administration's vision of driving sustainable community development, with a focus on infrastructure growth, youth and women empowerment, and enhanced quality of life across the local government. The event drew senior political figures and governance experts. Adeyemi Ikuforiji, former Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly and member of the Lagos State Governance Advisory Council, lauded the chairman's

leadership style and urged the new team to uphold the highest standards of public service and accountability. His message underscored the importance of dedicated leadership at the grassroots level. Among legislators who spoke at the ceremony was Wale Raji, the House of Representatives member for Epe Federal Constituency, who urged the appointees to justify the confidence placed in them by delivering tangible results aligned with national and state

development priorities. Hon. Abiodun Tobun, representing Epe in the Lagos State House of Assembly, also called for collaboration and collective effort to sustain and deepen progress for the community. The expanded leadership team is expected to drive key initiatives that support local priorities — from boosting essential services and upgrading infrastructure to fostering economic opportunities within Epe's rich cultural and commercial landscape. The area, known for its

thriving fishing communities and growing market activities, stands to benefit as governance becomes more responsive and innovative. As the new appointees settle into their roles, Chairman Animashaun's administration reiterated its resolve to ensure inclusive governance, one that delivers impactful programmes, strengthens community engagement, and improves the overall well being of residents in the Epe Local Government Area.

Ojokoro LCDA Engages Residents as Gbeleyi-Amje Road Work Set to Begin

Kehinde Adeleye



Residents and community stakeholders in Alakuko, within Ojokoro Local Council Development Area, on Tuesday gathered for a sensitisation meeting ahead of the commencement of the long-awaited construction of the Gbeleyi-Amje Road. The meeting was convened by the Chairman of the council, Olujemisi Adenike Rosiji, to brief residents and stakeholders on the scope of the project and encourage cooperation ahead of the start of construction. Speaking at the gathering, the council chairman commended the

Lagos State Government under the leadership of Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu for approving the project, describing it as a major step toward improving infrastructure and living conditions in the area. Rosiji noted that the reconstruction of the road would significantly enhance mobility, boost economic activities and address longstanding challenges experienced by residents along the axis. She explained that the local council had consistently engaged relevant state agencies to push for the reconstruction of the road while also undertaking

palliative works on several inner roads within the council area to ease movement for residents pending a comprehensive intervention. According to the chairman, the success of the project would largely depend on the cooperation of the community, urging residents, landlords, traders and youth groups to work closely with engineers and contractors throughout the construction process. Also speaking at the meeting, the lawmaker representing Ifako-Ijaiye Constituency II in the Lagos State House of Assembly, Emmanuel Olotu, represented by Mr. Sanjo Ogunmoyede,

commended the council chairman for her role in facilitating the project and urged residents to support the construction team. A former member of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Ahmed Ipoola Omisore, also praised the council leadership and encouraged residents to cooperate with the contractor to ensure the successful delivery of the project. The Chairman of the All Progressives Congress in Ojokoro, Jelili Oseni, equally commended Governor Sanwo-Olu, the state lawmaker and the council chairman for facilitating the road project,

noting that it would significantly transform the Alakuko community. Community leaders also welcomed the initiative. Speaking on behalf of the Community Development Council, Vice Chairman Alhaji Adeyemi said the poor condition of the road had caused significant hardship for residents, particularly during the rainy season when flooding often makes the area difficult to access. Providing technical details of the project, the Resident Engineer for Ifako-Ijaiye/Ojokoro from the Lagos State Ministry of Works and Infrastructure, Engr. Kayode Awosile, who represented the Special Adviser to the Governor on Works, Olufemi Daramola, disclosed that the construction contract had been awarded to Visible Construction Limited. Awosile said work would begin with extensive drainage construction to address flooding challenges along

the road corridor. He added that the road would run from Baale Animasaun to Amje Bus Stop and would be fully interlocked, with service ducts for telecommunications infrastructure to prevent future excavation. He also revealed that modern streetlights would be installed to enhance safety and visibility. The engineer, however, informed residents that some structures had been marked within the road's right-of-way and appealed to affected property owners to remove items from the designated areas to avoid delays during construction. The sensitisation meeting was attended by councillors, supervisors, special advisers, engineers from the Ministry of Works, traditional rulers, community leaders and other stakeholders. Residents expressed optimism that the long-awaited project would bring significant relief and transformation to the Alakuko community and surrounding areas.

Akinpelu Raises Alarm Over Rising Drug Abuse Among Youths

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Alimosho Local Government Area, Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, has raised concerns over the rising rate of drug abuse and drug peddling among teenagers and youths in the council area.

