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*By the arrangement that holder of National Diploma from the Lagos Cooperative College can get direct entry admission to Lagos State University, the Ibeju-Lekki Local Government has enrolled 30 of its youths under its scholarship scheme into the college. In this interview by **Kunle Awosiyan** and **Edith Igbokwe**, the chairman of the local government, **Hon. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa** spoke on this and other issues regarding his **Economic Relief Programme***

Can you shed light on how you want to run the agricultural sector of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Area as one of your focus agendas of the Economic Relief Programme?

Our Economic Relief Programme targets Agriculture, Education, Health sector and SMEs. The decision to go into Agriculture is to generally manage the situation, looking at things we can do on our own. We have farm lands in Ibeju-Lekki, the whole of the local government area in some years ago was Agric- land but due to industrialisation a lot of Agric lands have been converted to residential Estate. But we have riverine where farming is still practising by our artisanal farmers in Arapagi, Idioro, Awoye . The Local Government felt that what can be done to boost food production/ supply in Lagos State, that's why we decided to go that route.

We are not doing this alone, but with the support of the state government. About a week ago, the commissioner for Agriculture, Mrs. Abisola Olusanya was here because I reached out to her that we are interested in going into farming and I need the support of the state tractors. She was very impressed and she has to come down to us in Ibeju-Lekki. In a nutshell, we are going into agriculture so that we can boost food production for the people of this local government because we know that food is a major, major challenge right

now.

The bulk of food that comes to this place are not produced in Lagos, even if we cannot feed Lagos , can we produce for our own Local environment? From our own investigation, we find out from artisanal farmers that they can produce up to 500 bags of garri in a week. So, if we support them by providing inputs, helping them in land clearing, providing improved seedlings and training them on extension services , that could double or triple what they are currently producing.

Then, the Local Government can off take from the farmers at a guaranteed price that will not be subject to the market pressure and then the Local government can provide support to the market like it is done at the Federal level where the federal government has strategic grains reserved during the period of increase, they inject grains into the market to control price. We are also looking at that, not just that, we want to use it as a means of solving the unemployment

“ We are going to disburse about N30 million within six months but on an average of N50 million monthly. I don't want to give N50, 000 or N 100, 000. It is not sufficient to start a small business, so we are going to be very professional in the choice of traders



problem among our youths. So, we are using the strategy called contract farming. We are going to bring artisanal farmers into cluster under our contractual agreement, we do the land clearing, support them with improved seedlings, give trainings and extension service support and also sign an agreement to off take from them. They will bear it in mind that they are producing for market , not like they are producing for uncertainty.

When do you intend to implement this idea?

Last week , we set up the

implementation committee, the teams are currently on the field, the technical team visited Idioro yesterday to see some of the farm lands , presently they are in Egba Akodo. We have given them two weeks to report back to the Local Government to recommend suitable farm land for the scheme. The moment that's done, we shortlist farmers, sign agreement and move bulldozers to the farm land to remove stunts and make ridges as we are starting with 10/20 years task.”

How many tractors are you expecting from Lagos State Government?

Lagos State government has promised to give us as much as five to six tractors to start with.

Many Small and Medium Scale Businesses are springing up in this area due to the steady development, how are they going to benefit from this programme?

We are going to disburse about N30 million within six

months but on an average of N50 million monthly. I don't want to give N50, 000 or N 100, 000. It is not sufficient to start a small business, so we are going to be very professional in the choice of traders. We are looking at giving loan within N150, 000 and N250,000 to pay back within six months or more. To do this, the local government doesn't have the expertise to disburse loan as we are not lender but a government. But, there is an agency of government, the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) that has the requisite experience to do that, we are working with them and all the applicants have to go through the LSETF, only traders from Ibeju-Lekki market.

When the traders are shortlisted, local government will release money to LSETF who will disburse the loan to them and ensure continuous monitoring and administration up to the point that the money will be paid back so that we can recycle the capital to create more loans..

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On Education, you mentioned something on bursary, GCE forms, what about scholarship?

We do scholarship but we try to understand our environment. Things that work in a certain local government might not work in another. Here in our local government, we are transiting from rural to urban. The educational standard of our young people here is just coming up. So, we have to start from the scratch. A lot of what we do with students in tertiary institutions now is to provide bursary. Last year we gave N40, 000 each as bursary to about 300 students, this year we are planning to give them N50, 000 each as bursary. Last year we gave scholarship to some of our students who were interested in going to Lagos State Cooperative College, about 30 of them. They are presently in the college right now.

