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# Pensioners Will Smile Soon

Lagos State Ministry of Establishments and Training is as old as the state itself, being one of the earlier ministries that led the path of development of the state. It stands at the centre of human capacity development, labour unionism, workforce and life of civil servants after retirement. In this interview with Kunle Awosiyan, the state Commissioner for Establishments and Training, Mr. Afolabi Ayantayo speaks on issues of pensions and other matters as it affects the state civil service. Excerpts

**H**ow do you see this new assignment of running one of the oldest ministries since the creation of this State?

I consider it a privilege to be appointed by Mr. Governor to superintend over one of the oldest and significant ministries in the workings of government in Lagos State. Having had the privilege of being a Special Adviser to Mr. Governor on Parastatal Monitoring in his first term where I supervised the activities of all parastatal organizations in Lagos State, it is a fitting experience for me to be moved to the Ministry of Establishments and Training.

The ministry is very crucial in the governance architecture because its activities have direct impact on governance in the State. Building capacity and ensuring career progression of Civil Servants increase their efficiency and effectiveness which invariably leads to improved service delivery, better decision making. In the same breadth, government desires industrial peace for it to deliver on its

mandate and this requires nurturing cordial relationship that has long existed between labour union leaders and the State Government. This responsibility is at the heart of the activities of the ministry.

And to be entrusted to superintend over a ministry that handles such responsibilities is very humbling for me and it goes to show the confidence Mr. Governor reposes in me. I am ready to uphold that confidence for the benefit of the State.

When you assumed office few weeks ago, you promised quality human capacity development. How do you intend to achieve this in tandem with the Governor's THEMES agenda?

Let me first of all say that Mr. Governor's THEMES Agenda has now been graduated to THEMES + (plus) Agenda. However, be that as it may, Lagos State has been in the forefront in adopting world class 'people management initiatives' in the Public Service in Nigeria and we will continue to do so. One of the strategic pillars of the Ministry of Establishments and



“Lagos is reputed to be the best pension administration compliant state in the federation. We are not going to deviate from this path except to assure state's pensioners of the state government's commitment to the timely payment of retirees and clear the backlog”

Training is accelerated capacity development. Human capital is at the centre of our strategy for development and we recognize that developing their capacity is not only critical for realizing individual potentials for greater efficiency, it is central to achieving some of the goals of THEMES + agenda. As a government, we are prepared to continue to invest in capacity building of the State's

workforce. In the coming months, we will be deliberate in increasing the rate of our learning and development interventions in the shortest time frame in order to upscale and upskill the State Civil Service. We are determined to work on innovative learning and development initiatives for the workforce and to ensure that every civil servant is equipped with relevant skillset and

competencies to deliver on their assigned jobs for the benefit of the State. We will deploy existing technology and improve on the training schedules from sector specific hands-on and interactive training to industry exchange programmes to ensure that significant number of Civil Servants benefit from the ministry's capacity building programmes. Our learning strategy will seek to even support professional development across board regardless of cadre or level and stimulate overall self-development.

Lagos State Government Pensioners, like other states have complained about not getting their pensions as and when due. What are you going to do differently to make them smile?

There is nothing to do differently. The Lagos State Government has been consistent in the payment of pensions to retirees and it is reputed to be the Best Pension Administration Compliant State in the Federation. We are not going to deviate from this path except to assure State's Pensioners of the State Government commitment to improve on timely payment of retiree's pensions and clear the backlog. Mr. Governor has shown greater commitment and determination to clear the backlog of pensions and it is anticipated that at the end of 2023, this would be achieved so that on retirement from 2024, retirees would collect their entitlement without waiting even for a day.

# Pensioners Will Smile Soon

My interaction with a few of them shows that they do not have vivid understanding between Pension Bond and Contributory Pension Scheme. Can you please elaborate on this?

The State Government runs two pension regimes. They are Defined Benefit Scheme and Contributory Pension Scheme. The Defined Benefit Scheme is a fully funded pension payment for all pensioners of the State Government who retired before 31st March, 2010. The pension is calculated based on the terminal salary of the retirees and the number of years spent in active service. Payment in this category is in two parts: the lump sum Gratuity Payment and Monthly pension payment. Whilst the Contributory Pension Scheme is an arrangement where both the employee and the State Government contribute monthly towards the payment of pension at retirement. It is funded through the monthly pension contribution where the Government pays 10% while the employee pays 8% of the employee salary and are remitted into an employee's Retirement Savings Account which is managed by the Pension Fund Administrators. These funds are readily available at retirement unlike

Defined Benefit Scheme which depends on budgetary provisions or allocations. This aspect is the crux of agitation amongst pensioners which brings them at logger-head with government.

The former Commissioner boasted a 'Pay as you go' system, yet the pensioners still complain. What are you doing about this?

The boast was not in vain. It was predicated on the calculation that with the commitment and determination displayed by Mr. Governor in the consistent effort to clear the backlog, the target of 'Pay As You Go' would be achieved by the end of 2023. I want to encourage our pensioners to exercise patience and to assure them that the boast is still valid and tenable.

With over N50billion already paid to about 14,000 retirees in the State, does the ministry have any other scheme in place to ameliorate post retirement financial difficulties? Yes, there are other schemes initiated by the State Government to ameliorate post retirement difficulties. One of them is the free medical treatment for the aged where they could access and get free treatment from government hospitals as senior citizens of the State. There is also free transportation

scheme for all those that have served the State and are above 60 years on various means of transportation owned by the Lagos State Government.

There are indications in the nearest future that workers may go on strike going by the growing rate of inflation, do you have any strategy in place to suppress Labour Union's agitation in the State?

We have a proactive government in the State. Before the removal of fuel subsidy, the State Government had increased the salaries of Public Servants by 20 per cent across board shortly after Mr. Governor secured a second term. In addition to this, the State Government had devised measures to mitigate the effect of hardship and inflation caused by fuel subsidy removal. It has commenced



distribution of palliatives to residents of the State including Civil Servants to alleviate their pains and sufferings. On the whole, I want to assure Lagos State workers that Mr. Governor is committed to the growth and development of the public service and particularly the well being of the entire workforce. We will continue to deepen

relationship between labour and the State Government in order to ensure industrial peace and harmony in the State.

Question: What will you consider as your great challenge in this new role and what are your plans to overcome it?

I do not see challenges, what I see are opportunities because challenges are opportunities for

me to succeed. Without challenges, I cannot succeed as an individual because it is an important part of growing and developing. I accept and welcome any situation or issues and make the best of them. In doing that I believe I will grow and become better person. So, in a nutshell, I see opportunities rather than challenges.



# Apatira Reaffirms Commitment To Improved Healthcare

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman, Itire Ikate LCDA, Dr Ahmed Apatira has pledged not to renege in efforts at improving the quality of health care services in the council area.

The council boss revealed this while receiving the permanent secretary and management team of health district IV who paid him a working visit in his office at the council secretariat.

Dr Apatira said his administration had made giant strides in delivering quality services, which were



Itire Ikate LCDA chairman, Dr Ahmed Apatira

evident across the health facilities in the council area

He said a healthy population is the greatest asset to any society, adding that his administration has demonstrated commitment by doing everything to ensure

that the strategic health facilities are brought back to life.

The council chairman who stated that government has invested huge sums of money to fix the structures, servicing and maintenance of health facilities in the

council area to keep them functional, assured that never again shall government hospitals be left to deteriorate.

In his address, the Permanent Secretary, Health District IV, Dr. Abimbola Bowale commended the council boss for the facelift given to the

health facilities across the council area. opined that it has helped to improve on quality healthcare services delivery to the people.

“The investment in the health sector is pretty impressive and we are quite impressed with the potential of the facilities dealing with

maternal and child care challenges,” he said.

Dr Bowale further sought the co-operation of the council boss for the construction of new comprehensive prototype health facility in the council area and when fully operational, will discharge their mandate to the people of the council area.