Johnson spoke during a peace and security meeting held at his office with community stakeholders, including the Seriki Hausawa of Alimosho, Malam Ibrahim Salisu, traditional rulers, and security officials.

The council chairman warned that the growing presence of illicit drugs in communities poses a serious threat to the safety and future of young people in the area.

He also highlighted the activities of individuals allegedly disguising as petty traders while engaging in the sale of hard drugs, noting that some operate under the cover of businesses such as shoe shining and drink sales.

Johnson further called for stronger collaboration with leaders of the

Hausa community in the local government to address the issue of undocumented foreigners residing in the area.

According to him, such a situation could pose potential security risks if not properly addressed.

Responding, the Seriki Hausawa, Malam Salisu, assured the local government leadership of the Hausa community's readiness to cooperate with authorities in tackling the challenges.

He revealed that discussions had already been held with the Area Commander of

the Nigeria Police Force in Alimosho over security concerns affecting the community.

As part of measures to curb crime, he said members of the Hausa community have been cautioned against operating motorcycles, popularly known as okada, beyond 9:30p.m.

Also speaking, the Onishasha of Shasha Kingdom, Oba Nosiru Babatunde Ogunronbi, suggested the need for a broader stakeholders' meeting involving traditional rulers, Hausa community leaders, and local government officials to develop

concrete strategies for tackling the problem.

He also recommended the identification and clean-up of crime-prone areas while forwarding petitions to relevant authorities for appropriate action.

Meanwhile, the Divisional Police Officer of Afonka Police Station, Shasha, CSP O.A. Ojajumi, said law enforcement agencies often face challenges in tackling drug trafficking due to interference from influential individuals who sometimes demand the

release of suspects.

The meeting also addressed environmental issues, particularly indiscriminate dumping of refuse within communities.

Johnson disclosed that the local government plans to inaugurate Environmental Marshals to strengthen sanitation enforcement and improve environmental hygiene across the council area.

He urged residents to cooperate with Private Sector Participation waste operators in maintaining a cleaner environment.

The chairman further called on traditional rulers, religious leaders, and community stakeholders to intensify awareness campaigns among parents and youths, warning about what he described as an emerging trend of cultism among primary school pupils.

Participants at the meeting pledged increased collaboration to address the security, environmental, and social challenges confronting communities in Alimosho.



Alimosho LG Chairman Cautions Youths Against Pro-Iran Protest

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Alimosho Local Government Area, Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, has called on residents to maintain peace and avoid protests linked to the ongoing tensions in the Middle East. Johnson made the appeal during a strategic stakeholders' meeting held with leaders of Community Development Committees, the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), the League of Imams, traditional

institutions, and representatives of various ethnic groups within the local government area.

The meeting was convened as part of efforts by the local government to strengthen peaceful coexistence and address security concerns through collaboration among community leaders.

Speaking at the gathering, the council chairman thanked the stakeholders for honoring the invitation and emphasized the need for unity

across communities in Alimosho.

According to him, the purpose of the meeting was to sustain the peace currently enjoyed within the local government area. Johnson also addressed concerns about the ongoing crisis in the Middle East, noting that the conflict should not be misinterpreted as a religious war between Muslims and Christians.

He warned that any form of protest linked to the conflict could trigger unrest locally, especially among youths.

The chairman revealed that authorities had received information about a planned pro-Iran rally and appealed to residents to refrain from participating in any demonstration related to the conflict.

He stressed that Nigeria already faces numerous domestic challenges and should not allow external developments to disrupt peace within its communities.

Johnson further urged community

leaders to discourage the harboring of undocumented foreign nationals, noting that individuals from neighboring countries must comply with Nigeria's immigration laws.

While acknowledging the cultural and historical ties among communities across West and Central Africa, he said the presence of foreigners without proper documentation could pose security risks and should be reported to the relevant

authorities.

In response, the Serikis across the Alimosho Federal Constituency pledged their support for the peace initiative and assured the chairman that the resolutions reached at the meeting would be communicated to their respective communities across the Local Council Development Areas.

Stakeholders at the meeting agreed to continue working together to preserve peace, security, and unity across Alimosho communities.

Community Buzz as Igando-Ikotun Boss Visits Newborn

The Chairman of Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area, Lasisi Ayinde Akinsanya, has visited a newborn popularly referred to by residents as the "miracle baby" and his mother at the Ikotun Primary Health Centre, where they are currently receiving medical care.

