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# HOUSE, GAG MOVE TO SAVE MERANDA



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# House, GAC Move To Save Meranda

Kunle Awosiyan

It appears members of Lagos State House of Assembly and the Governor's Advisory Council will not shift position on the speakership of the house.

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, Hon. Mojisola Meranda will remain the speaker, Lagos State House of Assembly as long as she has the support of her colleagues and the backing of her party, the All Progressives Congress.

And by extension, she will be there if the Lagos State political structure under the leadership of the Governor's Advisory Council, GAC, is still believing in her leadership.

The GAC had probed the emergence of Meranda after the removal of the former speaker, Mudashiru Obasa.

Contrary to speculations that Tinubu ordered the reinstatement of Obasa, investigation revealed that the president only queried the election of Meranda.

The president had allegedly asked why a lawmaker, Meranda, from Lagos Central was chosen to replace a sacked speaker, Obasa, from the Lagos West.

He had asked GAC to find a lawmaker from Lagos west to occupy the speakership seat instead of Meranda.

"This is not because the president hates Meranda but because he believes in the former arrangement that produced a governor from the Lagos Central, deputy governor from Lagos East and Speaker from Lagos West," an aide to one of the lawmakers told Echonews.

The state governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has come from the



Meranda

Lagos Central, his deputy, Obafemi Hamzat from the Lagos East while the former speaker, Obasa is from Lagos West.

At present, Lagos Central now has the governor and the speaker, an arrangement that does not augur well with Tinubu.

Following the president's objection, GAC went back to the drawing board and called the lawmakers into a closed-door meeting where they revealed the president's mind and why the speakership seat should return to Lagos West.

At the meeting, GAC led by Chief Tajudeen Olusi considered three names of lawmakers from Lagos West that could take over from Meranda. It was agreed at the meeting that Meranda would be asked to resign her position so that the former arrangement would return.

The lawmakers that were penciled down were Temitope Adewale representing Ifako-Ijaiye 1, Richard Kashumu representing Ikeja 2 and Setonji David representing Badagry 1.

There is another top lawmaker, Abiodun Tobun, representing Epe Constituency 1 who is qualified to be speaker but the fact that he is from the Lagos East knocked him out of the plan.

Tobun has been eyeing the speakership seat for a long time but the arrangement has not favoured him because of the fact that the deputy governor, Hamzat is from Epe.

However, the three legislators penciled down are the most ranking lawmakers from Lagos West. They are the only third term lawmakers from the zone who qualified to be the speaker.

Apart from their years of experience, they are principal officers in the assembly. Temitope Adewale (Majority Leader), Richard Kashumu (Deputy Majority Leader), and Setonji David (Chief Whip).

Surprisingly, they rejected the speakership offer at the GAC meeting and promised their unalloyed support for Meranda. That was



GAC members with President Tinubu

where the GAC's political scheming hit the rock at the meeting.

GAC resorted to appealing to the lawmakers to write a letter of apology to the president for breaking his political arrangement, even though some of them were involved in the permutation.

The assembly did not only write the letter, it spent hours at the plenary to commend the effort of the president in sailing the country's boat at this troubled time.

As it is, Meranda has since appointed new committees' chairmen

with the emergence of five members at the state parliamentary house.

During a plenary on Tuesday, the Presiding Speaker, Mojisola Meranda, appointed Temitope Adewale, who represents Ifako-Ijaiye Constituency 01 as Chairman, Business and Rules Committee.

She made Richard Kasumu the Chairman, Legislative Compliance Committee while Surajudeen Tijani will oversee the House Services Committee as Chairman.

Badagry Constituency 02 representative,

Setonji David, was pronounced Chairman, Ethics, Protocol and Privileges Committee. Stephen Ogundipe of Oshodi-Iso 02 completes the list of the appointees as Chairman, Information, Strategy and Security Committee.

Echonews gathered that there are certain members of GAC who are bent on returning speakership to Lagos West, not necessarily because of their personal interest but to maintain the arrangement laid down by president Tinubu.

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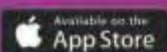









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# House, GAC Move To Save Meranda

*Continued from page 2*

The members of the Governor's Advisory Council include Senator Solomon Adeola (Lagos West) and Senator Tokunbo Abiru (Lagos East). Chief of Staff to the president, Hon Femi Gbajabiamila; former Governor of Lagos State, Babatunde Fashola; the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa; ex-Speaker Adeyemi Ikuforiji and former Deputy Governor Mrs Idiat Oluranti Adebule.

Apart from these elected politicians who are admitted to the council, the core members with whom Tinubu controls its activities are elder statesman, Prince Tajudeen Olusi; Otunba Henry Ajomale (former Lagos APC chair), Prince Abiodun Ogunleye (Ex-deputy Governor to Tinubu), Cardinal James Oduombaku, foremost businessman, Otunba Bashiru Alebiosu, Omooba Murphy Adetoro, Sen Anthony Adefuye, Alhaji S.A Seriki, Asiwaju Olorunfunmi Bashorun (former SSG, Lagos) Prince Rabiun Oluwa (Island Club new Chairman), Chief M. A Taiwo, Alhaji Mutiu Are, Dr Yomi Finnih, (an obstetrician and gynaecologist, as well as Chairman and Chief Medical Director of Finnih Medical Centre).

Omooba Muyiwa Sosanya, Alhaji Tunde Balogun, the former Chairman of APC Lagos and Mr Wale Edun, Minister of Finance, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and his deputy, Femi



Hon. Mudashiru Obasa

Hamzat are also members of the council.

Meanwhile, Obasa has taken the legal path to reclaim his seat.

He filed a motion at the Ikeja Division of the State High Court, seeking an accelerated hearing of his suit challenging his removal on Monday, 13 January 2025.

The motion, filed on Wednesday, 12 February, 2025, names the Lagos State House of Assembly and Hon. Mojisola Lasbat Meranda, current Speaker of the House, as defendants. Through his lawyers, led by Chief Afolabi Fashanu, SAN, Obasa is seeking several reliefs, among which are:

"An order fixing a date for the expeditious hearing of the originating summons.

"AN order of this Honourable Court abridging the time within which the Defendants may file their response by way

of counter affidavits/written addresses as specified by the Rules of this Honourable Court, to 7 days after the hearing and determination of this Application.

"AN ORDER of this Honourable Court abridging the time within which the Plaintiff/Applicant may file its Reply of points law, as specified in the Rules of this Honourable Court, to 3 days of the service of the Defendants processes on him."

Obasa's application is predicated on nine grounds, including the interpretation of various sections of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (As amended), and the Rules and Standing Order of the Lagos State House of Assembly.

"This application is predicated among which he stated the suit concerns the interpretation of Sections 36; 90;

92(2)(c); 101 and 311 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (As amended) vis-à-vis ORDER V RULE 18(2) and Order II Rule 9(1)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii) OF RULES AND STANDING ORDER OF LAGOS STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY (which enjoy constitutional flavor and status); "The action borders on the constitutionality or otherwise of the sitting and proceedings of the Lagos State House of Assembly of the 13th January, 2025 where the Plaintiff herein, as Honourable Speaker was said to be impeached.

"This action challenges the constitutionality of the sitting and proceedings of the Lagos State House of Assembly to sit during recess without the Speaker reconvening the House or giving any other person powers to reconvene the House.

"Public interest requires the case to be heard and determined speedily and expeditiously so that legislative activities in the State is not stalled.

"The legality of the continued sitting of the 1st defendant under the present leadership in violation of the aforementioned laws and rules calls for an urgent determination;

"The nature of this action is such that is required to be heard and determined expeditiously having regard to the exceptional circumstances surrounding same;

"There is need to abridge the time within which the Defendants may file their response to the originating summons as well as time within which the claimant/Applicant may file its reply on point of law; and

"This Honourable Court is imbued with inherent powers to grant accelerated

hearing and abridgment of time; and

"It is expedient to grant accelerated hearing of this action and abridgment of time for parties to file the relevant processes in the interest of justice."

He maintained that none of the parties to the case would be prejudiced or suffer any injustice by the grant to his application.

Reacting to Obasa's legal redress, Human Rights Activist, Femi Falana said the former speaker had the right to approach the court so as to know the position of the law over his impeachment.

According to him, the fact that Obasa has gone to court will in a way put an end to speculations, adding, "I engage on facts not speculations and Nigerian lawyers and judges should learn from the developed clime and allow the judiciary to take its grounds.