Lagos State Cooperative College has an arrangement with Lagos State University that when their students excel in their two-year diploma programme, they can have a direct entry to Lagos State University.

So, we saw that as a window through which we can move a lot of young people to gain admission into higher institution but studying a specific course, Micro Finance banking and this aspect of banking is becoming a major part of the national economy.

We know that if we should allow the young ones go into the training, the industry will readily absorb them. Presently, 30 students have been financed into the cooperative college freely, both the accommodation and tuition. Also, about a year ago for the first time, we funded the common entrance examination for our primary six school pupils in Ibeju, Owerekun and Orimedu schools.

I remembered when I was young, going to Federal government school was the dream of most of us because the best of the bests comes from there. So I bought common entrance form of about N150 for our pupils to gain admission into Federal

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government college.

Out of 150 pupils that wrote the exams only six of them passed and gained admission into Federal government College. And we provided free scholarship for them as well.

There are some many things that their parents are unaware of, some parents just believe their words should go to school, come back to farm or the sea. They are not even aware that there are other schools of higher standard that are not private schools.

Do you have any plan of sensitising the parents on this?

We are doing that, my experience here has shown me that Lagos State public schools are not bad, if only we can just pay more attention to them.

I introduced quiz competition and debate among primary school pupils and secondary school students in Ibeju-Lekki and we have done the first and second editions.

The competitions have brought a lot of things that are unknown because we have very bright students in the junior secondary schools. When they speak, you will be surprised.

Pan Atlantic University has really helped us by providing their environment for most of the things we do, especially our debate and quiz finals, we use the university ground in Ibeju Lekki.

We have a partnership with the university, they are helping us with tutorial session for all our science students in all our public schools from SS2 - SS3; every Saturday we take the students to the university for tutorial and bring them back home free of charge including transportation, feeding and the lectures.

With this, we are changing their mind set and orientation because as they come into the university environment, they feel amazed, knowing that they are in a university setting. They can relate, see undergraduates. A lot of the students are becoming more



Hon. Olowa

aware of the need to further their education to become engineers, medical doctors, lawyers, computer engineers and so on. We need to expose them to the environment so that they can appreciate and pick what we really need then to know.

On health, what have you to offer your people?

On health I can tell you that this administration has done a lot when I resumed office, the first thing I did was to look

at our Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) to know the state of its facilities.

What I met was unbelievable, some of the facilities were down; Ibeju Agbe (PHC) picture of then and now is just a complete overall work, the fallen staff quarters recovered, the solar panel carcass on the roof removed and re-installed with new one through the ministry of energy. Today, the (PHC) is

like a private hospital with modern facilities.

In Orimedu (PHC), the smell of toilet from the main entrance is just a big problem and patients are giving birth there. I don't believe in just continue erecting buildings and buildings. The existing ones, what have we done with it? We can maintain and continue to use them for a long period. We also extended our renovation exercise to Aiyeteju (PHC)

Continued from page 3

upgrade and remodel. Arapagi (PHC) was abandoned, we have finished its construction and our focus was first to have a standard facility, then equip and look for personnel. The major challenge in the health sector has to do with personnel. Right now, Nigeria faces a major shortage of medical professionals. In the whole ibeju – Lekki we are still managing three medical doctors that moves from one PHC to another, but in terms of facilities we have them. Lagos State ministry of health and the Primary Healthcare Board are working on the situation and the permanent Secretary has been here to see the level of investments we have put into the health sector and they have assured us to increase the number of medical personnel that will come to ibeju-Lekki. At this period, we know that cost of medicine and check-ups have gone up and I have a very huge file of medical assistance request from citizens. We have introduced free drugs, free medical checkup and medical financial assistance to our people. This has been done. By next week, we will be giving about N2 million to those that applied for medical financial assistance. Some N50,000 , some N100,000 to treat or buy enough drugs that can continue to keep them for their health challenges. Essentially, free drugs, medical services and medical financial assistance are the major components of the health sector plan.

Do You have any plan to put permanent Solution into the perennial flooding of Igando Osiran Community?