The baby boy attracted widespread attention in the community after reports that he was born with what residents described as a complete natural circumcision.

According to local accounts, the expectant mother had been receiving support from two residents, Omobolanle

Idowu and Opeyemi Odusanya, who had assisted in caring for her since the fourth month of her pregnancy. The pair also helped during the delivery.

During the visit, Chairman Akinsanya assessed the health condition of both mother and child and assured

Kehinde Adeleye

medical personnel that the council would continue to provide support to ensure their wellbeing.

The council boss, who has indicated his intention to adopt the newborn, reiterated his commitment to supporting vulnerable residents within the community.

He noted that both the baby and the mother deserve adequate care, protection, and dignity as they begin a new phase of life.

Medical officials at the Ikotun Primary Health Centre confirmed that the mother and her child are stable and responding well to postnatal care.

Residents have commended the intervention by the council chairman, describing it as a

demonstration of compassionate leadership and a commitment to community welfare.

The baby, named Oluwadamilare Araoluwa Akinsanya Odejobi, is now under the care and protection of the local council as arrangements continue to ensure sustained medical care, rehabilitation support, and improved living conditions for the young mother and her child.

Ikorodu BRT Queue: Content Creator Risks 3-Year Jail Term, N7m Fine

A female social media content creator who frequently records commuters waiting for buses at the Lagos Bus Rapid Transit corridor in Ikorodu may face legal consequences over allegations of unauthorized filming and violation of privacy laws.

The young creator, whose videos regularly circulate on social media platforms, is known for documenting long queues of passengers waiting for BRT buses in Ikorodu and other parts of Lagos. According to her, the videos are meant to highlight the daily struggles faced by commuters and to draw the attention of government authorities to the state of public transportation infrastructure. However, recent footage recorded onboard BRT buses and at bus terminals suggests rising tension between the content creator

and commuters who say they are repeatedly captured in the recordings without their consent.

Several commuters have openly confronted the creator in viral clips, accusing her of turning their daily commute into social media content without permission.

"We are not content for her page," one visibly

upset commuter was heard shouting in one of the widely circulated videos. Witnesses say confrontations have become increasingly frequent at the park, with some nearly escalating into physical altercations as frustrated passengers challenge the continuous filming. Despite the growing hostility, the content creator has

reportedly continued her daily recordings, insisting that her actions are aimed at drawing public attention to the transportation challenges faced by residents.

Legal experts, however, warn that the situation may carry serious legal implications if authorities determine that the recordings violate existing privacy or cybercrime

regulations.

Under the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, particularly provisions dealing with online harassment and offensive communications, the intentional publication of content that causes annoyance, inconvenience, or insult to others could attract a fine of up to 7 million or a three-year prison sentence upon conviction.

In addition, the Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC) may impose administrative sanctions for the unauthorized collection or processing of personal data, including facial identities captured in digital recordings.

Experts say such violations could attract penalties of up to 10 million, depending on the severity of the breach and whether consent

was obtained from individuals featured in the recordings.

Highlighting the importance of privacy rights, Justice Obande Festus Ogbuinya once noted that a person's image is intrinsically linked to their identity and dignity.

"A picture of a person mirrors his own image, which is personal to him," the jurist stated in a previous legal pronouncement, adding that capturing and using an individual's image for business or commercial purposes without consent constitutes a serious infringement on the right to privacy. As tensions continue to rise around the Ikorodu BRT corridor, observers say the situation underscores the growing debate over the boundaries between citizen journalism, social media activism, and personal privacy rights in Nigeria's rapidly evolving digital space.



Three Arrested in Ikorodu for Vandalising Drainage System



The Lagos State Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources has announced the arrest of three individuals for allegedly tampering with public drainage infrastructure during a monitoring patrol in Ikorodu. The Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab, disclosed the development in a video shared on his official social media platforms. According to the commissioner, the suspects were

apprehended while vandalising drainage facilities during the ministry's routine inspection of flood control infrastructure in the area. Echonews investigated and discovered that the suspects allegedly broke

open drainage castings to expose the reinforcement irons embedded in the structure, which they then cut off for personal financial gain.

The Commissioner stressed that such activities pose a major threat to the state's environmental safety and flood prevention efforts. "During our monitoring patrol to Ikorodu, three individuals were arrested for tampering with drainage infrastructure. The masterminds broke the drainage castings just to expose the reinforcement irons and cut them for personal gains," Wahab said.

The commissioner reiterated that interference with drainage systems remains a serious environmental offence under the state's environmental laws.