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# Safety Commission Lauds Sanwo-Olu At Annual Retreat

The Lagos State Safety Commission at the weekend held its annual Staff Retreat with the theme: "Repositioning the Safety Commission as a fully Regulatory Agency". The event, attended by key dignitaries, heads of departments and guests, focused on how to reposition the agency to a fully regulated agency, especially now that the agency had fully established its occupational safety officers Cadre.

Welcoming participants and acknowledging the presence of esteemed Special Guest, including the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Agency, Mr. Sesan Ogundeko, the Director-General of Safety Commission, Mr. Lanre Mojola, expressed gratitude for their support, sense of dedication and due diligence.

Mojola appreciated the participants, who also doubled as the management team and head of departments of various units in the agency. He, however, pointed out that they need to improve their efforts towards positioning the Agency as fully regulated, especially now that the Commission had succeeded in the establishment of its Occupational Safety Officers' Cadre.

"In as much as I would commend the management for its contributions to the Agency's achievements, which, without being economical with the

truth, were actualised by all of us here. But we need to be truthful to ourselves that we need to work harder to ensure that the Safety Commission is fully positioned as a fully regulated agency. Let's build professionalism and ensure Lagos of our dream is achieved", Mojola said.

He commended Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, for always putting the safety of the state, as his priority, adding that this is the more reason why the Agency, as an ambassador of safety, should think outside the box and not rest on its oars as far as taking the safety of the state to a higher level. Let's move from where we were last year to a new sphere", he said.

In his address, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations, Mr. Sesan Ogundeko, said without any doubt the Lagos State Safety Commission is an Agency with exceptional performance and, as such, recognized by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu. He, however, warned that they should not relent until Lagos delivers on its individual and joint mandate as far as the safety and progress of the state is concerned.

"Apart from safeguarding lives and upholding the standard of work and domestic abode, you as safety officers must ensure a very safe, secure, functional and productive Lagos State that all of us would be proud of, including our



action and ever-ready Governor", Ogundeko said.

He emphasised that "The Retreat is not just about theoretical discussions; it is about laying a practical roadmap for the Lagos State's safety Commission to maintain its standard and be fully positioned as a regulated Agency. So you are expected to contribute positively to discussions to move the

Agency forward".

Earlier, while declaring the Retreat open, the Permanent Secretary, Mr Sesan Ogundeko, commended the Lagos State Safety Commission and urged participants to fully engage, share insights, challenge conventional thinking, and develop actionable strategies to position the Lagos Safety Commission.

The Executive Director, Safety Advocacy and

Empowerment Foundation at the Commission, Engr. Jamiu Badmos in his lecture said the need for the establishment of the Commission was borne out of the dream to build a society that values lives through a change in unsafe behaviours, and attitudes that would increase life expectancy, and national productivity and ultimately improve

quality of life, reduce accidents, injuries, illnesses, diseases and enhance the conducive environment for investment and continuity.

Different papers were presented by the heads of the department of the agency with various achievements, challenges and prospective action plans to move the Agency forward in 2025.

# Lagos Redeploys LASPPPA District Officers

The Lagos State Government has redeployed District Officers of the Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Authority (LASPPPA) to enhance service delivery. The Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Oluwinka Oluamide, made this known on Friday during a meeting of the District Officers at LASPPPA Headquarters, First Secretariat, Oba Akinjobi Way, Ikeja. He explained that the movement of officers was informed by the need to bring about new challenges and re-energise the system as the redeployment mainly affects those who have spent more years in a district and officers on Grade Level 16 and above, whose experience and expertise will best serve policy formulation at the

headquarters. According to Dr. Oluamide, the strategic move was aimed at enhancing operational efficiency, boost productivity and improving service delivery to the people of Lagos. "The redeployment, which takes immediate effect, will not only guide against redundancy but promote a viable public image of LASPPPA and the Lagos State Government as our services become more accessible and responsive to the needs of Lagos residents", he said. While revealing that unscheduled visits to the various District Offices will be done periodically, the Commissioner commended Tpl. Isiaka Arimi-Sule, an Assistant Director and Head of LASPPPA Kosofe District, for being dutiful and maintaining high integrity in his work.



His words: "The feedback reaching us is that the officer places service and integrity before material gains, and he has been representing the State Government very well." Oluamide urged other officers to emulate him by

giving their all to the service of the State, helping in realising the vision of a sustainable Lagos physical environment as envisaged in the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda of the government, adding that the government, in return,

would always throw its weight behind dutiful officers. The Permanent Secretary, Office of Physical Planning, Engr. Oluwole Sotire urged the officers to see their new postings as a positive development and hit the

ground running in their districts. The General Manager, LASPPPA, Tpl. Kehinde Osinaike noted that the agency would increase its monitoring mechanism and collate performance reports regularly.

# LSWMO Seals Off Public Toilets at Katangua Market

The Lagos State Wastewater Management Office, in continuous demonstration of its dedication to ensuring credible and sustainable wastewater management in the State, has once again clamped down on several public toilets in Lagos. The Public Toilets located at Katangua market were sealed up for illegal discharge of sewage and untreated wastewater into the environment. The public toilets included the two inside Ile-Epo market along the Lagos-Abeokuta expressway. The operators of the public toilets were seen using pumping machines to pump untreated wastewater and sewage into public drains, thereby polluting the environment and exposing citizens to communicable diseases through this illegal discharge. The toilets were sealed by the Enforcement and

Compliance officers of the agency who investigated and saw all the illegal activities, that have great environmental hazard consequences. The General Manager of the Agency, Engr. Adefemi Afolabi, speaking on the

development, emphasised that the State has zero tolerance for environmental pollution and degradation. The Agency, according to him, remains undeterred in its efforts to ensure a

clean and healthy environment in the State for the sake of the public health of the citizens of the State. Engr Afolabi reiterated that facilities like public toilets, facilities and properties in the State

that contravene the law will continue to be sanctioned in line with the provisions of the Lagos State Environmental Management and Protection Law 2017. The General Manager,

therefore, advised public toilet operators in the State to ensure their business is done safely and sustainably to prevent pollution in the environment that can endanger the health of the citizens.



# Lagos Govt Reaffirms Commitment To Inclusive Workplace

The Lagos State Government has reiterated its dedication to fostering an inclusive, adaptive, and resilient workplace environment, ensuring that public sector employees are well-prepared for the evolving world of work. The Honourable Commissioner for Establishments and Training, Mr. Afolabi Ayantayo, made this assertion during the opening session of a three-day retreat for union leaders and other stakeholders. The retreat, themed "Employer/Employee Relations in the New World of Artificial Intelligence and Agile Practices", took place at Crown City Park Resorts and Hotel in Agbara, Ogun State.

Speaking at the event, Ayantayo emphasised that the retreat was part of the government's broader efforts to strengthen labour relations and equip the public sector for the future of work. He reaffirmed the state's commitment to initiating programmes that would enhance workforce preparedness, including capacity-building workshops, investments in digital infrastructure, and strategic partnerships to promote upskilling and lifelong learning. According to him, the retreat not only aimed to deepen participants' understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) and agile work practices but also sought to inspire innovative ideas that would drive better outcomes for all stakeholders. He commended the

Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, for his unwavering support in fostering a progressive labour environment. He further highlighted that AI and agile practices have become a model for promoting adaptability and innovation in workplace relations.

Ayantayo also expressed appreciation to the union leaders for their continuous cooperation and partnership, which he credited for the industrial peace currently being experienced in the state. In her welcome address, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Establishments and Training, Mrs. Olubusola Abidakun, noted that the retreat was designed to provide meaningful learning experiences while also creating opportunities for relaxation, networking, and enjoyment. She added that beyond addressing the challenges faced by unions, the gathering served as a well-deserved reward for their dedication and hard work.

She further emphasised that the theme of the retreat challenged union leaders to identify strategies for fostering collaboration and maintaining industrial harmony in the face of emerging workplace disruptions brought about by AI and agile methodologies.

The retreat brought together key stakeholders from the public sector and labour unions to engage in discussions on the evolving dynamics of employer-employee relations and the future of work.



## Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates Boxing Gymnasium

As part of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's administration's commitment to fostering youth engagement and sports development, the Lagos State Government, in collaboration with Yucateco Boxing Promotions, has commissioned the Babajide Sanwo-Olu Boxing Gymnasium at Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere. Speaking at the event, the Director-General, Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC), Lekan Fatodu, said there is no better way to address youth empowerment and engagement than creating an alternative opportunity for them to channel their energy as sports have been said to be a tool to empower youth towards self-realization.