## Itire Ikate LCDA chairman, Dr Ahmed Apatira

By Saheed Afolabi

The teachers in Itire Ikate LCDA have thrown their weight behind the council chairman, Ahmed Apatira for his intervention in the educational sector.

The teachers lauded the council boss for providing learning educational materials to students, teachers and the school to enhance the educational level of the local council.

Apatira was on an assessment tour of some schools in Itire Ikate LCDA where he was satisfied with the standard of education and promised to contribute to the growth of the sector.



The chairman of Itire Ikate LCDA, Ahmed Apatira in a group photograph with teachers after inspecting a school

Schools visited are Animashawun primary School, Erinsho primary School, Imam Shuaibu primary School and Akanji primary School Head teachers, Parents Teachers Association (PTA) chairmen, pupils

appreciated the council boss for provision of back to school materials, learning tools to schools when the Apatira visited the schools to assess their activities.

Apatira noted the difficulties facing the schools and gave assurance of solving the problems efficiently.

## Residents Commend Mushin LG Chairman For Road Intervention

By Saheed Afolabi

The residents of Mushin have shown appreciation to the Local Government for bringing ease to road users in the community following the rehabilitation and construction of roads in the community.

Members of the newly constituted Roads Maintenance Team (RMT) of the Department of Works and Infrastructure in Mushin LG conducted an inspection tour and opened some newly rehabilitated culverts and roads across Mushin environs, for the use of motorists and other road users.

The team led by the Supervisor for Works and Infrastructure, Funmi Peters, went in company of the chairman house committee on works and infrastructure in the legislative arm of the council & Councillor of Ward A - Hakeem Mustapha, chairman house committee on education & councillor of Ward C in legislative arm, Vincent Adedeji, supervisor for special



One of the completed road at Palm Avenue bus stop in Mushin

duties, Hafizu Talabi, head of information unit, Olabisi Bello, Special Assistants to the chairman, staff of Works and infrastructure department.

Projects inspected included and completed are construction of culvert at Agoro street junction along Alasalatu street, completed rehabilitation of bad portion at Palm Avenue junction of Isolo road, completion of asphalt laying at Oremeji street by Oteomi junction, patching of bad portion along Palm Avenue, Patching and rehabilitation of Chicken George Roundabout.

Others include, completed rehabilitation of the bad portion of Okesanya end linking Ojekunle street,

and completed reconstruction of culvert at Omodigbo junction along Palm Avenue.

After the inspection of culverts which have been completed some weeks ago, the access roads linking Alasalatu to Idi-Araba through Agoro street and Palm Avenue linking Omodigbo street, were opened for motorists to use as links into other roads.

Members of the communities who were in attendance at the opening of the access roads, expressed appreciation to the Mr Emmanuel Bamigboye led government in Mushin. They appreciated the Chairman and members of his council for coming to their aid and making life comfortable for road users.

## Ajala Urges Residents To Dispose Waste Properly

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Rasaq Ajala has urged residents to dispose waste properly to avoid flooding.

This was sequence to the surprising visit of the Council Chairman to Idi-Oro community popularly known as Ghetto to enforce environmental laws and safety which centre on

drainages to allow free flow of wastewater.

He sensitized the residents on the need to keep their drains free of refuse particles that block wastewater from flowing into the canal and ordered the immediate clearing of drainages by the residents and demolition of shanties and illegal structures built on the drainage channels which community leaders

were enjoined to supervise the operation clear your environment.

The owners of the illegal structures were asked to remove them by themselves or the government would demolish them, residents were seen clearing their drainages and removing their illegal structures.

It was gathered that the local council has issued several warnings to

owners of the illegal structures as many shops were marked for demolition.

The Chairman made it clear to the residents that the Idi-oro community is flood-prone due to the environmental nuisance by the residents and urged the people to cultivate the habit of disposing of their waste properly by patronizing authorised LAWMA

PSP operators and not dumping their refuse in the drainages.

The streets affected were Akala Street, Imoru Street, Elegba Street, Akinbiyi Street, Anifowoshe, Ashaoku, Ojo by Rainbow Cinema, Igbarere, Alhaji Lasisi Street, and some parts of Awolowo Market as some of the shanties demolished were hideouts for criminals in the area.

Members of the inspection team also took time to inspect some bad portions of road in the community due for rehabilitation and promised to recommend them to the chairman for approval.

They however frowned at the indiscriminate waste disposal attitude and other road abuse by members of the community which constitute threat to newly rehabilitated roads and advised people to desist from such acts.



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# Councillors In Ejigbo LCDA Go On Physical Inspections Of Road Project

By Saheed Afolabi

**K**ehinde Adeleye Legislative Oversight is a tool used by the legislative to perform its role of checks and balances in a democracy and involves keeping an eye on the activities of government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) with the sole aim of informing the public as well as correcting ills in governance. The members of the 5th legislative council of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area, Lagos State, embarked on an oversight function which is the Constitutional responsibility of the Legislators to go on a physical inspection and assessment of projects carried out in Local Governments and LCDAs as contained in the official Gazette. The lawmakers declared their intentions to take a resolution and

implement it immediately, on the newly constructed Ifoshi Road.

The Speaker of the House, Hon. Lanre Akinbowale, revealed this on Friday, September 29, 2023, when touring the freshly built Ifoshi Road.

The necessity to complete a quality job and form a Maintenance Committee was highlighted by Akinbowale during the visit to Ifoshi Road because the road is a State Government project but is managed by the Local Council.

He stated, in reference to the prior condition of the road, "The road is a major road with many connections in Ejigbo, the road has been in a very bad state for over 24 years, you can not drive the road without returning to your mechanic."

Akinbowale thanked



the contractors for a job well done by using the best quality and highest grade of interlocking blocks (HFP) for the road while engaging with them.

The project's most recent phase, which just got finished, involved building drainages, culverts, kerbs, and other necessary structures from Falana

Busstop to Iyana-Ejigbo Busstop.

The citizens are instructed to treat the project like their own personal property now that it has been completed.

The Council Leader then commended the effort of the Chairman Ejigbo LCDA, Alh. Monsurudeen Oloyede Bello (OBE), for the

giant step taken to give the very best to the people of the Local Council. He explained that taking up the Ifoshi Road Project is indeed a bold step because "what we call a child's play then, has finally become a reality".

Also present at the Oversight Function carried out by the Legislators are: the

Deputy Leader - Hon. Omoniyi Ismail, the Majority Leader - Hon. Muritala Surajudeen, the Chief Whip - Hon. Grace Nwankwo Okere, the Deputy Majority Leader - Hon. Tajudeen Shonde, the Deputy Chief Whip - Hon. Abdulfattah Shitta-Bey and the Clerk of the House, Mr. Sholola Olushola.

# Isolo LCDA Boss Provides Equipment To Security Agencies, Set Up Committees

Kehinde Adeleye

**T**he Chairman Isolo LCDA, Adebayo Oladosu as set up committees and also provided security operatives with security equipment to aid their work in the protection of lives and properties in Isolo area. Since assuming office, Adebayo Olasaju has made it apparent that the security architecture of the Isolo LCDA will be upgraded. This has been supported by practical action, and the last two years of his

deliberate and ideal leadership have seen significant advancements in security.

The Chairman who has prioritize effective community policing for a well secured local council strongly believes that government at all level must keep putting security at the top of their priority list because failing to do put the public at risk.

Our correspondent reports that Isolo LCDA is close to both domestic and

international airports, substantial security is required to combat the sinister acts of criminals and street urchins.

The council area's key stakeholders, including the CDC, were included in the security committee the chairman established. The group held regular security meetings with the security services.

In furtherance of ensuring effective collaboration between the grassroots government and the security agencies, gadgets and other equipment needed for



effective operation were procured for the Police with operational vehicles

for all the Divisional Police Station with the council area and the Vigilante Group. The Lagos State Police

Command Anti-Cultism unit was also given a Hummer bus by Isolo LCDA.