According to him, damaging drainage infrastructure obstructs the free flow of stormwater and significantly increases the risk of flooding in surrounding communities, especially during periods of heavy rainfall.

He further assured

residents that the suspects would face prosecution in accordance with the law, noting that the government remains committed to protecting critical environmental infrastructure across the state.

"The suspects will be charged accordingly. We will continue to enforce environmental laws across the state to protect our drainage systems and safeguard lives and property," he added, reinforcing the government's #ZeroToleranceLagos stance on environmental violations.

The development has sparked reactions from members of the public who condemned the act and called for stricter enforcement.

Reacting to the incident, Adewalefemi Osiyoye described the act as unacceptable but urged authorities to widen the scope of the investigation.

"This is completely unacceptable. But looking at it from the point of cause and effect, it is possible that a transaction might have occurred

because having the mind to do that is not ordinary. Even a drainage in a busy place. The investigation should go deeper. In many cases, lack of awareness contributes to such acts," he said.

Another resident, Paracleta Jones, blamed the incident on a culture of cutting corners.

"We misbehave too much in this country. There is a procedure for everything, but many people prefer to bypass due process," Jones stated.

Similarly, Abiodun Shasanya called for strict punishment for those involved, urging authorities to ensure accountability.

"This is completely unacceptable. I hope they are made to repair the damage and prosecuted afterwards," he said.

The Lagos State Government has repeatedly warned against vandalism and illegal activities around drainage channels, particularly as the state intensifies measures to prevent flooding and maintain environmental sustainability.

Lagos Govt Expands Rural Electrification in Ikorodu, Installs Transformers



The Lagos State Government on Monday intensified its rural electrification drive with the distribution and installation of electricity transformers and poles across several communities in the Ikorodu Division. The intervention, carried out through the state's Lagos State Office of Rural Development, is

part of ongoing efforts to expand access to stable electricity in underserved rural and semi-urban areas. Speaking on the development, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Rural Development, Nurudeen Yekinni Agbaje, disclosed in a statement that several communities have already benefited from the initiative

through the installation of brand-new transformers and supporting electricity infrastructure. According to him, the administration of Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has successfully delivered and installed transformers in Omigo CDA Phase One and Omigo Onafoniyin Phase Two located in Isiu, within Ikorodu North LCDA.

He added that additional transformers were also installed at Banana Estate Igbe Lara CDA Phase One and Pace Setter CDA in Ibeshe, located in Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA. Agbaje further explained that the two transformers installed in Isiu are expected to significantly improve electricity supply for at least 10 surrounding communities,

providing relief to residents who have long faced irregular power supply. To complement the installations, the government also supplied 10 electricity poles to residents of Banana Estate Igbe Lara CDA, a move aimed at strengthening local power distribution networks and facilitating easier connection of households to the

national grid. He noted that the intervention forms part of the state government's broader rural development strategy under the THEMES Plus Agenda, which prioritises infrastructure development, inclusive growth and improved quality of life for residents across both urban and rural communities. Agbaje reiterated the administration's commitment to ensuring that rural communities are not left behind in the state's development trajectory, adding that the government will continue to implement projects that bring the dividends of democracy closer to the grassroots. "With the THEMES Plus Agenda, the Lagos State Government remains committed to delivering critical infrastructure and improving living conditions in rural communities across the state," he said.

G6 Obas Converge at Oniba Ekun Palace, Declare Support for Tinubu

By Emmanuel Daniji

The historic palace of Oniba Ekun Palace recently became a hub of cultural significance and political solidarity as it hosted the G6 Obas for Asiwaju 2027 gathering. The event brought together prominent traditional rulers, community leaders and supporters in a strong demonstration of unity and collective commitment toward the political

movement ahead of the 2027 general elections. The gathering, organised by the Renewed Hope Ambassadors, served as a strategic meeting

point where stakeholders reaffirmed their backing for the leadership of Bola Ahmed Tinubu. During the event, the royal fathers and other

stakeholders associated with the President, expressing confidence in his leadership and the vision behind the Renewed Hope agenda.

Speakers at the gathering also highlighted the critical role of traditional institutions in promoting peace, unity and development across communities.

According to the monarchs, traditional rulers remain key figures in grassroots mobilisation and social cohesion, both of which are vital for sustainable national progress. The meeting ended with a call on Nigerians to remain committed to the Renewed Hope agenda, with participants emphasising that collaboration between government leadership and traditional institutions will be instrumental in building a more prosperous future for the country.