"Boxing in our community is a unique sport because we have a vibrant youth

population represented by the Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Honorable Mobolaji Ogunlende. With this facility, we can produce champions", he said.

The Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mobolaji Ogunlende remarked that the state can not capture all the youths at the same time. But our ability to capture them in groups makes it easier for us to be able to get them off the street. For the growth of youths who have found

their interest in boxing. This is a well-set-up structure for them to be able to burn out the energy, practice and prepare themselves to compete on a global scale.

"As a government, we cannot do it alone, which is why we continue to call for partnerships, and one of those partnerships has produced this. We plan to be able to replicate this across the five divisions in the state. If we can do this, then we will be able to get those groups of youths under

this catchment off the street into the boxing arena, channelling their energy, sportsmanship and abilities to compete on the global scale," he added.

Fatodu commended the donor and Chief Executive Officer, Yucateco Boxing Promotions, Imadu Omonlele Yakubu, for the notable initiative, which provides another opportunity for the young boxers in the state to continue to dominate and sharpen their skills in the sporting industry.





# LAG-ID Card: LASRRA Engages Stakeholders On Production, Distribution

In light of growing demand and to ensure a smoother and more efficient service for Lagos residents, a critical call has been made to all stakeholders involved in the card printing and distribution process to expedite action, ensuring that the cards get into the hands of residents in the shortest possible time.

LASRRA made this call at a meeting with its Partners: Identiko Integrated Solutions, Sterling Bank, Secure ID and other Stakeholders, including all

Supervisors in the five divisions of the State at a meeting held recently at the Green Garden, Elf, Lekki, Lagos.

Speaking at the Meeting, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology (MIST), Engr. (Mrs.) Ibilola Kasunmu pleaded that all hands be on deck to make the LAG-ID Card initiative project successful. She maintained that other States are watching and wanting to replicate what the State does in their States, which is the reason we should

strive to get it right.

The General Manager, Mrs. Bilikiss Adebisi-Abiola, in her opening remarks and presentation, said that the meeting was necessary to thoroughly examine some challenges and devise a concrete strategy to resolve them promptly. Her words "I urge all the concerned parties; Printing Contractors and other relevant Stakeholders to treat the meeting as a matter of urgency"

Adebisi-Abiola said that the goal is also to reinvigorate the Lagos Identity Card project and ensure that every

resident receives his ID card in a timely, efficient manner. She implored all parties to work together to ensure that the project is not only completed swiftly but also with the highest level of quality and service to the people of Lagos.

The high point of the meeting was the breakout session where the three groups identified challenges and proffered solutions. Some of the challenges identified include Operational bottlenecks, Supply Chain disruptions, Public Engagement and Coordination

gaps, among others.

Some actionable solutions and recommendations discussed to address the challenges agreed upon include: Improvement in Project management, Strengthening Partnerships with more efficient vendors, introducing innovative technologies to streamline processes and expanding distribution centres to ensure timely card collection, to mention a few.

Other dignitaries present at the event were Chief Product Officer, Sterling Bank,

Mustapha Otaru; General Manager, Secure ID, Dada Oluwole; Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director, Identiko Integrated Solutions, Jide Agbaje; Project Manager, LASRRA, Akin Kehinde and Head, Banking as a Service and Embedded Payments, Sterling Bank, David Adebayo.

The Lagos Identity Card initiative is a component of the State's efforts to enhance governance, improve access to government services, and promote security.



In its continuous drive to improve real-time traffic reporting and deliver accurate updates to commuters, Lagos Traffic Radio 96.1FM has enhanced its operations with the acquisition of cutting-edge Insta360 One RS cameras to support live motorbike incidents reportage.

The Station's General Manager, Tayo Akanle, who disclosed this today, added that the newly acquired Insta360 One RS cameras would enable the station's reporters on motorbikes to capture high-quality live footage of traffic incidents and road situations.

He also said this footage can be streamed directly to the station's social media platforms for real-time updates to the motoring public who need them for their daily navigation and also gives new experience to online audience.

According to Akanle, the

# Lagos Traffic Radio Acquires High-Tech Cameras

Insta360 One RS camera is the latest release from Insta360 and boasts a variety of features that make it ideal for dynamic reporting. He noted that its modular design allows reporters to easily switch between a 4K action camera lens for traditional filming and a 360-degree lens for immersive and comprehensive traffic footage.

Other key features include 48MP high-quality photos and 4K video resolution, waterproof design for all-weather use, amazing stabilization technology for smooth and steady video, even on bumpy roads, ability to capture 360-degree video, ensuring full

coverage of traffic incidents and road conditions.

Speaking about the acquisition further, Akanle said: "Introducing these cameras will greatly enhance the station's ability to provide commuters with real-

time updates. The ability to capture 360-degree footage ensures our audience gets a complete view of incidents as they happen. This aligns with our commitment to leveraging technology to make Lagos traffic reporting the best in the

country."

The General Manager explained that the versatile Insta360 One RS cameras also enable seamless integration with social media platforms, allowing Lagos Traffic Radio to deliver engaging and creative content while

ensuring commuters stay informed and prepared during their journeys.

He, therefore, implored residents to visit the Lagos Traffic Radio's social media platforms or tune in to 96.1FM for the latest traffic updates and information.'



# LASURA Opens New Office In Lagos Island

The Lagos State Urban Renewal Agency (LASURA) has officially commissioned its new Annex Office, strategically located at 44, Nnamdi Azikwe Street, Lagos Island.

While commissioning the new annex office, Special Adviser to the Governor on EGIS and Urban Development, Dr. Olajide Abiodun Babatunde said the annex office would facilitate closer collaboration with property developers in Lagos Island and surrounding areas, ultimately preventing government properties from falling into disrepair, enhance urban renewal and reduce slums.

In his remark, General Manager LASURA, TPL. Animashaun Oladimeji emphasised that the new office is part of the agency's efforts to align with the THEMES Plus Agenda, aimed to ensure Lagos becomes a 21st-century city. The annex office will enhance revenue generation, monitoring and recovery of properties unlawfully acquired by private individuals and developers, and provide additional space for staff.

According to him, the facility would be managed by LASURA officers, it is rent-free and incurred no additional costs to the agency or state government. "The

whole idea is to bring LASURA operation close to where services are more needed", he said.

Dignitaries present at the commissioning included representatives of the Oba of Lagos, Chief Waheed Yusuff Olorogun-Agbege, Chief Adeniji Lawal Dosunmu-Eletu Lado, top government functionaries, Directors in LASURA, Alhaji Tajudeen Olugbode, Chairman Real Estate Developers Association of Nigeria (REDAN).

This milestone marks a significant step towards enhancing LASURA's operational efficiency and service delivery to Lagos State residents.



# Lagos Deploys Intelligent Transportation Systems In Four Locations

By Saheed Afolabi

In a move to improve road safety and streamline traffic management, the Lagos State Government has deployed four new Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) sites across four locations in the state. The announcement was made by the Commissioner for Transportation, Mr. Oluwaseun Osiyemi, during a press briefing on Thursday in Alausa. According to the Commissioner, the new ITS sites will complement existing Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras and other Traffic

Management Solutions (TMS), reinforcing the state's commitment to creating a safer and more efficient transportation network. Mr. Osiyemi explained that the ITS is divided into two main categories; checkpoint sites for speed monitoring and e-police sites for detecting traffic violations. He said the checkpoints have been installed at Alapere (80 km/h speed limit) and Nitel, Mobolaji Bank Anthony Way (60 km/h speed limit) with the aim to curb over-speeding, a major contributor to accidents. The Commissioner

also mentioned that e-police sites are installed at Allen Avenue junction and Nurudeen Olowopopo Road, equipped with high-definition cameras to monitor violations such as running red lights, lane indiscipline, illegal U-turns, and reverse driving on highways. Speaking further the Commissioner stated that all relevant road signs have been installed to inform motorists of the new regulations, with enforcement set to begin immediately. He said offenders will receive SMS notifications from the Vehicle Inspection Service (VIS) detailing their violations and corresponding fines.