# Chairman Ikorodu LGA Boss Inaugurates Classroom Blocks at SAPS

By Nurudeen Adebayo

A momentous occasion unfolded in Ikorodu as Mr. Wasiu Adesina, the Chairman of Ikorodu Local Government Area (LGA), marked a significant milestone in the region's education sector by inaugurating five blocks of classrooms at Salvation Army Primary School.

The event, held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, marked a significant step towards improving the educational landscape for local youth and fostering a culture of knowledge.

The project, designed to create a more conducive learning environment for students, underscores the council chairman's unwavering dedication to enhancing education, offering a brighter future for pupils in Ikorodu.

The commissioning ceremony was graced by distinguished dignitaries, including



Prince Abiodun Ogunleye, the former Deputy Governor of Lagos State; Chief Asipa Kaoli Olusanya, former Lagos Commissioner for Agriculture; Alhaji Waheed Animasahun, APC Party Leader Ikorodu LGA; Oba Moruf Lekan Hameed, the Alagura of Agura; and His Royal Majesty, Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi, Ayangbure of Ikorodu kingdom. Councillors from the local council, stakeholders, and other prominent personalities who once passed

through the school in their early days were also in attendance.

In his address, Chairman Adesina emphasized the pivotal role of the newly commissioned classrooms in enhancing knowledge acquisition for students and supporting teachers in elevating the quality of education.

He showcased his administration's dedication to grassroots education, highlighting various initiatives such as providing new desks and chairs, constructing toilet facilities,

renovating fences, distributing GCE forms, offering bursary allowances to indigent students, donating notebooks and school bags, renovating the Agura Primary Health Center, and establishing ten Adult Education Centers in the region. Adesina also commended the construction company responsible for the project, recognizing their commendable work.

The Kokoro Abu Base presented academic gift items to Chairman Adesina to support his educational endeavors. David Sumoni, Chairman of the Governing Council of the Lagos State University (LASU) and an alumnus of Salvation Army Primary School,

expressed his gratitude and pledged continued support to the school, urging teachers and students to maintain the facilities provided.

Dr. Saheed Ibikunle, the representative of the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), commended Hon. Wasiu Adesina for his unwavering support for the education sector and encouraged students to focus on their studies. HRM Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi, Ayangbure of Ikorodu, congratulated the Executive Chairman for his efforts towards education in the local government and called on all leaders who have benefited from the school to give back to the community.

In a fitting conclusion to the ceremony, Oba Shotobi commissioned

the five blocks of classrooms and the accompanying furniture. Students at Salvation Army Primary School expressed their appreciation to Chairman Adesina by presenting a special award, celebrating the progressive and conducive learning environment provided for them.

Hon. Wasiu Adesina concluded the event by promising to enhance security in the school's vicinity and rehabilitate the Kokoro Abu road extension. He encouraged the students to focus, learn, re-learn, and concentrate on their studies for a brighter future.

## Oyefusi Joins Shams El-Deen Senior Grammar School On Prize-Giving Day

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In a celebration of educational excellence and the accomplishments of its outgoing students, Shams El-Deen Senior Grammar School recently hosted a grand Speech and Prize-Giving Day.

The event, saw Princess Islamiyat Abiodun Oyefusi presiding as the chairperson, with a focus on motivating and celebrating the students in conjunction with the global observance of Girl Child International Day.

In her welcoming address, Princess Abiodun extended her warm greetings to esteemed guests, including the former and current principals, vice principals, the Teacher's Old Student Association, and various dignitaries.

Notably, the event held special significance due to its alignment with Girl Child International Day, emphasizing the importance of nurturing and supporting the future leaders of Nigeria.

Princess Abiodun delivered an inspiring message to the students, drawing a parallel with Thomas Edison's relentless pursuit of success in the face of adversity. She urged the students to remain resilient in their educational journey and not be disheartened by failures.



Princess Abiodun reiterated the significance of education, encouraging all students, regardless of their level of seriousness, to focus on their studies and recognize the bright future that education can offer.

Mr. Shomoye, the VP Academic and Chairman of the planning committee, extended congratulations to the graduating students and emphasized the role of education in shaping a promising future.

Representing the Old Student Association, Mr. Toyosi Bello shared their ongoing commitment to the school's growth and success. He advised the students to maintain focus, self-discipline, courage, and a positive attitude toward education.

Mrs. Folashade Akinpelu Asake, the Principal of Shams El-Deen Senior Grammar School, lauded the event as "wonderful and tremendous." She emphasized that the prizes awarded to

students aim to inspire academic excellence and encourage their continued dedication to learning.

During the event, students showcased their rich culture through captivating cultural dances, honoring the dignitaries in attendance. The school recognized outstanding achievements by presenting gifts to top-performing students and teachers, both male and female, for their remarkable academic results.

In a display of support for their alma mater, the Old Student Association unveiled the Yearbook 2023 and made significant contributions to the school's development.

Princess Islamiyat Abiodun Oyefusi concluded by pledging to oversee the renovation of the school's Solar System, enhancing the learning environment for students and improving the working conditions for teachers. This commitment ensures that education will continue to thrive at Shams El-Deen Senior Grammar School.

## Igbogbo-Ikorodu Prepares for Ashimolowo's Crusade

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Renowned spiritual leader, Pastor Matthew Ashimolowo of the 'Christ Compassion to the Rural World' organization, has unveiled plans for extensive rural crusade in Ikorodu.

The event scheduled to take place from November 6th to November 11th, 2023 and tagged 'This is Life Crusade' will not only provide essential support to the residents of Ikorodu division but is primarily dedicated to catalyzing profound spiritual transformations and bringing individuals closer to Jesus Christ.

Pastor Matthew Ashimolowo, sharing his vision for the crusade, has stressed its core purpose, stating, "This event is more than just a gathering; it's a spiritual awakening. We want to see lives transformed and individuals being born again in Jesus Christ."

The weeklong crusade will comprise five nights of intensive Holy Ghost campaigns, offering a unique opportunity for spiritual renewal,

worship, and fellowship. Attendees can anticipate powerful sermons, prayer sessions, and soul-stirring music.

Moreover, the 'This is Life Crusade' holds a dedicated focus on enhancing the welfare of Ikorodu division's residents. While the medical aspect of the program is expanding, it still depends on financial support from benevolent individuals and organizations. Pastor Matthew Ashimolowo has reached out to the community and philanthropists, urging

their assistance to ensure the success of this vital initiative.

The 'Christ Compassion to the Rural World' organization, under the guidance of Pastor Matthew Ashimolowo, aspires to leave a lasting impact on the community of Igbogbo-Ikorodu and its surroundings through the 'This is Life Crusade.' With its grand scale and unwavering commitment to spiritual transformation and community welfare, this event promises to be a milestone in the annals of African rural crusades.



# Culture Illuminates Grand Finale of Ipakodo Day

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The grand finale of the 2023 Ipakodo Day celebration and the 5th Coronation Anniversary of Oba Aremu Shotonwa, the Sekumade of Ipakodo, took place on October 7, 2023, at the Ebute-Ferry Terminal.

This remarkable event showcased the rich cultural heritage of Ipakodo and was a dazzling spectacle of glitz and glamour.

The atmosphere was alive with vibrant purple Ankara attire worn by residents and special guests in honor of the occasion. Dr. Bolaji Adeniji, the chairman of the joint planning committee, welcomed the attendees and expressed gratitude to all who contributed to the weeklong celebration's

resounding success.

The Chairman of the occasion, Rep. Babajimi Benson MHR, proudly declared his heritage as a prince of Ipakodo and a true son of the soil. He highlighted his commitment to the community by recounting various development projects he had spearheaded within the Ikorodu West LCDA.