BADAGRY

Hunpe Commends Sanwo-Olu Infrastructural Drive

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry LG, Mr Babatunde Hunpe has hailed Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu on his infrastructural drive. Sanwo-Olu who was represented by deputy governor, Obafemi Hamzat

commissioned a re-electricification three HC Tower Crossings, the newly rehabilitated 33KV distribution lines along Gbaji/Seme and Owode/Apa, and the connection of 51 transformer substations at Gbaji, Badagry West LCDA. Hunpe described

the state government visit as an impactful one which focuses on the commissioning of significant projects. "This visit marks Mr. Governor's fourth to Badagry in less than eight months, each occasion dedicated to the commissioning of significant projects that clearly reflect

the progressive development for which Lagos State is known," he said. "We are deeply delighted that once again Your Excellency has chosen to visit our beloved Badagry Federation, this time to Badagry West Local Council Development Area, to

commission yet another impactful project that will further improve the lives of our people." Hunpe applauded Sanwo-Olu administration for prioritizing equitable development and inclusive growth in Lagos State. "Your continued presence and

commitment to infrastructure and community development in our part of Lagos State are truly appreciated, and they stand as a strong testament to your administration's dedication to inclusive growth and equitable development across the state."

Badagry West Boss Calls for Urgent Completion of Owode-Apa Road

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Badagry West Local Council Development Area, Mr Rauf Ibrahim has called on Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to hasten the construction of the Owode – Apa Road. He made the appeal during the recent commissioning of a major power electrification

project in the Badagry. The council boss described the restoration of electricity to multiple communities as a worthy achievement and a long-awaited relief for residents of Badagry West. He highlighted how years of persistent power outages had severely disrupted businesses, compromised

security, hindered healthcare services, affected education, and diminished overall quality of life. The chairman expressed profound gratitude to Governor Sanwo-Olu for his decisive intervention, which has finally delivered a sustainable solution to the electricity crisis. According to him, the project has

rekindled hope among the people, enhanced community safety, and unlocked fresh economic prospects for households and enterprises across the LCDA. The council boss also extended appreciation to key figures who contributed to this success, including Hon. Bonu Solomon Saanu, the representative for Badagry Constituency in

the Lagos State House of Assembly, and Hon. Setonji David, the Deputy Chief Whip of the Assembly. He praised their dedication to Badagry's progress and their efforts in ensuring local concerns receive prompt attention from the state government. The council chairman lauded his predecessor, Mr. Gbenu Joseph, for laying the groundwork through initial discussions. He further

acknowledged the roles played by Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mr Mobolaji Ogunlende, Commissioner for Home Affairs, Mr Ibrahim Layode, as well as various community leaders and youth organizations. Their patience, collaboration, and constructive engagement throughout the prolonged blackout period were instrumental in reaching this milestone.

MUSHIN NEWS

Access To Electricity Vital To Strengthening Local Businesses – Aruwe

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Mushin LG, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe has emphasized that access to electricity is vital in strengthening local businesses growth and production. In a move aimed at revitalizing commercial activities and supporting grassroots entrepreneurs, Aruwe commissioned new transformers to provide stable electricity to key

areas in the local government. The interventions include a transformer installed for the bustling Taxi Park axis, which covers Saka Street, Sanusi Street, and sections of Isolo Road. This high-traffic commercial zone is home to numerous small businesses, including traders, artisans, mechanics, and shop owners who depend on consistent power

for daily operations. Aruwe highlighted that reliable access to electricity is essential for strengthening local businesses and driving economic progress in Mushin. Complementing the economic focus, another transformer has been provided to the nearly completed Omodigbo Primary Health Centre. The installation



ensures uninterrupted power for critical medical equipment, vaccine storage, lighting, and

round-the-clock operations, enhancing healthcare delivery for residents. The chairman

reiterated his administration's unwavering commitment to infrastructure projects that deliver direct benefits.



Jakande Hails Completed Ilupeju Roads

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Òdì-Olowo/Oj uwoye Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Dr Seyi Jakande said the completion of the two roads in Ilupeju was a fulfillment to the wishes or requests

of residents who have long yearned for new roads. Jakande has reaffirmed his dedication to transforming the community through infrastructure upgrades as he commissioned the reconstructed Ade Akinsanya and Isijola Streets

roads located off Town Planning Way in Ilupeju. Accompanied by his senior aides and key legislative figures, Jakande led the ceremony to unveil the revitalized roads. The project now boasts a fresh, smooth asphalt surface, well-defined lanes for better traffic flow,

and enhanced drainage systems designed to withstand heavy rains and prevent flooding. Jakande described the reconstruction as a direct fulfillment of the community's long-standing requests. He positioned it within his broader vision of urban

renewal, drawing inspiration from the enduring legacy of his father, the late Alhaji Lateef Jakande Lagos with a State's first civilian governor whose progressive policies continue to guide his own approach to leadership and development. The commissioning ceremony attracted warm

praise from local stakeholders. The Chairman of the Residents Association, along with a representative from the area's Indian community, presented Jakande with gifts, recognizing his administration's focused and impactful governance.