It is like you are reading my mind , if we don't move into the place by next week then, it will be upper week. You will see action in that Igando Osiran, Aiyeteju, Baba Adisa canal.

What could delay our moving in there is the approval that we want to get from the Ministry of the

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Environment to help us remove contravention. The truth is, people have contravened on the drainage alignment and even if we bring the equipment to channel water, by the time we get to a particular place, we will notice that someone has built a house on the canal and we do not have the power to remove those contraventions. But, we can seek the support of Lagos State to do that for us. The Ministry of Environment today is very active, alive to their responsibility and ready to work with us. In the next couple of days , you will see us in Osiran Aiyeteju Baba Adisa doing our work.

I want to you to talk about the traffic gridlock along ibeju-Lekki express way, what's your plan with the state government?

The traffic gridlock is not in my Local Government, it should be in Eti- Osa East. Though, the traffic is as a result of the ongoing road construction, we had our own share of it when the contractor (Craneburg) was around our corridor. We responded locally by creating ibeju-Lekki traffic management unit different from LASMA. We had about 29 personnel in that unit and their job is to support other agencies such as the LASMA, Police, Road Safety in ensuring that those bottlenecked areas are eased from traffic with a constant replenishment of different agencies to ensure compliance on the ongoing road construction. To a large extent, the feed back we got from the public our traffic mangers were well commended for the job they did. But the boundary between Eti- Osa and ibeju-Lekki is at Abijo , from the NNPC MAJEK station . Anything beyond that our traffic mangers will not step out of our area.

I thought there was a stakeholder's meeting among local governments around



here to sort out the issue of the gridlock sometime ago?

I will not say there was not a stakeholders meeting, but the outcome of that didn't create a centralised management system where we can pull resources from different ends into a common goal. What we did here is to create central command team of police , Road Safety LNSC and LASMA to work together. But the real breakthrough for me is the fact that I have gotten Lagos State government to create a zonal command for LASMA in ibeju-Lekki at Orimedun. With that, we have more presence of LASMA in within the entire

ibeju Lekki corridor because that's the paramount solution for the traffic.

The Dangote refinery in the locality, what's your Local Government doing to ensure that the youths benefits from it ?

I will respond as a government and look at Dangote as a private business.

Every private investor who runs a company wants people to work. At the same time, within the community where it runs the business, the people must be given sense of belonging by using the company as a means of creating wealth and employment for the

community members. I will not speak for Dangote but, I know it is part of their focus because from time to time they reach out to some of the host communities within the local government.

But we want them to do more as we have a lot of graduates searching for employment opportunity and we believe having such a big investment around here at least, should guarantee the youths some level of opportunity.

We are talking to Dangote company, not alone but through the state ministry of commerce and industry and I believe we will see a lot of changes in that regard.

Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Economic Relief Program

Empowering the citizens of Ibeju-Lekki to Overcome the current economic challenges while fostering economic growth in Nigeria through collaboration with state and federal authorities.



OVERVIEW

The Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Economic Relief Program aims to alleviate the impact of the current challenges in the economy on its citizens by providing targeted support in key areas.

Through this program, the local government will offer relief measures to ease the burden on households, ensuring a positive impact on the well-being of its residents, particularly the needy, while continuing to collaborate with state and federal authorities to foster overall economic growth in Nigeria.



FOCUS SECTORS



HEALTH

- Free basic drugs at our Public Health Centres.
- Free medical tests for blood pressure and blood sugar.
- Medical Financial Assistant for vulnerable families through a new fund called Medical Support Fund.



EDUCATION

- #50,000 Bursary for Students of higher institutions of learning.
- School Fees Support for newly admitted students into higher institutions of learning.
- Free forms for students writing WAEC and GCE.

FOCUS SECTORS



HOUSEHOLD

- Community Market to subsidize some of food items.



AGRICULTURE

- Ibeju Lekki Out-grower Scheme for Cassava and Plantain farming to boost food production.



MSME

- #30 million Traders Loans to be disbursed over a period of 6 months.

OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE

01

Provide support to cushion the effect of economic hardship.

02

To provide immediate support.

03

Support to help families with basic household needs.

04

Support SMEs through credit.