Oba Aremu Shotonwa, in his inspiring speech, congratulated the sons and daughters of Ipakodo for making history together once again. He expressed gratitude to visiting guests who joined in the momentous celebration. Oba Aremu Shotonwa unveiled his legacy project, a pavilion to be constructed within his palace, drawing generous donations

from the attendees in support of this significant initiative.

The evening's highlight was the electrifying performance by Fuji star, Suleiman Adio Atawewe, leaving a lasting impression on special guests. This performance marked a memorable close to the grand finale.

The 2023 Ipakodo Day celebration and the 5th Coronation Anniversary of Oba Aremu Shotonwa celebrated the rich cultural heritage of Ipakodo and the unity and progress of the community. As the celebrations concluded, the Ipakodo community looked ahead with anticipation as the legacy pavilion project promised to continue fostering the enduring cultural and communal spirit of the community.

The event saw the presence of



distinguished figures, including HRM Oba Semiudeen Orimadegun Kasali, Adeboluwa of Igbogbo, HRM Oba Mudashiru Ajibade-Agoro, Ranodu of Imota, HRM Oba Olukayode David Raji Eweye of Isiu, Former

chairman of Lagos State Head of Service, Alhaji (Basorun) Babatunde Tajudeen Rotinwa, Former Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Prince Abiodun Ogunleye, Chief Asipa Kaoli, Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture, Abisola

Ruth Olusanya, Special Adviser to the Lagos Governor on Rural Development, Dr. Nurudeen Yekinni Agbaje, and Senator Adetokunbo Abiru, represented by Dr. Saheed Ibikunle, among other high-profile personalities.

# Students of LASUSTECH Isolo Campus Pay Tribute to Deceased Peers

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Students at the Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH) Isolo Campus came together to pay tribute to their deceased peers in a solemn "Tribute to the Lives Lost" rally. Dressed in black attire, they observed a peace walk around the school premises to honor the memory of those who had passed away.

The rally commenced at the Accounting department and proceeded to the school gate, concluding at the school field where

prayers were offered. Ogunniyi Jubril, the head of the Accounting department, shared words of remembrance and led a prayer. A pastor and a clergyman were also invited to offer Christian and Muslim prayers, respectively, to seek solace and comfort for the grieving students. Throughout the event, students were reminded to exercise caution and vigilance while traveling on the roads they use daily. The rally was a heartfelt expression of solidarity and mourning, rather than



a call for action from the school's management. In an interview with Ogunbiyi Jubril, the Head of the Accounting department, he expressed his belief that the rally's purpose was to remember the departed souls, pray for their eternal rest, and seek divine protection for all the students. He reflected on the jovial

and gentle nature of the deceased students and hoped that such a rally would not be necessary again. Oyebola Oyindamola, a 100-level student of Accounting, shared her sentiments about the rally and the students it aimed to remember. She expressed gratitude for

the successful cooperation of her fellow coursemates and offered prayers for the departed souls, hoping that similar tragedies would be avoided in the future. Osikoya Iremide noted that the rally was a poignant way to show respect and bid farewell to the departed students. She emphasized that the deceased, Akunna and Mariam, were neutral individuals who had no reported issues with others in her department. Her prayer was for LASUSTECH to remain a place of learning, growth, and support for all its students.

Akorede Fatiha Boluwatife paid tribute to the jovial and selfless nature of Akunna and shared her last interactions with Mariam, wishing she could have expressed her fondness more fully. She offered prayers for the departed souls and their grieving families, hoping that such tragic incidents would not be repeated in the school. The "Tribute to the Lives Lost" rally served as a touching moment of remembrance and reflection, allowing the LASUSTECH Isolo Campus community to come together in solidarity during a difficult time.



# Sanwo-Olu Approves 500% Car Refurbishment Loan for State Workers

**M**r. Olabode Shua'eb Agoro, on Tuesday, formally stepped into office as the 22nd Head of Service (HOS) of the Lagos State Civil Service, succeeding Mr. Hakeem Muri-Okunola, who voluntarily retired last September after about five years at the saddle.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu superintended the event where the 56-year-old Agoro took the oath before members of the State Executive Council, House of Assembly lawmakers, Body of Permanent Secretaries and political leaders. Also, heads of State Government's parastatals, retired Heads of Service, state employees in different cadres and traditional rulers thronged the Banquet Hall in the State House, Alausa, where the ceremony to usher in the new Lagos public service's helmsman was held.

Following administration of the oath, Agoro performed his first official assignment, getting the Governor's approval for the long-sought request of a 500 per cent increase in the Car Refurbishment Loan Scheme for the state employees.



(Agoro being sworn-in as new HOS)

Workers responded to the news with spontaneous celebration. The welfare scheme heralded the arrival of a new sheriff in the Lagos State public service.

Sanwo-Olu described civil service as "a resource centre" of the Government, likening public service to a wheel that keeps governance and the government running.

The Governor congratulated the new HOS, noting that the constitution entrusted the office of the Head of Service with "enormous" responsibilities to provide direction and

leadership for the public workforce. Sanwo-Olu urged Agoro to dedicate himself to the task of governance and work to build on the achievements of his predecessors.

He said: "Office of the Head of Service, in a cosmopolitan State like Lagos, carries a lot of responsibility. This is so, because Government relies significantly on the public service for the implementation of policies and programmes. Lagos public service has a great reputation of competence among its peers, but there is still so much to be done in order to continuously raise the bar of

professionalism, and to ensure prompt, effective and efficient service delivery that meet global standards.

"Given the high expectations of our citizens, this is the task that our new Head of Service must completely dedicate himself to as he takes on the huge responsibility of providing direction and leadership to the most vibrant and progressive public service in the country. I have no doubt about his capability to lead the Civil Service, and to build on the legacy and achievements of his predecessors. My confidence and trust are predicated on his exemplary contributions, remarkable dedication and his professionalism. Agoro has displayed these attributes over the years as a public servant."

Sanwo-Olu said his administration recognised the important role public service played in the governance and delivery of democracy dividends to the people. This, he said, was the rationale for constantly prioritising the welfare of civil servants.

The Governor said he

raised workers' salaries last January by 20 per cent, which is above what is obtainable in other states to cater for the welfare. He added that he procured and made staff buses available to transport workers to and from work, thereby reducing their transportation costs due to the current economic situation.

Sanwo-Olu said his Government had ensured housing slots were reserved for civil servants in housing projects undertaken in the State.

The Governor said Muri-Okunola's tenure as HOS was marked by significant success in the implementation of his administration's development agenda, urging the new HOS and civil servants to join hand with his Government as it set out to surpass expectations in ground-breaking and milestone achievements across the pillars of THEMES Plus agenda.

Sanwo-Olu said: "Agoro's journey has been marked by diligence, integrity and a deep love for Lagos and our people. As you take on this new role, please know that you carry the hopes and aspirations of many. You must succeed. On our part, be assured of our full support towards

easing the tasks and the challenges ahead of you. I wish you success and pray that you will lead the Lagos State Public Service to new heights of excellence."

Before his appointment as HOS, Agoro was the longest serving Permanent Secretary, supervising the Lagos State Government Lands Bureau. He also served as Senior Special Assistant (SSA) on Land Matters to former Governor Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Giving his vote of assurance, Agoro said he inherited "a fantastic, vibrant public service" from his predecessor, pledging to build on the legacy bequeathed to him.

The HOS hailed Sanwo-Olu for prioritising the workers' welfare, pointing out that the approval of the Car Refurbishment Loan Scheme would go a long way in motivating the state employees and raise their dedication.

"My assumption of office as the 22nd Head of Service will bring about new opportunities for the civil servants. Their welfare and working environment will be paramount," he pledged.

The immediate past HOS, Muri-Okunola, who was physically present at the ceremony, is now the Private Secretary to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

## Land Use Charge: Lagos To Adopt Geographic Information System

**T**he Lagos State Government is set to adopt a state-of-the-art Geographic Information System (GIS) for mapping and identification of properties to provide an efficient and improved system in the billing and payment of Land Use Charge (LUC) in the State.