Rihanna Departs LA Hours After Attack on Beverly Hills Property



Grammy-winning singer and entrepreneur Rihanna departed Los Angeles on Monday, hours after a shooting incident was reported at her residence in Beverly Hills. The global music star was seen boarding a private

jet at Van Nuys Airport, where her luggage was transported to a private terminal before departure. Authorities identified Ivanna Lisette Ortiz as the suspect in the case. According to investigators, Ortiz was arrested on Sunday after allegedly firing several gunshots at the property. Police said the suspect arrived at the residence in a Tesla vehicle

Kehinde Adeleye

armed with a semi-automatic rifle and discharged about ten rounds toward the house, which Rihanna shares with her partner, rapper A\$AP Rocky. Investigators later discovered four bullet holes in the gate of the estate, while additional rounds reportedly struck the garage of a neighbouring property. Authorities said the suspect fled the

scene shortly after the incident but was apprehended about 12 kilometres away. Her vehicle was also recovered during the arrest. The Los Angeles Police Department confirmed that no one was injured in the incident. Ortiz has since been charged with attempted murder, while investigators continue efforts to determine the motive behind the attack.

'Marriage No Dey Work': Timaya Advises Phyno in Viral Video

Kehinde Adeleye

Nigerian singer Timaya has stirred debate online after sharing his views about marriage and having children. The "Dem Mama" crooner drew criticism after a now-viral video showed him suggesting that having children outside marriage is better, claiming that marriage often does not work. In the clip, Timaya appeared alongside fellow

artistes Rudeboy of the defunct P-Square duo and Phyno, as they discussed relationships and family life. Speaking in pidgin, Timaya advised that having children should take priority over marriage. "Just born pikin, pikin go grow. This marriage thing no dey work," he said, drawing mixed reactions from people present in the video.

The comment has since generated varied reactions across social media, with many users disagreeing with the singer's stance on marriage and family structure. Timaya, who is currently unmarried, is a father of four children with three different women. He shares two daughters, Emmanuella and Gracey, with Barbara Fumnaya

Nwaakolo. He also has a son, Emmanuel, with Tamar, and a daughter, Maya, with Dunnie Onasanya. In a 2024 interview with Naija FM, the singer explained that he has remained unmarried in his 40s because he has never felt strongly inclined toward marriage. However, he noted that his perspective could change in the future.



Eucharia Anunobi Recalls 16-Year Journey Caring for Son

Veteran Nollywood actress and evangelist, Eucharia Anunobi, has spoken about the emotional experience of losing her son after years of battling Sickle Cell Disease. The actress shared her story during an appearance on the Honest Brunch Podcast, where she reflected on the challenges she faced raising a child diagnosed with the SS genotype. According to Anunobi, the journey began when her son

became ill shortly before his first birthday. Medical tests later revealed that he had sickle cell disease. "Just before my son was one year old, he fell ill and I took him to the hospital. They checked his genotype and said he was SS, and there started the battle of my life," she said. The actress explained that she immediately began researching ways to manage the condition, seeking medical advice

and studying different approaches to caring for a child living with sickle cell disorder. "I started going everywhere. I started looking for medication,

reading about herbs and studying everything about what it means to take care of an SS child," she said. Anunobi also highlighted the strict precautions

Kehinde Adeleye

she had to observe to protect her son's health, including avoiding dusty environments and excessive heat. "I started understanding that they can't stay where there is dust or where there is heat. My son never drank pure water," she added. Despite the difficulties, the actress described the years she spent raising her son as one of the most meaningful periods of her life. "I'm grateful that God gave me the opportunity to be

a mother. The joy of having nurtured a child for 16 years, six months and 22 days — those years were one of the most glorious years of my life," she said. Anunobi added that the experience ultimately strengthened her faith and deepened her relationship with God. "I'm grateful to God for making me a mother, and I learnt so much in the course of taking care of him. It deepened my relationship with God," she said.