Also speaking, the Commissioner for the Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Technology, Mr. Olatunbosun Alake, stated that the ITS will address traffic-related issues such as over speeding, indiscipline on the road through a technology-driven approach, in line with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's vision for a smarter, safer, and more sustainable Lagos. He further applauded the State Government for delivering the ITS which will reduce human

intervention, create positive transportation outcomes and also ensure quality road transportation that is safe for all. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transportation, Mr. Olawale Musa, clarified that the initiative is not aimed at generating revenue but at ensuring voluntary compliance with traffic rules. He added that offenders will have the option to contest fines if they believe they were wrongly issued. Mr. Olayemi Joseph, Senior Solution Architect at Huawei Technologies, expressed pride in supporting Lagos' traffic management

efforts with advanced ITS technology. He highlighted that the system integrates information, communications, sensing, and computing technologies, enabling precise and efficient real-time transportation management. Recall the that the State Government had earlier introduced technology driven traffic management devices such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition, (ANPR), and Traffic Management Solution, (TMS) to reduce human interference.



In a bid to ensure that healthcare services are accessible and affordable to all residents, the Lagos State Government officially launched the Ilera Eko Door-to-Door Sensitization Campaign and Roadshow in Ojo Local Government Area (LGA) recently. The initiative aims to promote the Lagos State Social Health Insurance Scheme, Ilera Eko, and encourage enrollment among residents in the Badagry Division. The event was attended by key dignitaries and stakeholders, all of whom expressed their support for the initiative.

At the flag-off event, the Permanent Secretary of the Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, highlighted the importance of Ilera Eko, emphasizing that it was designed to ease the healthcare burden for Lagosians by providing comprehensive health coverage at an affordable cost.

She explained that the Ilera Eko Roadshow and Door-to-Door Sensitization Campaign will run for 60 days in the Badagry Division, covering households and communities, adding that the Roadshows will take place in Ojo LGA, Oriade LCDA, and Agbara. Dr. Zamba also shared exciting news for those who register by Valentine's Day, noting that they stand a chance to win a special gift.

# Lagos Flags Off 60-Day Ilera Eko Awareness Drive



Additionally, she emphasised the role of local governments in supporting this initiative, stating that LASHMA has already set up offices in key local government areas like Ojo, ensuring that there is a point of contact for residents to learn more about the scheme and register easily.

Zamba further explained that the scheme, established in 2015 by the Lagos State Government and reinforced by the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) Act of 2022, mandates health insurance for all residents. She urged residents to take advantage of the benefits of Ilera Eko, which covers 80% of hospital needs including consultations, treatment for common diseases,

maternal care, chronic disease management, and surgeries, among others.

Shedding light on the affordability of the scheme, Dr. Zamba also stated that the enrollment costs are N15,000 per individual, N55,000 for a family of four, and N80,000 for a family of six. She noted that LASHMA has introduced the ILERA N'TIWA Cooperative, which allows for instalment payments to ensure easy payment.

Also speaking at the event, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos Health District V, Dr. Dapo Asiyambi, who was represented by the Medical Officer of Health of Badagry Local Government, Dr. Wale Akeredolu commended the initiative. He highlighted the importance of making healthcare accessible to the people of Badagry Division of

Lagos State, noting that the area's resource constraints often result in limited access to quality healthcare.

He further noted that by making healthcare insurance compulsory, the government was working toward achieving universal health coverage for all Lagosians.

Chairman of Ojo Local Government, Hon. Rasulu Idowu, who was represented by Vice Chairman, Mrs. Edna Uche-Ubochi, expressed gratitude to the Governor and LASHMA for their tireless efforts. He emphasised that the health insurance scheme is crucial, particularly for vulnerable groups,

as it helps to guarantee access to necessary healthcare services without financial strain.

Highlighting the significance of Ilera Eko to grassroots communities, Chairman of the Lagos State Supervisor for Health Forum, Hon. Oluwaseun Ogundero, reinforced the importance of the scheme in empowering the people of Lagos. He stressed that the health insurance scheme offers comprehensive healthcare coverage, relieving the financial burden of out-of-pocket expenses.

He also pointed out that the scheme is particularly relevant at a time when healthcare costs are rising, and many drug companies are reducing their operations.

In his remarks, the Olu of Iwa and Apapa

Kingdom of Lagos State, HRM Oba Maroof Oyekunle Atanda, lauded the initiative and applauded Governor Sanwo-Olu's expansion of the Ilera Eko scheme.

He explained that the scheme is particularly important for the people in the riverine and remote communities, who often face additional challenges in accessing healthcare. Oba Atanda also acknowledged the positive impact the scheme has had in improving healthcare access across the state.

He noted that Lagos State's medical infrastructure has undergone significant transformation, with new hospitals and facilities being built to cater to the healthcare needs of the growing population.

As the campaign continues, residents of Badagry and other communities within the division are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to enroll in the Ilera Eko scheme. With continued support from the Lagos State Government, the Ilera Eko initiative is expected to drive positive change, ensuring that all Lagosians, regardless of their economic background, have access to affordable and quality healthcare.

# Security Guard Jailed For Raping Eight-Year-Old Daughter



A security guard identified in court as Seydou Garuba has been confined in prison for rape, defilement of his daughter. Justice Rahman Oshodi, while

sentencing the jailer to life imprisonment at the Lagos Sexual Offences Court in Ikeja, termed the offence of the law breaker, despicable and intolerable under the

law. Oshodi said that the prosecution proved beyond doubt the charge of defilement and sexual assault committed by the perpetrator on the eight-year-old survivor.

By Felix Kuyinu

Justice Oshodi said: "The defendant owns a provision store where the survivor and her family were his regular customers. "The survivor went to purchase half a bag of sachet water from the defendant's shop

on October 16,2022. The victim asked how much is sachet water and he said it was N70." The judge continued by quoting the victim saying, "I said no. My grandma said it is N60. I told Marafa {the convict} to take his water and give me back my money. As I was going, he called

me and hit my head, he said follow him and I followed him inside his house. "He removed my pants and removed his nicker and put his bum bum in my bum bum. When he put it inside I shouted and he used black cloth to cover my mouth. When he finished, he said if I told anybody, he would kill me."

## Court Liquidates Company Over Fraud

A proceeding at the Special Offences Court in Ikeja, Lagos, has winded up a company identified as Sigma Golf Nigeria Limited over fraudulent transactions. Justice Rahman Oshodi also transferred the company's title and interests amounting to N6,250,000,000 to the Federal Government of Nigeria. The rulling came in sequel to a guilty plea by the company Chairman, one Umaru Modibbo, to the

By Felix Kuyinu charges of conspiracy to steal, stealing, transfer of properties derived stealing and attempt to evade legal consequences, as imposed by the Economic and Finacial Crimes Commission, EFCC. In his rulling, the judge said: "I am satisfied that the second defendant was aware of the nature of the amended information and the consequences of the plea. "All its rights, title

and interest in the 6,250,000,000 units of Keystone Bank's ordinary shares of N1.00 each shall be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria represented by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission. "In respect of the facts and circumstances of the instant case, the complainant agrees not to pursue criminal charges both now and in the future against Alhaji Umaru Hamidu-Modibbo and Sigma Golf Nig. Ltd."

## Man Remanded For Stealing Rice

By Felix Kuyinu

The Police have arrested one Emmanuel Oluwayomi over accusations of stealing a bag of rice. During the accused's trial at the Badagry Magistrates' Court in Lagos, Police Prosecutor, DSP Clement Okuiomose, stated

that the the 21-year-old defendant stole the item worth N67,000,000 on January 3, at about 6:30pm at Badagry Roundabout, Lagos. Okuiomose said that Oluwayomi is facing a two-count charge of breach of peace and stealing. The litigant pleaded not guilty. Following his guilty

plea, the Prosecutor hammered that the suspect committed the act, thus, contravening Sections 168 and 287 of the Criminal Law of Lagos 8. The court granted Oluwayomi bail in the sum of N50,000 with two sureties in like sum. The matter continues in court on March 10.



# Airtel, UNICEF Commend Lagos School on Learning Passport

Kehinde Adeleye

The Group Chief Executive Officer of Airtel Africa, Sunil Taldar has described as remarkable the progress recorded by St Agnes Primary School, Maryland Lagos with the use of the Nigeria Learning Passport as part of the Reimagine Education Programme introduced by Airtel and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2022.

Mr Taldar made this declaration while on a joint visit with the leadership of UNICEF and Airtel Nigeria. The delegation, which included the Chief Executive Officer, Airtel Nigeria, Dinesh Balsingh; UNICEF Chief of Field Office, Celine Lafoucriere; and other senior executives from Airtel and UNICEF, engaged with school administrators, teachers, and pupils to assess the progress recorded under the Reimagine Education Programme.