Speaking at a forum on Land Use Charge Matters held at the Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium, Alausa Ikeja, the Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Abayomi Oluyomi asserted that property owners can no longer dodge Land Use Charges as the new innovative system will generate bills for

everyone using the valuation methodology that will be imputed into the system which will determine the location and the market value of all the properties in Lagos State.

In his words: "Starting from December 2023, the State Government will adopt the Geographic Information System to facilitate the prompt payment of Land Use Charge. I appeal to all property owners to regularise their property papers as soon as possible".

"Let me stress that Governance and Government is a social contract signed between the people

and the government. Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu signed a social contract with Lagosians when he assumed Office and he is committed to fulfilling this contract through the provision of reliable and sufficient infrastructure across the State, meeting the needs of the 21st-century and Smart city drive", he stated.

Speaking further, the Commissioner averred that the present administration has continued to undertake huge infrastructural projects in line with international best practices, adding that Lagos is one of the first sub-national to have a

metro line while Ibeju Lekki in Lagos is one of the fastest growing areas in the whole of Africa with expected Green Rail Line, Fourth Mainland Bridge and International Airport amongst others.

He, therefore, charged stakeholders to join hands with the State Government towards achieving the vision of Greater Lagos by performing their civic responsibility and ensuring the prompt payment of Land Use Charge.

In his welcome address, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Taxation and Revenue, Mr. Abdulkabir Ogungbo stated that the State Government will

continue to touch the lives of every citizen in the provision of social amenities which is paramount to his developmental agenda. He appreciated the turnout of stakeholders and appealed for more support to achieve the vision for Greater Lagos.

In his remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Mr. Hundogan Sewanu Temitope encouraged Property Owners to take advantage of the various platforms available for Land Use Charge Dispute Resolution and enjoy all the benefits attached, in other to avert all the attendant consequences of non-

compliance.

The event was well attended by stakeholders including HRM Oba Engr. Kabiru Adewale Shotobi, Ayangburen and Paramount Ruler of Ikorodu Division; HRM Oba Waliu Olasunkanmi, Onibeju of Ibeju; HRM Oba Olufolarin Olukayode Ogunsawo, the Alara of Ilara; Chairmen of Local Government and Local Council Development Areas, Captain of Industries, Real Estate Licensed Practitioners of Nigeria, Association of Town Planning Consultants of Nigeria, Estate Rent Commission Agent Association of Nigeria and Association of Real Estate Developers of Lagos State, among others.

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# Lagos, SEC Seek Partnership In Infrastructure Provision

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu said that infrastructure development is key to maximising the economic potential and growth of any state or country. Speaking through the Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat who received the visiting Director-General of the Securities and Exchange Commission on behalf of the Governor today in his Office, at the RoundHouse, Alausa, Ikeja, noted that the state has kept thinking of investing massively on its infrastructure for economic potential. The Governor said, "Infrastructure is the only way to maximise the economic potential of the country which is why Lagos has taken it as a priority to build its infrastructure for the betterment of its

citizens. "Infrastructure is essential to the development of African countries, there is a need to educate Africans on the need to raise funds for investment that will better the lives of its citizens", he added. Accordingly, Sanwo-Olu believed that there is a need to educate citizens on raising capital to develop the country as Africans seem not to like debt, saying "That is why I think that we have a huge responsibility to fund capital investment in the country, by encouraging state actors not to be scared from taking constructive debt to leapfrog opportunities that will grow the economy". He said the state government would not

have been able to provide some infrastructural facilities in the state today if it had not been able to access loans needed to put such facilities in place. Earlier in his remarks, the Director-General of the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) in Nigeria, Mr. Lamido Uguda stated that the purpose of his visit to Lagos was to inform the government of the plan to host the West-Africa Market Conference in the state being organised by the West-Africa Security Regulator Association. He said, "The conference with the theme: 'Infrastructure Deficit and Sustainable Financing in an Integrated West Africa Capital Market', will attract experts across the sub-region to deliberate on the need to tackle the infrastructure deficit for the economic growth of the sub-region. He added that the commission decided to bring the conference to Lagos to highlight the need for infrastructure development in the sub-region and showcase what the state government has been able to do in this regard as the commercial nerve centre of the nation which they believe other states within the federation and the sub-region can emulate. The Director-General further expressed the readiness of the commission to collaborate with the state government in curbing illicit business by some unscrupulous people who scam people of their hard-earned money.



Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat with Director-General of the Securities and Exchange Commission Mr. Lamido Uguda

# Lagos Govt Acknowledges Farmer's Role In Economic Stability

The Lagos State Government has acknowledged the critical role of farmers in the pursuit of economic stability, describing them as partners in the provision of an abundant life to all citizens.

Speaking during a recent meeting with the All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) in Lagos, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Rural Development, Dr. Nurudeen Yekini 'Lanre-Agbaje reiterated the commitment of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu to running an inclusive Government that is ready to carry everybody along in the business of governing the State.

He stressed the readiness of Mr. Governor to replicate whatever developmental stride that is recorded in the urban centres in rural communities to ensure even development across the State.

While explaining that the essence of his visit to the association is to assess the needs of the farmers in the State, Agbaje promised that the office would provide



Special Adviser to the Governor on Rural Development, Dr. Nurudeen Yekini 'Lanre-Agbaje with Executive of All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) in Lagos

maximum support to the association to facilitate an increase in food production and support the food security drive of the present administration.

He implored members of the association and farmers to continue to

support the policies, programmes and activities of the government towards achieving food sufficiency.

In his remark, the Chairman of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria, Otunba (Dr.) Femi Oke, expressed gratitude to Mr.

Governor as well as the Special Adviser, acknowledging that the State Government has been very supportive of the Association in all its activities.

Otunba Oke, however, requested more support from the present administration through

the establishment of a farm settlement to serve as the hub of socio-economic activities in the agriculture value chain, creation of farmers' markets to facilitate direct interaction between farmers and consumers to ameliorate the activities

of middlemen, provision of access roads to rural communities and farm centres, training and empowerment of farmers among others.

The Special Adviser, however, pledged to brief Mr. Governor of all the association's requests and ensure they receive favourable consideration.

# Akinloye Presents Vehicles To Supervisors, Security Forum

By Mohammed Adekola

Residents of Eredo Local Council Development Area jubilated as the Chairman presented official vehicles to three Supervisors and a security patrol van to the Eredo Security Forum (ESF).

Represented by Vice

Chairman Mr. Adesanya Lateef during the event, the Eredo LCDCA chairman Mr. Ismail Monsuru Akinloye presented official vehicles to three supervisors, "Supervisor for Health, Supervisor for Agriculture Supervisor for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation" (WAPA).

The Chairman also

presented a security patrol van to the Eredo Security Forum (ESF), Which comprises of joint security team that includes the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VNG), Local Hunters, the Oodua People's Congress (OPC), and the Agbekoya Farmers Association.

This significant contribution underscores the LCDCA's dedication to strengthening



# LSSTF Hands Over New Patrol Bikes To LNSA

... Reiterates Mr. Governor's Commitment to Security of Lagos



The Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF) has handed over new six Patrol Bikes to the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency (LNSA) to support their efforts in enhancing security and safety within the State. The Executive Secretary of LSSTF, Hon. AbdulRasaq Balogun, who handed over the Patrol Bikes to the Agency, said the acquisitions are expected to enhance and complement the Agency's community motorised and foot patrol efforts. "These patrol bikes will enable the agency to

improve their mobility and response capabilities, ultimately contributing to a safer environment for the residents of Lagos State", he stated. Balogun reaffirmed the commitment of Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu to the security of lives and properties in the State, stressing that the Agency will continue to impress in the delivery of its mandate in the security matrix of the State to curry more attention and attract more equipment and welfare packages. While taking delivery of the bikes, the General Manager of

LNSA, Prince (Dr.) Ifalade Oyekan, FSIN, expressed delight on the input of new Patrol Bikes into the Agency's fleet, affirming that the machinery will enhance the Agency's desire for rapid deployment and monitoring at all times. Applauding Governor Sanwo-Olu for continuously putting Safety and Security on the front burner, the General Manager commended the Lagos State Security Trust Fund for consistency, expressing the desire of Mr. Governor to make the city the safest place for livability and socio-economic activities.

# Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDCA Chairman Orders Renovation of St. James School

By Mohammed Adekola

Chairman Ikosi-Ejinrin Local Council Development Area, visits St. James Anglican Primary School, Museju-Mutaku, with the sole aim of assessing the school's condition and learning environment.

Anomo's proactive approach to education reflects his dedication to enhancing the teaching and learning experience in the schools, with the aim of investing in a brighter future for Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDCA. Recognizing the importance of providing a conducive learning space, Akogun Anomo promptly ordered the school's renovation. "The school, facing specific challenges in its current condition, will soon undergo a transformation to ensure a more

conducive environment for teaching and learning". Contractors are expected to commence work soon, ensuring a swift and efficient renovation process said the Chairman during the

visitation Headteacher, Mrs. Issa K. Funmilola, expressed her gratitude to the Chairman for his visit and the approval of the renovation and emphasized the positive impact the renovation would have on the school and its students....



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## Lagos Govt Is Committed To Free Access To Justice-Pedro

The Lagos State Government has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the pursuit of ensuring free access to justice by all residents in the State.

The Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro, SAN, stated this at the opening ceremony of a Six-Day Workshop on Advocacy, Forensic Interview and Crime Scene Protocol organised by the Lagos State Ministry of Justice, Office of the Public Defender, in collaboration with the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) at the Dover Hotel, Ikeja.

In his address at the event, Pedro, represented by the Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Titilayo Shitta-Bey-Jeje, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the NITA Faculty for



Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Titilayo Shitta-Bey-Jeje, with other dignitaries

generously dedicating their time to share their professional knowledge and expertise in various aspects of the law.

He stated that the Lagos State Government, through the Office of the Public Defender, is unwavering in its pursuit of social

inclusion and free access to justice by residents of Lagos State.

“Our vision is to enhance the quality of life for every individual regardless of their gender, tribe and social status which falls under the definition of our indigent and vulnerable persons while ensuring

that there is equal access to justice by all and sundry”, he said.

Mr. Pedro further noted that in any organisation, its greatest asset is its employees, and research has demonstrated that dedicated employee training and development

programmes are not just essential for creating a skilled workforce but also for boosting productivity.

He stressed that the workshop will be instrumental in fostering the exchange of legal knowledge and expertise while equipping counsel of the State with the necessary skills to

thrive in the Lagos State Justice System.

Other notable dignitaries present at the event include the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, represented by the Head of Service, Mr. Olabode Agoro, High Court Judges, Magistrates, Directors, Counsel and legal officers in the Lagos State Ministry of Justice.

## Lagos Attorney-General Affirms Commitment To International Collaboration ...Pledges Support For Improved, Efficient Administration Of Justice in Lagos

The Lagos State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro, SAN, has reiterated his unwavering commitment to fostering strong partnerships and collaborations with both Nigerian and International Partners for the advancement of the State Ministry of Justice, its agencies and the entire justice sector. Speaking recently during a courtesy visit by a delegation from the Pepperdine School of Law, Sudreau Global Justice Institute based in California, United States of America, at the Secretariat, Alausa Ikeja, Pedro commended the dedication and zeal demonstrated by the visiting team, led by Mr. Cameron McCollum, Director of Sudreau Global Justice Institute,

towards enhancing the delivery of justice in the State.

He lauded the remarkable progress achieved by the visiting delegation and expressed his commitment to sustaining the collaboration which the Lagos State Ministry of Justice has built with the Pepperdine School of Law via a memorandum entered into by both parties towards enhancing the justice system by making it more efficient, effective and accessible to all.

Earlier, Mrs. Titilayo Shitta-Bey-Jeje, the Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary revealed that the delegates from Pepperdine School of Law, Sudreau Global Justice Institute had previously visited the Ministry in March



Lagos State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro, SAN with delegation from the Pepperdine School of Law, Sudreau Global Justice Institute based in California, United States of America

2023 to study the processes employed by the Lagos State Ministry of Justice in the discharge of its ministerial responsibilities.

She explained that, following a series of interviews and interactions with Directors and Counsel in the Ministry, the delegates had compiled a comprehensive report

titled: “The Lagos State Ministry of Justice Report and Change Model”.

Shitta-Bey-Jeje emphasised that the detailed report would identify both the strengths and areas requiring improvement within the Ministry and provide cost-effective intervention to address them towards enhancing the

administration of the justice system in the State.

Mr. Cameron McCollum, Director of Sudreau Global Justice Institute, expressed his gratitude to the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Directors and Counsel in the Ministry for their outstanding cooperation during the compilation of the report.

Mr. Alan Collier, West Africa Director of Pepperdine School of Law, Sudreau Global Justice Institute, highlighted the significance of the report, noting that it would serve as an invaluable guide during the analysis, evaluation and decision-making processes towards justice delivery in the State.

He also lauded the humility expressed by

the leadership of the Ministry in allowing his team to analyse, identify and make appropriate recommendations towards the common objective of enhancing access to justice in Lagos State, despite the many giant strides of the State in the justice sector.

Collier, therefore, emphasised the need for increased collaboration and partnership in the administration of Justice at both the State and National levels in Nigeria by leveraging the operational framework of the Lagos State Ministry of Justice.

The highlight of the visit was the formal presentation of the comprehensive report by Mr. Alan Collier to the Lagos State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro to the admiration of the Directors and Staff members.

# Whigan Committed To Development Of Ascon

By Saheed Afolabi

A member of the federal house of representatives, representing Badagry, Honourable Sesi Whigan is committed to the development of Ascon in Badagry. He restated his commitment to the development of the Administration Staff College of Nigeria,

(ASCON), located in the Topo-Idale area of Badagry, in Lagos State. The federal lawmaker, who is also a Member of the House Committee on Public Service Committee, revealed the details of his visit to Badagry during a 3 day working visit of the house committee led by the

committee chairman, Honorable Sani Umar Bala. "I am committed to further development of ASCON in Badagry," Whigan said. Whigan further expressed concern over the issue of fund management, IGR, performance, and recruitment of Indigenes of Badagry as a support

to the community they operate from. The College's director general, Mrs Cecelia Gayya said she was glad to receive the committee member to the college, noting that it shows the strength and readiness of the legislators.



# Customs DG Promises To Solve Petrol Crises At Border

By Saheed Afolabi



Customs DG, Adewale Adeniyi

The acting Comptroller General of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Adewale Adeniyi, has assured residents of Seme border communities that efforts are ongoing to resume the supply of petroleum products in their areas soon. It was gathered that former President Muhammadu Buhari's administration in 2019 banned the supply of petroleum products to border communities. An order from the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) stopped filling stations within 20 km from the borders from receiving or dispensing fuel. The directive was carried out under Operation Swift Response, which

supervised the land border closure of the Buhari administration, purposely to stop the illegal bunkering of the then-subsidised fuel to neighbouring countries. Since 2019, people living in border areas have been subjected to hardship as they travel 20 km to get fuel for their generators, especially in the face of erratic power supply. With the removal of fuel subsidy by President Bola Tinubu, border communities have been crying for a review of the Buhari policy. According to them, the ban on fuel supply in Seme border is no longer justified because the government no longer subsidises petrol. Adebiji said they are

monitoring the fuel scarcity at the Seme border which has been notified to the Senate and a proper action will be taken on it. "On fuel supply in border communities, we are actively monitoring the situation. If you remember, there was a resolution by the Senate about two or three weeks ago expressing the same concern. We also have a shared understanding about this," he said. "We have made our position known to the National Security Adviser (NSA) and we are hoping that in the next few days, there might be a review of this policy." Member representing Badagry federal constituency in the House of Representatives, Honorable Sesi Whigan

# Ikosi-isheri Chairman Felicitates 99-Year-Old Man

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area, Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada celebrated a 99-year-old Pa Adeyemi Adekoya JP and others in commemoration of the 2023 edition of the National Day of Older Persons and also seek to ensure that they retire with "dignity, care, and love." The community came together to celebrate and commemorate our distinguished senior people under the theme "YEAR 2023 WORLD SENIOR CITIZENS DAY."