Kiddwaya Encourages Gym Workouts Instead of Brazilian Butt Lift

Kehinde Adeleye

Reality TV personality Kiddwaya has advised Nigerian women to reconsider undergoing Brazilian Butt Lift procedures, urging them to prioritise their health and safety. Kiddwaya shared the message in a post on X while reacting to reports about a woman who reportedly died following complications

linked to the cosmetic surgery. According to the former Big Brother Naija housemate, many men appreciate natural body shapes and do not expect women to undergo risky procedures to enhance their appearance. He encouraged women who wish to improve their physique to adopt healthier methods such as regular

exercise rather than surgical alterations. "Dear ladies, please stop doing BBL. We love the way you are. Your body is perfect the way God designed it. And if you feel you need to look slightly better, then get yourself a gym membership and work out like a normal human being. Enough is enough. Yours sincerely, men," he wrote.

Kiddwaya also called for a healthier conversation

around body image, stressing that fitness and self-care remain safer

and more sustainable alternatives to cosmetic surgery.



Ayra Starr Picks Tiwa Savage, Wizkid, Rema as Greatest Afrobeats Acts



Kehinde Adeleye

Nigerian singer Ayra Starr has shared her personal list of the greatest Afrobeats artists of all time, popularly referred to as the "Afrobeats Big 3." Speaking during an interview on Hot 97 FM, the singer

named Tiwa Savage, Wizkid and Rema as her top three Afrobeats stars. "My Afrobeats Big 3 would be Tiwa Savage, Wizkid and Rema. My solid Big 3," she said. Her selection has drawn attention on social media, as

it excluded Davido and Burna Boy, who are often mentioned alongside Wizkid in discussions about the genre's biggest artists. In a separate interview with media personality Angela Yee, Ayra Starr also explained why she decided

to relocate from Nigeria to New York City. According to the singer, her experiences spending time in the city and the presence of friends influenced her decision. "I spent the last two summers in New York and last

summer I lived in Hell's Kitchen for about three months with my friends. We were watching American shows and movies. It was fun," she said. Ayra Starr added that she had always dreamed of living in the United States while

growing up. "Growing up, I had always wanted to come to America. So which city would I want to go? LA is too far, the time difference with Nigeria is nine hours. So, I chose New York," she explained.

Assault On LAWMA Officials: Court Fixes April 24 To Try Suspects



By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos Government is set to prosecute seven suspects who have been accused of assaulting officers of the Lagos State Waste Management Authority, LAWMA. During a proceeding at the Ikeja Special Offences Court, the individuals identified as: Olamilekan Abdullahi, 21; Akееm

Olamilekan, 24; Frank Tom, 25; Sakiru Jamiu, 20; Emmanuel Abiodun, 41; Olarewanju Onyowale, 35; and Taiwo Yusuf, 30, at the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, were said to have assaulted the officers while they were carrying out a morning assignment. The septet, after they were apprehended around the

Moshalashi Jimoh area of Lagos Island were brought before the court on a five-count charge bordering on conduct likely to cause a breach of peace, unlawful dumping of refuse at an unapproved location, failure to engage the services of an authorised Private Sector Participant, PSP, waste operator, obstruction of enforcement

officers in the course of their duties, and assault.

The court also granted the defendants bail in the sum of N200,000 each, with two sureties required for each defendant, ordering that one of the sureties must be a recognised community leader, while the

other must be a gainfully employed relative.

The defendants were remanded in a correctional facility pending the fulfilment of the bail conditions while the case was adjourned the case until April 24.

LAWMA has reiterated that any attempt to obstruct or assault its enforcement

personnel constitutes a serious violation of Lagos State environmental laws. The agency warned that individuals who interfere with environmental enforcement operations will face the full weight of the law through appropriate legal processes.

Businessman To Face Trial, May 7, Over N2.9M Fraud

By Felix Kuyinu

A businessman, Ufoma Joseph, has been held up for court over allegations of oil fraud in the sum of N2.9 million naira.

Joseph alongside his firm, Intermediate Investment Holdings Limited, have both been billed to appear in court on May 7 over a two-count-charge of obtaining by and forgery during an earlier proceeding at the Ikeja Special Offences Ikeja, Lagos. While arraigning the suspect, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, disclosed that the defendants allegedly obtained \$1.5 million from the complainant, Adebisi Adebutu of R28 Holdings Ltd, between April 2022 and October 2023 under false pretences of a proposed petroleum development project.