This visit marks another significant step in Airtel's long-standing collaboration with UNICEF to drive inclusive and technology-driven education, ensuring that more Nigerian children have access



to quality learning resources. Through the collaboration, Airtel has reported that over 1,200 schools have been equipped with tablets and data to connect teachers and learners to digital learning platforms. Speaking with the media after a demonstration of NLP and digital learning devices, Mr Taldar said, "What I saw today at St Agnes Primary School was impressive and we are encouraged by the impact made for students and teachers through our partnership with UNICEF," adding that "our partnership with UNICEF is one of the ways we are ensuring that more

children in Nigeria and beyond have access to digital learning tools that will equip them for their future. This visit reaffirms our dedication to making education more inclusive, accessible, and impactful." Also commenting on the company's commitment to digital education and bridging the digital divide for Nigerian children, the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Airtel Nigeria, Dinesh Balsingh, highlighted the importance of technology-driven learning, the impact of Airtel's partnership with UNICEF, and the role of the Nigeria Learning Passport in providing students and teachers with

essential digital learning tools. "At Airtel Nigeria, we are deeply committed to empowering young minds through technology-driven education. Our visit to St. Agnes Primary School underscores our dedication to bridging the digital divide and ensuring that more Nigerian children have access to quality learning resources. Through our partnership with UNICEF, we continue to invest in initiatives like the Nigeria Learning Passport, which provides students and teachers with the tools they need to succeed in a rapidly evolving digital world." On her part, UNICEF

Chief of Lagos Field Office, Celine Lafoucriere, emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts to reimagine education. "Education is a fundamental right, and digital learning has become a key enabler in bridging educational gaps. Our partnership with Airtel Africa and Airtel Nigeria continues to provide innovative learning solutions, ensuring that every child, regardless of location or socio-economic status, has the opportunity to learn and thrive. We are excited about the ongoing implementation of the Nigeria Learning Passport and the transformation it brings to education in

Nigeria," she said. Recall that in 2023, Airtel and UNICEF paid a similar visit to Oremeji Primary School Ajegunle Lagos, one of Airtel Nigeria's seven adopted schools. This visit to St. Agnes Primary School reflects a broader engagement with schools benefiting from the Nigeria Learning Passport (NLP) – a digital education platform developed by UNICEF in partnership with the Nigerian government and Microsoft. The NLP is designed to provide accessible, high-quality educational content to students, teachers, and parents, supporting learning both in and outside the classroom. Airtel's collaboration with UNICEF aligns with its broader corporate social responsibility (CSR) agenda to support education, digital inclusion, and sustainable development. The Nigeria Learning Passport continues to gain traction as a powerful tool in ensuring that children, including those in remote and underserved areas, have access to interactive, high-quality educational content.

# Waste Disposal: LAWMA Strengthens Night Surveillance

The Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) has intensified its night surveillance operations to tackle the issue of individuals disposing of waste illegally under the cover of darkness.

The agency is committed to enforcing environmental laws and prosecuting offenders accordingly. LAWMA's Managing Director/CEO, Dr. Muiwa Gbadegesin, emphasized that the agency's surveillance and enforcement teams are working around the clock to track down and apprehend those who defy waste management regulations. The heightened night monitoring has already

shown positive results, with multiple arrests made in recent days.

Commenting further, he cited instances of recent arrests: "On 7 February 2025, at approximately 9:20 p.m., LAWMA's enforcement team caught an individual, Engineer Akinsola, unlawfully dumping refuse at the road median along Egbeda-Akowonjo Road, near Micom Bus Stop. Upon interrogation, the suspect falsely claimed to be a police officer.

Further investigation at his residence confirmed the absence of a designated waste storage facility and no record of registration with an authorised Private

Sector Participant (PSP) for waste disposal. Akinsola admitted that his landlord had instructed him to dispose of the waste at the road median. He is being prosecuted accordingly.

"Also in another incident, LAWMA's Waste Infractions Surveillance and Investigation Team, responded to a complaint about illegal dumping at Abati Primary School, Shasha Road. Upon arrival, the team discovered extensive waste disposal infractions and apprehended over 25 individuals. Among those arrested were six vehicle owners who had used their cars to transport and dispose of large

volumes of waste. All arrested environmental violators will be prosecuted."

The LAWMA boss cited yet another incident: "On 5 February 2025, at approximately 10:37 p.m., an individual identified as Fatima was caught dumping waste at the road median near Micom Bus Stop along Akowonjo Road. Investigations revealed that her residence lacked a designated waste storage facility, and she was not registered with a PSP for waste collection services. She, too, will be prosecuted for flouting environmental laws."

Gbadegesin stressed that LAWMA was not only intensifying enforcement but also expanding its public sensitisation efforts, as the agency's advocacy team was conducting door-to-door awareness campaigns, educating residents on proper waste disposal practices.

He urged residents to report challenges or dissatisfaction with waste collection services to LAWMA instead of resorting to illegal dumping, particularly at night, as loose waste at illegal dumpsites indicates that many households around the area do not own waste bins.

Gbadegesin reaffirmed LAWMA's zero-tolerance policy towards

environmental infractions and emphasised that every Lagos resident had a role to play in maintaining a cleaner and healthier environment, encouraging residents to make use of the agency's dedicated customer service channels, to report any issues with waste collection, stressing that indiscriminate dumping would no longer be tolerated.

He said: "LAWMA remains steadfast in its mission to transform Lagos into a cleaner and more sustainable city, ensuring that all offenders are brought to justice. We want to urge all residents to comply with waste management regulations and contribute to a cleaner metropolis for all."

## AGEGE

# Babatunde Commences Jibowu Street

## Reconstruction

[Kehinde Adeleye](#)

Mr. Johnson Sunday Babatunde, the Chairman of Orile-Agege Local Council Development Area (LCDA), has initiated the long-awaited reconstruction of Jibowu Street in Orile-Agege.

The project aims to address the challenges faced by residents and businesses due to the road's deteriorated condition.

With construction equipment already on-site for debris clearing and ground leveling, this infrastructure development marks another milestone in Hon. Babatunde's commitment to enhancing accessibility and improving the quality of life for the Orile-Agege community.

Speaking on the project, Hon. Babatunde

emphasized his administration's dedication to ensuring that no community is left behind in the drive for infrastructural progress. "We understand the impact of good roads on economic activities and daily living. This is why we remain intentional about road rehabilitation across Orile-Agege," he stated.

Local residents have



warmly received the intervention, with many expressing gratitude for the much-needed development.

As construction

work continues, the community looks forward to the transformation of Jibowu Street into a well-paved road that will provide lasting benefits for

both current and future generations.

Echonews reports that the project is just one of several ongoing initiatives spearheaded by Babatunde's administration.



# Onigando of Igando Hosts Political Stakeholders

Kehinde Adeleye

**D**uring a courtesy visit to the palace of His Royal Majesty, ba Lasisi Gbadamosi, the Onigando of Igando, Hon. Bisi Yusuf led a delegation of political figures, including Hon. Olufemi Adebajo, Alhaji Abiodun Isola Ejigbadero, and Alhaji Abiola Azeez, among others. The visit was in response to the Oba's invitation for a vital political dialogue.

Addressing the royal father, Hon. Yusuf acknowledged the President's achievements, highlighting significant milestones such as maintaining fuel stability, reviving Nigeria's refineries, combating insurgency, and fostering an investment-friendly environment. In recognition of the Alimosho

community's unity and support, ba Lasisi Gbadamosi pledged the unwavering backing of Igando residents for President Tinubu's re-election bid in 2027. He emphasized that the entire Alimosho region must unite behind this goal and stressed the importance of strong collaboration between different political factions. Hon. Bisi Yusuf expressed deep

gratitude for the Oba's royal endorsement but did not shy away from addressing past electoral setbacks. He lamented the poor performance of the APC in Alimosho during the last general elections, stressing the urgent need for renewed commitment and strategic efforts to reclaim the party's dominance in the region.

Adding his voice, Hon. Olufemi Adebajo appreciated the royal father for his warm reception and assured him that the team, under Bisi's leadership, had the full backing of the President in their mission to restore Alimosho's lost political glory. He sought the continued support of the monarch and his council, praying for Kabiyesi's long reign and urging the chiefs

to rally behind the movement to ensure Tinubu's re-election in 2027. The atmosphere was charged with renewed determination as Hon. Bisi Yusuf and his team departed the palace, emboldened by the Onigando's blessings and a unified vision - to restore APC's dominance in Alimosho and secure a resounding victory for Asiwaju Tinubu in 2027.