05

Provide medical Relief.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Ibeju Lekki Local Government Economic Relief Program is a strategic and compassionate response to the current economic challenges in our country. This initiative not only strengthens our local economy and improves public perception but also positions Ibeju Lekki as a beacon of resilience and sustainable development.

Through this, we seize the opportunity to uplift people, reduce poverty, and create a stronger, more stable environment. Together, we can embrace a future where citizens thrive, the community flourishes, and Ibeju Lekki becomes a model of progress for the nation.

THANK YOU



Education District IV Hosts 2023 /2024 Music, Sports Festival

Education District IV recently held its annual Music and Sports Festival in a glamorous and grand style at Ansar-Ud-Deen Grammar School in Randle Surulere, Lagos.

Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary, Mr. Olusegun Osinaike, in his address at the event, said the primary objective of the festival was to promote and exhibit the various talents within District IV while showcasing students who excel not only academically but also in realms such as entertainment and sports.

He highlighted the significant achievements of the flourishing District, adding that the top athletes in each sports category would receive a cash prize of #25,000 each, along with the opportunity to participate in local and international sporting events/trials.

Why expressing gratitude to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for creating an enabling environment for sports to thrive in schools by establishing sports centres and facilities in Public Schools, the Tutor-General also lauded the Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Jamiu Ali Balogun, for his unwavering support towards education, particularly in District IV.

Representatives from the three zones of the District – Apapa, Mainland, and Surulere – competed in various athletic events such as the 100m and 200m races, high jump, and more, much to the delight of spectators and dignitaries in attendance.

After an intense competition, Mainland secured the 4th position with 2 Gold, 4 Silver, and 5 Bronze medals. Apapa Zone clinched the 3rd position with 3 Gold, 6 Silver, and 3 Bronze Medals while Surulere I earned the 2nd position with 7 Gold, 4 Silver, and 7 Bronze medals. However, Surulere II emerged as the overall champion with 8 Gold, 6 Silver, and 5 Bronze medals.

Notable dignitaries present at the event included: Honourable

Desmond Eliot, Member Lagos State House of Assembly, representing Surulere Constituency; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education, Mr. Bolaji Abayomi; Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary Education District II, Mrs. Anike Adekanye; Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary Education District IV, Mrs. Shereefat Yusuf and Chairman of SUBEB, Honourable Hakeem Shittu, represented by Mr. A. M. Oluwatobi among others.



Lagos Island Model City Plan Will Restore Glory of Ancient City-Commissioner

Lagos State Government has said that the Lagos Island Model City Plan, when operational, will restore the glory of Lagos Island.

The Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Oluwinka Oluamide made this known on Thursday during the Stakeholders Meeting on Lagos Island Model City Plan at the Muson, Centre, Lagos.

He explained that the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu approved the preparation of an inclusive Lagos Island Model City Plan to harness the special characteristics of Lagos Island, plan for its sustainable future growth and socio-economic development while addressing the aspirations of the citizens.

He noted that the Plan, which was conceived to correct the negative impacts of the partial implementation of the expired Lagos Metropolitan Master Plan, would, in the next 20 years, seek to position the subject area into a world-class commercial, industrial and cultural hub across the West African sub-region.

Oluamide added that the Plan also seeks to promote the sustainability of the cultural and historical heritage of Lagos Island while advancing a new dimension in the regeneration of

traditional communities.

He stated that the Consultant, Messrs. Dar-Al-Handasah, adopted a participatory procedure in preparing the Plan to make it the outcome of different levels of stakeholders' involvement.

"To ensure that no group is left behind in contributing to the achievement of a resilient, sustainable, and organised Lagos Island of our dream, the Final Draft Plan of the Lagos Island Model City Plan was displayed to the public for 28 days between 17th May and 23rd June 2023. This was followed by presentations and engagements with other relevant MDAs and interest groups, including the Isale Eko Descendants Union", he said.

On his part, the Chairman, House Committee on Physical Planning and Urban Development, Hon. Sylvester Ogunkelu urged Lagos Island indigenes to give their support to the enactment of the Model City Plan, which is expected to give a facelift to the Lagos Island environment.

The Special Adviser on e-GIS and Urban Development, Dr. Olajide Babatundé noted that planning for the future development of Lagos Island was essential as planning was universal

and dynamic.