EFCC counsel, Babatunde Sonoiki, who accused Joseph of forging a document titled "Term Sheet" purportedly executed by one Sheriff Oluwo and Olaniran Osotuyi, to facilitate the transaction, said that the defendant assured of

reimbursement, payment of development capital fees, and allocation of shares in Intermediate Investment Holdings Ltd.

Sonoiki relayed that the allegations, which the litigant pleaded not guilty to, contravened Sections 1(1)(a) and 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006, and Section 363 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2015. However, the prosecutor asked the court for a trial date and urged that Joseph be remanded with Interpol pending the conclusion of investigations.

Presiding Judge, Mojisola Dada, ordered that the defendant be remanded with Interpol pending the conclusion of investigations, after which he would be transferred to a correctional centre pending the hearing of his bail application.

The court adjourned the case till May 7.

Lawyer Faces Trial For Assaulting Colleague In Court

By Felix Kuyinu

A legal practitioner, Oluseun Awonuga, has been accused of assaulting his colleague, one Emenike Mgbemele at a Lagos State court. Awonuga was said to have physically beaten Mgbemele while standing as defence counsel

for defendant during a matter at the Ikeja Special Offences Court in Ikeja.

"My lord, the learned silk physically assaulted my colleague at the staircase on his way to serve the defendant as directed by the court," the prosecution

counsel, Babatunde Sonoiki said.

"It is very sad, a senior advocate for that matter. There is a video to that effect, and we intend to tender it before the court," Sonoiki added.

Presiding Judge, Mojisola Dada, adjourned the case until May 7.

Olopade Announces Expanded Reward System For Nigerian Sports Contributors

By Saheed Afolabi



The Director-General of Nigeria's National Sports Commission (NSC), Mr Bukola Olopade, has revealed a new revamped reward framework that extends benefits to contributors to the Nigeria sport ecosystem. This inclusive approach reflects

is said to reflect President Bola Tinubu's policy of recognising and rewarding all individuals who bring honour to Nigeria through achievements abroad.

Olopade explained the shift in national support for sports which has now prioritized

athletes and contributors to the Nigeria sport ecosystem welfare.

"We have changed the way we treat our athletes. We have said that, as a nation, we must look after our athletes, either elite ones or those at the grassroots.

"We must look out for them and take care of them because they represent the nation. Of course, that's one thing which President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is particular about.

"In his words, when you do well for the country outside Nigeria, a very

grateful nation awaits you. That's the motivation we have for these athletes who are competing for Nigeria right now." He outlined the main features of the updated policy, which now includes training grants for athletes and expanded appreciation

bonuses for all who contribute to international success.

"We are determined to ensure that our athletes have money any time they need it. That's why we are paying them grants for their training and preparation.

"The appreciation bonus will now go beyond only the practitioners. It will also include the media, advisers, officials, and those who are creating content for the world to see.

"It will also include entrepreneurs in sports business and all stakeholders who are part of the victory. In the final analysis, Nigerian youths and everybody in sports must be grateful to President Tinubu.

"These are beautiful days all around us in Nigeria's sports sector. This will encourage our athletes to go out there and make our country proud." The new system aims to create stronger incentives across the entire sports ecosystem and inspire collective recognition.

Shaibu Backs Stadium Ban For Religious, Political Events

By Saheed Afolabi

The Director General of the National Institute for Sports (NIS), Mr Philip Shaibu has advocated for a nationwide ban on using national stadiums for political rallies and religious gatherings. He emphasized that the ongoing practice of repurposing these facilities for non-sporting events has played a major role in the rapid decline of many stadiums across Nigeria. Shaibu said that national stadiums, including the MKO Abiola National Stadium in Abuja, were specifically constructed to support the training, development, and advancement of Nigerian athletes and they must be protected for that core purpose. The NIS chief expressed deep concern over the country's dwindling number of world-class venues, pointing out that



the Godswill Akpabio International Stadium in Uyo is currently the only facility that fully complies with FIFA standards for hosting international football matches. Drawing from his time as Deputy Governor of Edo

State, where he oversaw sports development and the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium in Benin City, Shaibu highlighted the deliberate measures taken during his tenure to safeguard the facility. This included

protecting the athletics track, which was still under warranty with the original contractor. To address these challenges, the NIS DG called on the National Sports Commission (NSC) and the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF)

to partner closely with the National Institute for Sports in efforts to safeguard, maintain, and rehabilitate sports infrastructure nationwide. He reiterated his appeal for the immediate reconstitution of the National Sports

Commission board, arguing that a strengthened governing structure is essential to improve management, upkeep, and long-term preservation of Nigeria's sporting facilities.



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