The senior citizens were given a free health examination as part of the event to determine their current state of health. In her remarks, the Chairman stated that "the International Day of Older Persons is traditionally marked on October 1st around the world. However, because of the importance of Nigeria's Independence Day celebrations, attention to and respect for our senior citizens frequently suffer. Therefore, on this special day, we have decided to commemorate our senior citizens separately. "The term "senior citizen" refers to people who have retired from a variety of activities or receive an old age pension and are at least 60 or 65 years old," she explained. The term "senior" has associations with knowledge, experience, and deserving of respect. Therefore, it is essential to celebrate Senior Citizens Day to acknowledge their contributions, honor their lifetime of hard



work, and ensure they retire with dignity, care, and love." Bada promised not to relent in supporting them with love, care and having beautiful people around them, noting that old age is beautiful. She also highlighted that her administration has been providing good palliative and cash backup to support the elders in the LCDA. Our elderly ones are the custodians of wisdom and knowledge, we understand the challenges faced by the elderly population, including health and financial issues, as well as concerns about security. She pointed out that in combating these issues the local government continually works to provide assistance by giving older residents food and financial aid. Ms. Damilola Grillo, a Gerontologist, delivered a lecture on the theme "Fulfilling the promises of the universal declaration of human rights." Representatives from diverse legal, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds came together to draft a

historic document that aims to universally protect human rights. These intergenerational solutions aim to reignite the legacy, relevance, and activities of the universal declaration of human rights, empowering both youths and able persons to advocate for political will in fulfilling the declaration's premises for people across generations. She said the National Day of Older Persons is now being celebrated on October 5th, as acknowledged during the Buhari administration. This decision was made to avoid any conflicts with Nigeria's Independence Day celebrations on October 1st. The Chairman, in her wisdom, has recognized the importance of honoring the elderly and ensuring their rights are protected. Ms. Damilola Grillo stressed the importance of accountability for everyone, from children to youths, to the public and private sectors. She expressed gratitude to the Mayor for her support in hosting such a gathering within Ikosi-Isheri LCDA. The Elder Citizens Center aspires to build an elite society where senior citizens can live with



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# AAGF Partners With SAIROSA Foundation To Distribute Palliative To 200 Homes

Kehinde Adeleye

**A**dekunle Adegunle Global Foundation (AAGF) a non-governmental organisation and SaiRosa Foundation have partnered to distribute palliative to over 200 homes within Alimosho local government.

AAGF is an NGO that was incorporated in 2019 to help people with disabilities (PWD) widows and the less

Privilege achieve financial stability, self-sufficiency, accountability, and importantly become role models in our society.

President of the foundation Barrister Adekunle Adegunle while speaking with our correspondent noted that the foundation has over 3000 members and is open to partnership from sisters

organisations to help lift people.

SAIROSA Foundation which also cares for people found it worthy to partner with us over the years, they've been the only partners we have in putting smiles on people's faces. Last week we reached out to over 300 widows, he said.

Echone News correspondence gathered that present

during the palliative distribution were people with disabilities who showered encomium on the two foundations for always reaching out to them.

The palliative includes

rice, garri, sardines, washing bathing soap, toothpaste, indomie, children's biscuits, and drinks and is estimated at around #8,000 in all.

Speaking on behalf of

the Albinos present Mrs. Omowunmi appreciated the continuous reaching out to them, especially during these hard times, she showered praises and prayers on both foundations.

## NULGE Igando-Ikotun Inaugurates New EXCO, Appeals To LCDA Chairman

Kehinde Adeleye

**T**he Branch Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees Igando/Ikotun, Comrade Adesina Arowosafe has appealed to the Chairman of Igando/Ikotun LCDA Comrade Lasisi Ayinde Akinsanya to use his existing office to create an accommodating and enviable secretariat union within the council secretariat.

Arowosafe who is a second-term chairman made it known that Comrade Lasisi who was once a former NULGE Lagos State President is a capable and respected leader during his acceptance



speech.

He also pleads with members of staff, and council management to join hands together with the union for a better administrative service delivery for the next four years.

Speaking on behalf of the Chairman, The Secretary to the Local government, Comrade Alani Babatunde reaffirmed the commitment of his boss to placing the

welfare of employees first in his administration.

The welfare of our staff will be the top priority of this administration always, our chairman is committed to putting smile on everyone's face, Alani stated.

The Council Manager, Mr. Samsideen Odeleye urged the new executive to maintain the peaceful coexistence between members of staff and political office holders within the council area.

## Oloyede Begins Rehabilitation of Araromi phase II

Kehinde Adeleye

**T**he repair work on the last section of Araromi Street in Oshodi has begun under the leadership of Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, chairman of the local government for Oshodi-Isolo LCDA.

The council chairman reportedly paid an unplanned visit to the site for an on site evaluation in order to keep an eye on the job and the contractor's progress.

Oloyede engaged the contractor in extensive discussion while conducting his inspection, informing him that he and his team want a flawless finish that meets the deadline.

He expressed appreciation for the overwhelming support his administration has received from LCDA residents and assured them that his administration is ready to better serve them. He also promised to make Oshodi residents

happy by taking significant actions to raise the quality of their lives, their possessions, and their businesses.

He revealed that many additional local government-owned roads had been designated for renovation and that contractors would arrive on the scene shortly.



## YESKJ Foundation Gifts 500 Student Scholarship To Study At Aries Polytechnic

Kehinde Adeleye

**T**he Member representing Alimosho constituency II, Hon. Kehinde Joseph, also known as 'KJ' has reaffirmed that education is the best route towards ending poverty, underdevelopment, and insecurity in the country. He noted that the sector continues to be at the top of his legislative priorities in the state assembly.

Five hundred (500) students in Alimosho Constituency II which consist of two LCDAs, Egbe-Idimu and Igando/Ikotun LCDA have received scholarship opportunity through the YESKJ FOUNDATION to attend Aries Polytechnic in Ibadan, with acceptance, academic, and transportation expenses fully covered by the lawmaker.

The legislator asserted that in addition to helping the Institute thrive, he also brought about the scholarship opportunity for those who are beneficiaries of it. He reaffirmed his pledge to check on the students frequently in order to track their academic progress, noting that the staff and management of the great citadel of learning had profited from his dividend of democracy.

Joseph who was personally on ground accompanied the student to the school stated that education is the cornerstone of



society and that no country can advance beyond its investment.

The Chairman, House Committee on Public Account (State), therefore urge the recipient candidates to make use of the opportunities given, to achieve a better future for themselves, as education is the most powerful weapon which one can use to change the world.

"Leadership is about making impacts while in office and those impacts last long after you have left office because without that, you have failed in leadership. This is one of the reasons I had decided to play positive roles in changing the status quo in my own capacity.

"As it is, there is no better way to empower people than through the education of their children. When you give money, it will certainly finish and they may still be poor, and when you buy cars or motorcycle for people, they will one day run out of fuel and come back for more assistance, but when you give their children education, you are setting them free and empowering them to

become greater even more than yourself. That is what I have just done, because educational empowerment is the greatest empowerment", he said..