Dar-Al-Handasah team, led by the project Manager, Mr. Salim Eid, presented the Draft Final Lagos Island Model City Plan alongside the thematic areas of challenges and issues, opportunities and positioning as well as strategies and outcomes, some of which include flood protection and mitigation, housing and community facilities, heritage and transportation among others.

Indigenes of Lagos Island, mostly represented by Hon. Oyinlomo Danmole, Erelu Abiola Dosunmu, Prince Abiola Kosoko, Engr. Hakeem Gbajabamila and Tpl. Lookman Oshodi spoke on the need to incorporate their comments and concerns into the Plan as they would like a blend of development and cultural heritage, devoid of gentrification.

Other speakers include a member, Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Olanrewaju

Afinni; General Manager, Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA), Arc. Gbolahan Oki and the Managing Director, Lagos State Development and Property Corporation (LSDPC), Hon. Ayo Joseph.

Others are Lagos WhiteCap Chiefs, the Permanent Secretary, Office of Physical Planning, Engr. Oluwole Sotire and former Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Tpl. Toyin Ayinde.



First Lady, Tinubu, Donates 100, 000 Exercise Books To Lagos Schools

... As Sanwo-Olu's Wife Presents Donated Books to the Ministry of Basic Education, LASUBEB
 ... Says Lagos is First Beneficiary of Renewed Hope Initiative Education Support Programme

As part of a gesture towards enhancing education as a catalyst for national development, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, the First Lady of Nigeria and National Chairman of Renewed Hope Initiative has donated 100,000 copies of exercise books to public primary and junior secondary schools in Lagos State. At the official handover ceremony held at the Banquet Hall, Lagos House Ikeja, the First Lady of Lagos State and State Coordinator of Renewed Hope Initiative, Dr. Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, highlighted the importance of education in empowering the younger generation. While handing over the exercise books to representatives of the



benefiting schools, Dr. Sanwo-Olu emphasised Senator Tinubu's belief that education is crucial for personal growth and societal advancement. She stated that the donation, made through the Education Support Programme (RHIESP) of Renewed Hope Initiative, aims to

support the learning needs of students in Lagos State and enhance their academic pursuits. According to her, the books will be distributed to students by the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education and the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board

(LASUBEB). Dr. Sanwo-Olu commended Senator Tinubu for her dedication to improving educational outcomes and encouraged students to strive for excellence in their academic endeavours. The Governor's wife specifically appreciated the First Lady of Nigeria for giving Lagos State

the privilege of being the first beneficiary of the Renewed Hope Initiative Education Support Programme (RHIESP). In her words, "The State Government extends gratitude for the sincere efforts of Senator Tinubu and Renewed Hope Initiative in positively impacting the

lives of students through education". Earlier in his welcome remarks, the Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Hon. Jamiu Alli-Balogun described the Renewed Hope Initiative Education Support Programme as a testament to Senator Oluremi Tinubu's love and dedication to the growth of all children. He emphasised that the initiative will further provide educational interventions for the pupils/students and maximum support for students, parents and classroom teachers. The Executive Chairman, Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB), Dr. Hakeem Shittu also stated that the kind gesture of the First Lady will encourage many out-of-school children to return to school and drastically reduce the number of out-of-school pupils.

Lagos To Criminalise Sexual Offences Concealment By Teachers

The Lagos State Government has expressed its readiness to start criminalising the concealment of sexual offences by teachers and guardians in the State. The Executive Secretary of Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA), Mrs. Titilola Vivour-disclosed this in her opening address at a two-day training organised for 105 school counsellors on safeguarding and child protection held recently at the LCCI Conference Centre in Ikeja. While noting that the 105 School Guidance

Counsellors were drawn from primary and secondary schools within Ikeja, Mushin and Oshodi/Isole zones in Lagos, she stated that schools do not just serve as centres of academic learning but should also be safe havens, where children feel secure, safe and protected. She noted that the influence of counsellors extends far beyond the classroom as it shapes the emotional and psychological landscape of the next generation. The Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary (TG/PS),

Education District VI, Dr. Adejoke Sherifaah Yusuf, who was represented by the Head of the Counselling Unit, Mrs. Anike Bola-Lawal, charged participants that the constant training and retraining of the Guidance Counsellors helped keep them abreast of societal expectations to make a better society for all. He stressed that the training would be rewarding as it cuts across the three zones of the district and lauded the Agency's efforts in the quest for an SGBV-free society. A representative from the State Universal