# Ejalonibu Foundation Reveals Reasons For Annual Free Jamb Forms

By Saheed Afolabi

**E**jalonibu Foundation has disclosed the reasons for their annual free jamb forms which is targeted to Badagry Youths. In a bid to empower young individuals in their pursuit of higher education, Ejalonibu Foundation has announced an initiative to provide free Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) forms to eligible candidates in Badagry Division. The foundation has earmarked the distribution of free JAMB forms to deserving youth

across Badagry Division. This initiative aims to relieve prospective beneficiaries of the financial strain associated with the application process and support educational accessibility. Representative of Ejalonibu Foundation, Popoola Grace Oluwapelumi said the program is a reflection of the foundation's commitment to social welfare of the youths in the community. She added that the foundation will provide a shoulder to lean on for the youths to achieve their



Cross section of secondary school students

lifelong ambitions. "This program reflects our commitment to the development of future leaders in our society. "We encourage all

interested youth to take advantage of this opportunity, as it could be a stepping stone towards achieving

their academic and career goals." This Ejalonibu Foundation has previously shown

support to students in Badagry with the distribution of free JAMB forms to over 200 youths in the area.

# 2025 LASIEC Election: Onilude Emphasizes On Adequate Security Support

By Saheed Afolabi

**C**hairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude has assured LASIEC that there would be adequate security in the forthcoming Local Government Elections in Lagos state. Onilude recently hosted a high-level meeting with officials from the (LASIEC) to ensure credible local government elections in 2025. The meeting, led by LASIEC Chairman, Justice Bola Okikiolu-Ighile, aimed to

strengthen democratic processes at the grassroots level. During the meeting, Onilude reaffirmed Badagry Local Government's commitment to supporting LASIEC in conducting a smooth and transparent election. He assured the provision of necessary logistical and security support, as well as other essential resources required by the commission. Okikiolu-Ighile expressed gratitude for the warm

reception and reassured Hon. Onilude that LASIEC remains committed to conducting credible elections that reflect the true will of the people. The meeting emphasized the importance of stakeholder engagement, continuous dialogue with political parties, security agencies, civil society organizations, and the electorate to foster public trust and encourage peaceful participation. This development comes as the Lagos State House of

Assembly is set to amend the Lagos State Independent

Electoral Commission (LASIEC) Law to ensure the neutrality of

electoral officials and prevent malpractices during the elections.



Chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude in a group photograph with LASIEC excos.



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**P**riscilla Ojo, daughter of veteran actress Lyabo Ojo, has expressed confidence in her new marriage, assuring that her story will be unique despite the common fears surrounding marriage.

# “Marriage is scary but mine will be different” – Priscilla Ojo

By Nurudeen Adebayo  
The businesswoman, who recently tied the

knot with Tanzanian singer Juma Jux, shared her thoughts during a gathering of

family and friends. Regarding her union, Priscilla described her

marriage as a foundation built on friendship, which she believes will help them

navigate any challenges.

With emotion in her voice, she said, “I’m young, there’s a lot of distraction on this journey and it tells me to go with the flow. During the process, this was more than I expected. It is not about social media, me and my husband are about peace.

“There are a lot of scary things about marriage, but I see us as friends. My story will be different. This is a journey God has pointed out and no man can stop.”



## Marriage collapses as wife refuses to adopt husband's name

By Nurudeen Adebayo

**A** two-year-old marriage has reportedly ended in divorce following a dispute over the wife's refusal to adopt her husband's surname. The revelation was made by Facebook user lyke Orji, who shared details of the split, attributing it to what he described as a minor issue that could have been resolved with maturity and loyalty. According to Orji, his friend, the husband, had requested his wife to update her social media handles, bank details, and other official documents to reflect his surname.

However, the wife allegedly refused, citing concerns over her personal identity, online following, and other professional engagements linked to her maiden name. Despite ongoing discussions about the matter for two years, the couple failed to reach a compromise. The disagreement ultimately led to their divorce, finalized just four days before Orji's post. Marriage divorce over surname issue “So one of my friends just divorced the wife four days ago. A marriage of 2 years. What was the issue? It was something



Very little that matured and loyal minds could tackle. He asked the Lady to edit her father's name in all her handles to Their surname since they're now married. He asked her to get a court affidavit to

change even her Bank details, and other stuffs relating to her that bore her father's name The lady refused on the grounds that it will ruin her followers, identity and other things and things.

Guy was calm, the Mr and Mrs so so so and so na for only Marriage certificate no other place. The lady said she rather quit than changing her surname. This issue has been going on and on for two years. Dear ladies, do

whatever that pleases. Dear Men, do whatever that pleases you, if I advice you ever Again, make I bend. Welcome back to singlehood brother, let's continue from where we stopped (Brostitution).



# Tems Joins San Diego FC Ownership, Bringing African Influence to MLS

By Nurudeen Adebayo

San Diego FC (SDFC) just made a game-changing move, and it has nothing to do with signing a new player. Instead, the club has welcomed one of Africa's biggest musical talents, Temilade Openiyi—better known as Tems—into its ownership group. The two-time GRAMMY Award-winning, Oscar-nominated artist from Lagos, Nigeria, is now a Club Partner of the Major League Soccer (MLS) expansion team. For San Diego FC, this isn't just about business. It's a statement—a bold step toward

integrating African excellence and culture into the growing soccer scene in the United States. Through her company, The Leading Vibe, Tems brings her creativity, passion, and a commitment to community development into a sport that has long been a unifying force across the world. A Vision Rooted in Africa  
Tems' arrival at SDFC is more than just an investment; it's a continuation of the club's deep ties to sub-Saharan Africa, particularly through the Right to Dream Academy—an organization

dedicated to developing young footballers and scholars across the continent. This connection was not lost on Sir Mohamed Mansour, SDFC's Chairman. "We are delighted that Tems has joined San Diego FC as a Club Partner," Mansour said. "Tems is a globally significant artist who will help us to reach new audiences and spread the word about our unique project, which has its foundations in Africa through the Right to Dream organization." Tems' involvement is also linked to Pave Investments, an African private

investment firm that has been a driving force behind sports and entertainment investments, including its role in NBA Africa. The inclusion of Tunde Folawiyi, Chairman of Pave Investments, and Kwamena Afful, the firm's Founding Director, in SDFC's ownership structure further strengthens the club's African ties. Music, Culture, and Sport: A Perfect Match  
Known for her soul-stirring vocals and genre-blending sound, Tems has taken the global music scene by storm. From winning a GRAMMY for Best

African Music Performance with "Love Me JeJe" off her debut album Born in the Wild, to co-writing Rihanna's "Lift Me Up" for Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, she has solidified herself as a cultural powerhouse. Now, she's ready to translate that influence into the world of football. "I am thrilled to join San Diego FC's ownership group and to be part of a Club that celebrates creativity, culture, and the power of community," Tems said. "Football has a unique way of bringing people together, and I am excited to help build something special in San Diego, a city that thrives on diversity and innovation." Her passion for youth empowerment and community engagement aligns with SDFC's mission. Club CEO Tom Penn emphasized this synergy: "Tems is an extraordinary artist and cultural force worldwide. Her passion for empowering the next generation aligns perfectly with our mission, and her commitment to creating opportunities for young talent reflects the core values of Right to Dream." Joining a Star-Studded Ownership Group  
Tems isn't the only high-profile name in SDFC's ownership circle. She joins an elite group that includes: Issa Rae, the groundbreaking

actress, writer, and producer Juan Mata, a World Cup-winning footballer with Spain Jocko Willink, a retired U.S. Navy SEAL turned leadership coach Manny Machado, San Diego Padres' MLB All-Star and founding partner of the club Together, they form a diverse and influential ownership team that reflects SDFC's commitment to cultural inclusivity and global connectivity. Building Bridges Through Football  
With the club set to make its MLS debut in 2025, this announcement comes at a time when soccer's popularity is surging across the United States. By bringing in figures like Tems, San Diego FC is positioning itself as more than just a team—it's becoming a cultural movement. Her influence extends beyond the pitch. Expect to see collaborations between music and football, cross-cultural initiatives, and increased engagement between African and American fanbases. Tems' journey from the streets of Lagos to global stardom is a story of resilience and ambition. Now, she's bringing that energy to San Diego, where she's set to help shape the future of football in a city that embraces diversity, innovation, and the unifying power of the game. With Tems on board, San Diego FC isn't just building a team—they're building a legacy.

# Epe Chairman Warns Vandals of Power Infrastructure

By Mohammed Adekola

**E**pe Local Government, Eredo LCDA, and Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA has issued a stern warning to perpetrators, declaring zero tolerance for such criminal acts.