The state lawmaker also called for increased budgetary support for education, noting that it is the foundation upon which our beloved nation will sustain economic growth.

Speaking to Echone news correspondent, one of the beneficiaries, Lasisi Barakat Ifeoluwa, who enrolled into Higher National Diploma Programme, to study Accounting and Alade Kehinde Elijah, who enrolled into the National Diploma Programme, to study Mass Communication, while appreciating the Foundation, said they never believe the Scholarship Opportunity Programme is real, not until they arrived at the institute and have all their registration done before departing to their hostels. They thanked the State Lawmaker for investing in their education, assuring that they would ensure that they made their Constituency, community, family and the Sponsor proud.



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# Lagos Lawmaker, Joseph Commits Self To Education Empowerment

By Edith Igbokwe

**A** Member of the Lagos State House of Assembly representing Alimosho Constituency II who doubles as the Chairman of the House Committee on Public Account (State), Hon. Kehinde Joseph, has reiterated his commitment towards education in his in legislature as he finance students in higher institutions.

“As it is, there is no better way to empower people than through the education of their children. When you give money, it will certainly finish, and they may still be poor, and when you buy cars or motorcycles for people, they will one day run out of fuel and come back for more assistance, but when you give their children education, you are setting them free and empowering them to become greater even more than yourself. That is what I have just done

because educational empowerment is the greatest empowerment.”

He urged the recipient candidates to make use of the opportunities given to achieve a better future for themselves, as education is the most powerful weapon which one can use to change the world.

One of the scholarship beneficiaries, Lasisi Barakat Ifeoluwa, who enrolled into the Higher National Diploma Programme to study Accounting, thanked the State Lawmaker for investing in education, assuring that she would ensure to make the Constituency, community, family, and Sponsor proud.

One of the recipients' parents, Mr. Azeez A. Amusa stated that the generous disposition to humanity by the



Beneficiaries of Joseph's Education Empowerment

foundation and the founder was highly commendable, and such a spirit is required in the society.

He emphasised that education is the surest path towards eradication of poverty, underdevelopment, and insecurity in the country.

He noted that the sector remains top of his

Legislative priorities in the State Assembly.

The State Lawmaker noted that educational sector is the pillar upon which Nigeria will sustain economic development and urged for more budgetary allocation for education.

According to him, through YES K Foundation has given

scholarship opportunities to five hundred (500) students in his Constituency to study at Aries Polytechnic – Ibadan, with acceptance, academic and mobility fees, fully serviced.

He expressed that education is the bedrock of society and that no nation can

progress beyond its investment in the sector.

He said: “Leadership is about making impacts while in office, and those impacts last long after you have left office because, without that, you have failed in leadership. This is one of the reasons I have decided to play positive roles in changing the status quo in my capacity.

## Igando-Ikotun CDC Solicits LCDA Chairman's Support

By Edith Igbokwe

**T**he newly inaugurated Executives of Community Development Committee (CDC) in Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has presented their requested to the LCDA chairman, Comrade Lasisi Akinsanya as they held its first meeting at the council Secretariat. The CDC Chairman, Pastor Ojo Olasupo welcomed the representative of the LCDA chairman, Hon. Mrs. Mojisola Badmus in their mist.

He appreciated his Vice-Chairman for her contributions in steering the wheel of development in the community.

He then, presented the challenges and areas the committee is soliciting for the Chairman's attention.



Igando-Ikotun new CDC first meeting

Some of these include furniture for pupils in public primary schools, regular CDA/CDC meetings, quick response to Executive when attention is called for

an issue, avoidance of Fire Brigade approach over outings and public invitations.

He also requested that the CDC should always be carried along over Government

programmes, early notification over State assignments, Community Day cloths should be made sufficient for CDA/CDC, and grants promised to CDAS for projects

should be fulfilled.

Badmus assured the House of the Chairman's determination to ensure constant, prompt, and regular monthly CDA/CDC

meetings.

She urged the CDC to ensure a cordial relationship between the CDC and the Local Government to extend down to the CDAS.

She reiterated on the Local Government effort towards Ategbo Primary School and the school land bought at Abogunloko in Isheri Oshun She encouraged the CDC to have a better relationship with the administration for more development.

She warned against antagonistic stance against the Government but encouraged constructive criticism.

She further urged the CDC to close the gap between Government and the populace.

She then requested solidarity and support for the Local Government administration in terms of philanthropic contributions at the various CDAs.



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# Lagos Street Soccer Will Harness New Talents - Famuyiwa

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Agbado Oke-Odo LCDA, Honorable David Famuyiwa says the Lagos Street Soccer Championship will harness multiple young talents across the state. The chairman of the Lagos Street Soccer Championship Committee, Bolaji Yusuf led a delegation to meet Famuyiwa on a sensitization and awareness campaign ahead of the tournament scheduled to kickoff in Lagos. The Agbado Oke-Odo LCDA boss said the championship is an avenue for talented

youths to be exposed through competitive grassroots football.

Famuyiwa stated the LCDA have abundant talents that can excel at the championship as he expressed how excited he was at the opportunities it will be provided for the youngsters.

"The Lagos Street Soccer championship is an opportunity for our youth to be exposed to competitive grassroots football. This is one championship I strongly believe will harness new talents and above all solidify the synergy within

various communities in Lagos state," he said.

"Within the nook and cranny of Agbado Oke-odo we have abundant talented footballers who are looking for an opportunity to display their talents and compete amongst their peers. I am excited this will give them a window opportunity to achieve their dreams."

The council boss urged the street soccer committee to consider the Agbado Oke-Odo LCDA sport facility as one of the host venue for matches because it will engage the youths productively and make them resourceful to the community.



"We have different football facility centers across our communities which I am imploring the Lagos Street Soccer

Championship Committee to consider as one of the centres to host games during the championship.

"When youth are ideally engaged in positive and productive activities such an environment is at the forefront of producing resourceful individuals."

## NWFL Premiership: Danny Nazzal reveals Dannaz Ladies aims

By Saheed Afolabi



Founder of Dannaz Ladies, Danny Nazzal has revealed the club's target and aims in the Nigeria Women Football League (NWFL) Premiership for the 2023/2024 season. The Cedars will be making their precious debut in the prestigious topflight of women's football in Nigeria in the

2023/2024 season. Danny has set an agenda of making Lagos State proud in their debut NWFL Premiership campaign and reclaiming their status as an elite club in Nigeria with a Super Six playoffs slot. The NWFL board member has also set a two year target for the Premiership title.

"We want to make Lagos proud. We want to make Lagos girls proud, Nigerian girls proud. We want to try our best to not only stay in the Premier League but also qualify for the NPFL Super six," Danny said.

"That's the first step for this season, and our next step is the season after we try and win the Premier League."

## NWFL Premiership: Robo Queens Team Manager Targets Continental Ticket

By Saheed Afolabi

Robo Queens Team Manager, Adebayo Ademisoye has set a continental target for the club in the Nigeria Women Football League (NWFL) Premiership 2023/2024 season. The Lagos Landladies are one of the top sides in the topflight women's football league in Nigeria. Ademisoye said Robo Queens plan for the new season is to challenge for the trophies at stake and pick the continental

ticket.

He added, he's impressed with the new leadership of the NWFL board and their innovations to develop women's football at the grassroots. "The plan for the new season is to challenge for the trophies at stake and the continental ticket which everyone is looking forward to and I believe I have a team to represent the country," he told ECHONEWS exclusively.

"So I'm doing all things good to make sure that

this season, we have the continental ticket.

"I'm really impressed with the new NWFL board, it's a new innovative idea and if you look at the past, what do you do to surpass those that left. We want the women football to grow in the grassroots and a new structure have been put in place for that and what we all need is to support and rally round it." Robo Queens will open their campaign in the NWFL Premiership 2023/2024 season against Edo Queens at the Samuel Ogbemudia stadium, Benin.





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