Basic Education Board (SUBEB), Mr. Ibrahim Jenmi, while speaking on behalf of the Chairman, thanked the Agency for the continuous training of guidance counsellors and called for collaboration between the Agency and the Board. One of the facilitators at the training, Taiwo Akinlami, a Safeguarding and Child Protection expert spoke on child rights and concepts which include their rights to life, developmental rights, participation rights and protection rights. He further spoke

about the societal and cultural perception of child abuse and examined the different forms of child abuse and how to detect signs of abuse. Mr. Jubril Yakubu of the Ministry of Youth and Social Development gave an overview of the Lagos State Executive Order on Safeguarding and Child Protection, highlighting the roles of a designated safeguarding officer and the multi-agency response to safeguarding and child protection. He informed the participants about the mandated reporting rights.

policy in Lagos State, urging them to say something whenever they see something. Chief of Operations at Cece Yara, Mrs. Olabisi Ajayi-Kayode, who spoke on responding to disclosures of child abuse, educated the counsellors on how to handle disclosures made by children. The Counsellors were later presented with a Certificate of Participation and were encouraged to see themselves as mandated reporters, if they see something, they should say something and most importantly, do something

LASU VC Urges Staff To Embrace Emerging Technologies

... As University Trains Workforce on Responsible Use of AI For Enhanced Productivity

In a bid to keep pace with the rapidly evolving technological landscape within the university environment, the Vice-Chancellor of Lagos State University (LASU), Professor Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, MNI, has called on staff of the University to keep pace with emerging technologies for improved productivity. Olatunji-Bello made the call recently while speaking at the opening session of a two-day training on Artificial Intelligence (AI) organised by the Institution for staff across all cadres in the University. She emphasised the importance of staying abreast of technological advancements to



remain relevant in the academic sphere just as she also underscored the need for continuous learning and adaptation. Her words, "In today's digital age, educators must embrace emerging technologies as tools for innovation

and advancement. By leveraging these technologies effectively, we can revolutionise teaching methods, streamline administrative processes, and foster a conducive learning environment for our students"

Represented at the event by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Administration, Prof Adenike Boyo, Olatunji Bello asserted that LASU's proactive approach to the adoption of technology underscores the University's commitment to staying

at the forefront of educational innovation. It is also to empower staff members to navigate the complexities of the digital age and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of knowledge. She reminded the trainees of the need to preserve LASU as a global brand, and key into emerging technologies to remain relevant among other universities of repute. Olatunji-Bello noted that even as the Vice-Chancellor, she has also had some AI classes to be up to date with the new realities, revealing that even at the National level, NUC has commenced educating University Administrators on the prospects, features and areas of caution as regards AI.

The training coordinated by the Directorate of Information and Communication Technology of the University focused on the use of Microsoft Copilot as a working companion. The Lead Trainer and the Director of the LASU ICT, Prof Oluwatoyin Enikuomehin engaged participants on the practicalities of the AI tool via several lab sessions including how AI-powered tools and algorithms could automate routine tasks, analyse large datasets, and generate valuable insights to support decision-making processes with emphasis on ethical considerations and responsible usage to mitigate potential risks associated with AI implementation.

LASODA Calls For Joint Efforts To Achieve Inclusive State

The General Manager Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA), Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal has called on everyone to join hands with the government to ensure the rights of PWDs are adequately protected in Lagos State. She made the call at a meeting with the Spinal Cord Injury Association of Nigeria (SCIAN) Lagos State Chapter, led by its Chairman, Mr Abdulwahab Matepo, at the Scian Centre, Apple Junction, Lagos on Wednesday. Oyetunde-Lawal said that there is a need for a change in approach to the realisation of the



government's objectives geared towards enforcing an inclusive society where everyone regardless of disability status would strive. In her words, "I am urging us all, especially

Persons with Disabilities to become the Ambassadors of LASODA by promoting awareness in our respective groups, communities and places of worship, etc". "This is a collaborative

call for all stakeholders to ensure they report cases of abuses or concerns to the Agency for necessary action, as LASODA cannot be everywhere", she affirmed. Speaking further, the