Over the past months, widespread destruction of power installations has plunged Epe Central, Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA, and Eredo LCDA into prolonged darkness, forcing businesses and households to rely on costly alternatives such as premium motor spirit (PMS), diesel-powered generators, and, in some cases, solar energy. Despite months of engagement with energy sector stakeholders, power restoration remained elusive, compelling



local leaders to take a firm stand against the menace.

At a high-level security meeting held at the Epe Local Government Secretariat on Tuesday, February 11 2025, the Chairmen of the three councils Princess Surah Animashaun (Epe LG), Egnr. Akinloye Monsuru (Eredo LCDA), and Akogun Anomo Wale Raji (Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA) vowed to bring perpetrators to justice.

“Vandalism is not just a criminal offence, it is a direct attack on the economic growth and security of our communities,” stated Princess. Animashaun. “We are taking a stand today to protect our people, businesses, and essential services.”

According to a statement from Mr Yusuff Temitayo, Chief Press Secretary to the Chairman of Epe Local Government, the meeting had in attendance security agencies including the Nigerian Police,

Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy, Department of State Services (DSS), NSCDC, Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC), and various vigilante groups, focused on developing an effective strategy to curb the ongoing destruction of power infrastructure.

Egnr. Akinloye in his address emphasized the

importance of community involvement in tackling the problem: “This fight is not just for the government. We need every resident to be vigilant and report any suspicious activities. Together, we will restore power and protect our communities from economic hardship.”

Reinforcing his colleagues' commitment, Akogun Wale Anomo added that “We will not tolerate vandalism in any form, and those caught will face severe repercussions. Parents must take responsibility and educate their children on the dangers of destroying public infrastructure.”

To further intensify the crackdown on vandals, the council leadership pledged to work closely with security agencies and traditional rulers to enhance surveillance, raise public

awareness, and swiftly prosecute offenders. A hotline for reporting vandalism was released:

Epe LG : 08023605630, 08061380882

Eredo LCDA : 08029292773, 08141508902

Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA: 08032170278, 09011949865

Residents of Epe, Eredo, and Ikosi-Ejinrin have been urged to cooperate with authorities and report any activities that could help prevent further vandalism.

The collective action of the local government, security agencies, and community members is expected to mark a turning point in the fight against power infrastructure destruction, ensuring a stable electricity supply and economic revival in the constituency.

# Ikosi-Ejinrin APC Leaders Endorse Anomo For Second Term

By Mohammed Adekola

**A**ll Progressives Congress (APC) Leaders Forum in Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA officially endorsed Akogun Wale Raji Anomo and Alhaji Wasiu Dehinsilu for a second term as Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively.

The endorsement, announced at a high-level meeting attended by key stakeholders, party elders, and grassroots mobilizers under the leadership of Alhaji Ganiyu Adio Akintola (Pioneer

Chairman, Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA) was a unanimous acknowledgement of the administration's leadership and developmental strides.

“Their dedication to service, transparency, and sustainable development has transformed our LCDA,” said Alhaji Akintola. “We strongly believe that another term will consolidate these gains and take Ikosi-Ejinrin to greater heights.” Anomo described

the decision as a vote of confidence in his administration, affirming that it reflects the leaders' satisfaction with the APC's commitment to delivering the dividends of democracy to the people of Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA.

“This endorsement is both an honour and a responsibility,” Anomo stated.

“It reaffirms our mission to sustain and expand the impact of our administration. We remain dedicated to delivering more projects, empowering

our people, and fostering inclusive growth. With unity and commitment, we will continue building a progressive and

prosperous Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA.”

Anomo added that, With the strong backing from the APC Leaders Forum, the stage is set for

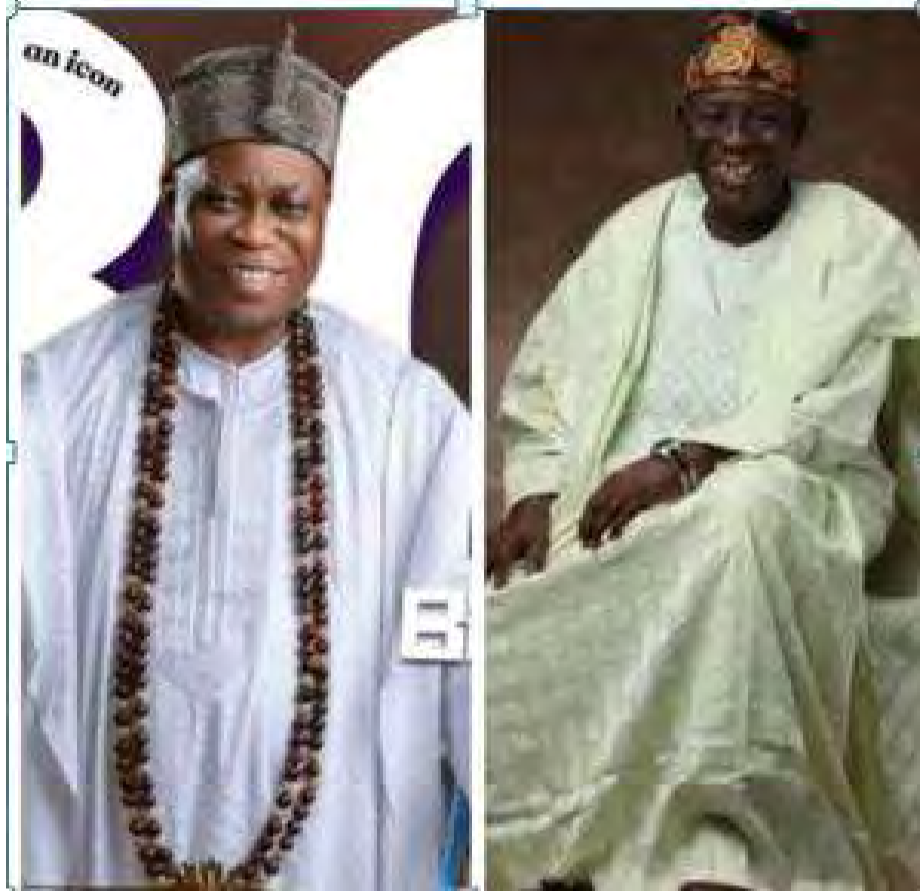
continuity and further development, ensuring that the ongoing transformation in education, healthcare, rural electrification, infrastructure, and social welfare continues to benefit the people of Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA.



**A**s 25th Anniversary of the attainment of the ancestral throne of Oba Kamorudeen Ishola Animashaun, the Oloja of Epeland in a couple of days, all activities have been on the top gear for a successful outing coupled with his 80th birthday celebration. In a chat with the newsmen, the Apase of Epeland and a member of the Governor's Advisory Committee (GAC) of Lagos state, Alhaji Shakirudeen Akanni Seriki (Bamu) has reiterated his belief in the future of Epeland and its suburbs with the developmental ideas of the monarch. He gave kudos to the traditional ruler for his contributions to the

# Seriki Optimistic About Future Of Epeland

By Mohammed Adekola



societal order and achievements in the town. He enumerated some

of his accomplishments as a leader in the community to include

many other things such as economic growth, security,

social development, recreation and educational opportunities.

In his words; "Oba Ishola Animashaun is a unique character who has been the most successful ruler in the whole of Epe Division"

"He stands out from his equals in most human endeavours, In the past, Epe was a no go area in terms of security and threats to lives and property". His activities and actions have been able to restore sanity into the community. He brings the boys together and makes sure that they are united for good".

Bamu added that, the perennial fight

between different groups of the road transport workers also has been an important issue in the past, His efforts have led to the creation of peace and stability among the leaders of the RTEAN and NURTW".

"He works tirelessly to further promote unity between the peoples of Ijebu and Eko in Epe here".

He has not given chances to the promotion of the age-long tradition of dichotomy between the two sides". He declared

The GAC member prayed for his continued success in life and sound health on the throne of his forefathers.

# Wale Raji Meets With FIPAN Executives

By Mohammed Adekola



**M**ember of Federal house of Representatives, Chairman of the House Committee on Livestock Development, Hon.

Wale Raji, held an interactive session with representatives of the Feed Industry Practitioners Associations of Nigeria. The delegation was led by Dr. Ayoola

Oduntan (National President), Mr. Godwin Egbebe (National Secretary), and Toromade Francis (Director General) in Abuja, engaged in discussions aimed at securing government

intervention to revitalize the sector and align it with national development policies.

The meeting marked a significant step towards fostering sustainable policies and reinforcing the partnership between the government and key stakeholders in the livestock industry.