General Manager pointed out that the Agency will continue to develop policies and programmes tailored precisely for every member of the disability community, just as she appealed to both corporate and private organisations to ensure there is humanity to the disability interventions in their organisations. In her words: "Don't just construct ramps, be sure they are usable by persons with disabilities; other services should also be provided with the peculiar needs of PWDs in mind", she added. While speaking on empowerment

initiatives for the group, she urged them to share specific areas of interventions needed to enable LASODA to work in line with them. Respondent, the Chairman, Spinal Cord Injury Association of Nigeria (SCIAN), Mr. Abdul-Wahab Matepo appreciated the General Manager for her willingness to understand their requirements and promised to present the empowerment needs of the Association to the Agency as soon as possible. LASODA, on behalf of the State Government, presented wheelchairs to the Association for the use of its members.



APC BELGIUM CHAPTER

Launches

PATRIOTISM & DIASPORA CHALLENGE

GIVES SUPPORT TO AGE 70 AND ABOVE OF ALL TRIBES, IN ADEGBOYEGA STREET, ODILOWO OJUWOYE LCDA MUSHIN, LAGOS,



DISTRIBUTES ₦0.6 MILLION AND SOUVENIRS

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HONORABLE SALAWU MOHAMMED SAID (SMS)
NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY, APC BELGIUM CHAPTER



We Lead, Others Follow!!

OTCI Calls On Public Servants To Leverage on Innovation

Lagos State Office of Transformation, Creativity and Innovation (OTCI) has tasked Public Servants with growth mindset development to leverage creativity and innovation towards changing the face of Public Service and improve service delivery for effective governance in Lagos State.

Director-General of OTCI, Toyin Anjous-Ademuyiwa advised at the annual sensitisation exercise on Creativity and Innovation organised recently by the Agency for Public Servants in Ikeja, adding that the programme would allow a shared vision



among the workforce and ignite a culture of creativity and innovation within the public sector. She disclosed that the goal of OTCI as an agency of the State Government is to foster an environment that encourages fresh perspectives, saying that the exercise will also provide an opportunity to explore diverse perspectives, learn from exemplary cases and engage in thought-provoking discussions with the OTCI Creativity and Innovation Team.

"The goal is to foster an environment that encourages fresh perspectives, without the box thinking, and the courage to challenge the status quo", she added. Toyin Anjous-

Ademuyiwa also noted that the programme was designed to inspire action and equip Public Servants with the tools, strategies and mindset necessary to drive change, foster innovation and create a more responsive and effective Public Service in the State.

The DG averred that public servants have a unique responsibility to serve the communities and address their needs, reiterating that by embracing creativity and innovation, they can find novel approaches to tackle complex challenges, improve service delivery and create lasting impact.

Advising Public Servants to come together, break down

silos and embrace a culture of collaboration, experimentation, and continuous improvement, Anjous-Ademuyiwa said workers in the State can create a public sector that is adaptive, forward-thinking and responsive to the evolving needs of the citizenry.

The sensitization exercise, with the theme: "Mainstreaming the Culture of Creativity and Innovation in the Lagos State Public Service", comprised ambassadors from various Government Agencies who were taken through a series of presentations and interactive sessions with the Creativity and Innovation Team of OTCI.

Lagos Set To Boost Real Estate Sector With Specialised Training

The Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Housing, Barr. Barakat Odunuga-Bakare said that the Authority has identified the need to provide specialised training for practitioners in the state's real estate sector. Odunuga-Bakare noted that appropriate training tailored towards real estate activities will assist practitioners carry out real estate transactions in a way that aligns with the status of the State and in compliance with the provisions of the Lagos State Real Estate Regulatory law.

She disclosed this recently during a media

chat with newsmen in her office at the Secretariat, Alausa, emphasising the importance of aligning real estate transactions with the state's standards and regulations.

The Special Adviser stated that the perceived fraudulent practices in the sector is as a result of the emergence of real estate practitioners in different parts of the state who do not have the necessary training and licenses to practice but are rather using real estate as a second fiddle to boost their income.

Speaking further on the initiative, Odunuga-

Bakare averred that integrity and professionalism must be maintained within the real estate sector to safeguard the interests of both buyers and sellers.