Speaking on the significance of the meeting, Hon. Raji emphasized the crucial role of sustainable livestock policies in

boosting food security, job creation, and economic growth.

"This engagement reaffirms the government's commitment to ensuring a thriving livestock industry through strategic policies and partnerships. A well-structured intervention in this sector will not only enhance productivity but also stabilize market prices and empower local farmers," he stated.

He highlighted ongoing efforts by the government to implement programs supporting sustainable livestock operations, including improved

access to credit facilities, research-based innovations, and infrastructural development.

Dr. Oduntan expressed deep appreciation to Hon. Raji for facilitating the session and reaffirmed the association's commitment to advancing the livestock sector. "With continued collaboration and government support in critical areas such as feed production, regulatory reforms, and capacity building, we are optimistic about the sector's future," he noted.

# LASUSTECH VC Meets Union Leaders Over Death of Student

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Vice-Chancellor of Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH), Prof. Olumuyiwa Omotola Odusanya, has met with student leaders and representatives to address concerns surrounding the tragic death of one Umeke Emmanuel and the challenges of off-campus accommodation.

The meeting, held in the presence of the Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Ademola Aderogba, brought together key student representatives, including college presidents James Divine Chikamso (Applied Social Sciences), Afolabi Ambrose (Environmental Studies), Ogunrombi Michael (Agricultural Science), Adesanya Michael (Engineering), and Agbalah Gift Isaiah (Basic Sciences).

Also in attendance were members of the LASUSTECH Consultative Assembly (LSCA), including Chairman David Gabriel, General Secretary Comrade Alli Sidiq, and the Welfare Director. Religious representatives at the meeting included Rabi Taofeek Adekunle, Amir of the Muslim Students Association of Nigeria in LASUSTECH, and Elijah Osofisan, Vice President of the LASUSTECH Christian Fellowship. The Union of Campus Journalists (UCJ) was represented by its President, Ibrahim Habeeb



Irewole, and Ademuyiwa Balikis.

Condolences and Call for Calm

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Odusanya expressed deep condolences to the family of Umeke Emmanuel and urged students to remain calm as investigations into the circumstances surrounding his death continue.

"We commiserate with the family, but we must maintain peace. There is no human action that can bring back the dead," he stated,

cautioning students against any actions that could escalate tensions on campus.

Off-Campus Housing Challenges

A major point of discussion was the rising cost of rent and poor living conditions in off-campus accommodations. Prof. Odusanya acknowledged these struggles, announcing that the university would inspect off-campus residences to assess safety and habitability.

However, he admitted that constructing a school hostel remains a significant financial

challenge.

"We have plans for a hostel that can accommodate over 6,000 students, but funding is a major limitation. Currently, the project requires over 1.5 billion, which is not readily available," he explained.

Student Leaders Demand Urgent Action

Student leaders raised concerns about high rent, poor maintenance by landlords, and the general safety of students living off-campus. They detailed their efforts

to engage landlords, estate agents, the Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company, and security agencies to improve living conditions.

In response, Prof. Odusanya advised students to prioritize safety over proximity when choosing accommodation.

"There's a need to be careful where you rent. Some areas may be closer to school, but farther locations might be safer, even if they require daily transport," he cautioned.

Caution on Social Media Agitation

The Vice-Chancellor

also warned against the excessive use of social media to spread agitation, stating that misinformation or cyberbullying could have legal consequences.

"We understand your pain and agitation, but let's not paint an image of unruly students. Let's work together to find solutions rather than escalate tensions," he said.

Call for Lasting Solutions

UCJ President Ibrahim Habeeb Irewole urged the university to prioritize hostel construction to reduce the risks associated with off-campus accommodation.

Prof. Odusanya reassured the students

of the school's commitment to their welfare but stressed the importance of maintaining peace to ensure academic stability.

"Our goal is for students to complete their programs as scheduled. Let's maintain peace and focus on lasting solutions," he concluded.

The meeting ended with a renewed commitment from both the university management and student leaders to collaborate in finding sustainable solutions to the challenges facing LASUSTECH students.

The Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) is renewing its commitment to addressing transportation challenges for residents through the revitalization of its Free Shuttle Bus Service.

Initially launched in 2023 to provide relief for local commuters, the service includes 17 strategically deployed buses that cater to the needs of students, residents, and council staff, ensuring efficient and free transportation within the LCDA.

Under the administration of Olu Segun Odunmbaku, the revitalization and

# Ojodu LCDA Revitalizes Free Shuttle Bus Service For Pupils

Kehinde Adeleye

relaunching effort focuses on improving service efficiency, enhancing maintenance procedures, and adhering to global safety standards.

The Ojodu LCDA has also pledged its dedication to overseeing the service's operational staff, maintenance, and compliance, ensuring a smooth and safe commuting experience for users.

Local residents are encouraged to utilize the Free Shuttle Bus Service, which



operates on designated routes from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM in the morning and 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM in the afternoon, to meet their transportation needs.

# Ojodu LCDA Revitalizes Free Medical Surgery

Kehinde Adeleye

Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has announced the rejuvenation of its Free Medical Surgery Programme, aligned with best healthcare practices to provide enhanced medical services for its residents.

As part of this initiative, the flagship "See a Doctor" programme has been upgraded to offer more efficient and accessible healthcare solutions.

To ensure patients receive age-appropriate care, the eligible age for surgical procedures has been adjusted to



18 years and above. The programme will now focus on day surgeries, allowing patients to undergo minor surgical procedures and return home the same day.

This shift towards day surgeries aims to provide greater convenience, minimize hospital stays, and promote faster recovery for patients. In partnership with the Ministry of Health,

District 6, the "See a Doctor" programme – which has already treated 342 beneficiaries – will cater to minor surgeries such as

hernia repair, lumpectomy, vasectomy, circumcision, skin lesion removal, and minor orthopedic procedures, among others.

Echonews reports that

Ojodu LCDA remains committed to delivering high-quality healthcare, maintaining accurate medical records, and continuously monitoring progress to ensure the best possible patient outcomes.

The LCDA's healthcare facilities are well-equipped with the necessary medical tools and supplies to support this initiative effectively.

This revitalization of the Free Medical Surgery Programme complements ongoing healthcare initiatives such as the Free Weekly Dental and Eye Care Services, as well as the comprehensive upgrade of Primary Health Centers.



# AGA: Badagry DFA Budgets N890m for 2025/2026 Programmes

By Saheed Afolabi



Badagry Divisional Football Association congress members in a group photograph

The Badagry Divisional Football Association (BDFA) under the leadership of Dr Osondu Martins has

earmarked a whopping N850 million naira for all football activities, programs and events for the 2025/2025

season.

The BDFA Congress approved the amount of money their Annual General Assembly which was

held at the BDFA Secretariat conference hall, Ojo. BDFA Chairman, Dr Osondu Martins said the budget will be

used to execute the BDFA activities which will attract participation from top class grassroots clubs in the Division which

must be embarked on in the 2025/2026 season.

The Lagos state football Association (LSFA) who were represented by Mr Segun Osinake commended the BDFA, football Stakeholders for uplifting the development of football in Badagry. He said the LSFA is solidly monitoring all the good initiatives that has been happening in the Division within a short while.

Osondu also informed the BDFA of the newly approved massive multipurpose stadium that will be erected in the Division this year which construction will begin soon.

## OSHODI

# Ajomale Supports Youth with Free JAMB Forms

Kehinde Adeleye

Hon. Oladipo Olayinka AjomaleEsq, the member, representing Oshodi-Isole Constituency II at the Lagos State House of Assembly, reaffirmed his commitment to youth empowerment by distributing free JAMB

forms to students within his constituency.

During the event, Ajomale encouraged beneficiaries to strive for excellence in the upcoming JAMB examination, stressing the importance of hard work, discipline, and

focus in achieving success.

Drawing on his personal experience as a law student at Lagos State University (LASU), he inspired the students to set their sights high and work diligently towards their goals. Furthermore, Ajomale addressed the

dangers of drug and substance abuse, cautioning that these vices could hinder the students' aspirations.

He reassured them of his ongoing support in their pursuit of success and encouraged them to remain dedicated to their

education.

Parents in attendance commended the lawmaker for his commitment to the youth, expressing their appreciation for initiatives that foster confidence and educational growth among

young people in the constituency.

The students, brimming with gratitude, thanked Hon. Ajomale for his generosity and promised to make the most of this opportunity by diligently pursuing their goals and maintaining focus on their studies.



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