"The government has identified the need to expose practitioners in the real estate sector to appropriate training. This training will ensure that transactions are conducted in a manner that upholds the status of Lagos State and complies with the provisions of the regulatory law", she noted.

According to her, the training programme is expected to cover various aspects of real

estate transactions, including legal frameworks, ethical standards, and industry best practices. She submitted that by enhancing the knowledge and skills of practitioners, the government aims to promote a culture of compliance and accountability within the sector.

She also pointed out that the initiative aligns with the government's broader efforts to promote sustainable development and foster a conducive environment for investment in Lagos State's real estate market".

"With the commitment



of the Lagos State Government to ensure effective regulation and oversight, the planned training is poised to

elevate the standards of real estate practices, ultimately benefiting all stakeholders involved", the Special Adviser stated.

Lagos Govt Vows To Crack Down On Environmental Infractions

In a bid to enhance environmental compliance in Lagos, the State Government has vowed to crack down on environmental infractions and pledged a zero-tolerance approach to the same across the State. Major Olatunbosun Olaniyi Cole (Rtd), the new Corps Marshal of the Lagos Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC), popularly known as Kick Against Indiscipline (KAI), made this assertion during a press conference held on Monday at LAGESC Command



Headquarters, Bolade-Oshodi. He emphasised the significance of environmental cleanliness for a healthy and

prosperous Lagos, in line with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's THEMES Plus Agenda. "The Agency, under the new management

led by the Corps Marshal and Deputy Corps Marshals, has successfully carried out enforcement operations and conducted clean-up exercises on all pedestrian bridges, while also apprehending miscreants who converted pedestrian bridges into areas of nuisance for unsuspecting pedestrians", Cole said. He further disclosed that 56 individuals who misused pedestrian bridges received jail sentences ranging from three to five months, while 46 other offenders were sentenced to

community service for violations such as street trading and hawking. Cole further addressed concerns regarding unauthorised fee collection allegedly associated with LAGESC, citing an incident in Ketu where an individual falsely represented the agency. On the issue of KAI officials collecting bribe, the Corps Marshal said, "In some cases, you will find out that it is not even KAI that is collecting the bribe or money, as was the case in Ketu; we recently apprehended

a woman collecting money on behalf of LAGESC at Ketu. I will investigate the matter of people collecting bribes and remain adamant that once an individual crosses the line, they should face the full wrath of the law". Emphasising the agency's commitment to upholding integrity and ensuring accountability, he urged Lagosians to prioritise environmental hygiene, highlighting the detrimental effects of unregulated trading activities on public spaces.

National Minimum Wage: Lagos Reiterates Commitment To

Treat Workers Fairly

Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has described the subject of the national minimum wage as a reflection of the government's dedication to ensuring that the hardworking men and women who contribute to the prosperity of the nation are treated with the dignity and fairness they deserve. The Governor stated this at the South-West Geo-Political Zone Public Hearing on National Minimum Wage which was held in Ikeja, assuring the organised Labour that the State Government was committed to working collaboratively with other States and the Federal Government to arrive at a fair and realistic wage structure

that would take into account the diverse economic conditions across the nation. He said, "Our goal is to strike a balance that ensures the well-being of our workers while fostering economic sustainability". Sanwo-Olu, who was represented at the event by the Head of Service, Mr. Bode Agoro, also used the occasion chaired by the Minister for Finance and Co-ordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr. Olawale Edun, to highlight some of the welfare programmes which had been implemented by the Lagos State Government transcending health, education and transportation sectors. The Governor averred that the State



Government had invested significantly in infrastructure development, education and healthcare while recognising that these factors contribute to the overall well-being of its workforce. He noted that a healthy and educated workforce was not only more productive but also better positioned to

contribute to the growth and development of the State. Sanwo-Olu expressed appreciation to all stakeholders, particularly Labour union leaders, who were present at the occasion, stating that their input and insights will be invaluable in

shaping the policies that will guide the approach of government to the national minimum wage. Amongst the dignitaries present at the event, in addition to the members of the Tripartite Committee on National Minimum Wage, were the

Governor of Osun State, Dr. Ademola Adeleke; Honourable Commissioner for Establishments and Training, Mr. Afolabi Ayantayo; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Establishments and Training, Mrs. Olubusola Abidakun as well as other members of the Body of Permanent Secretaries.

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A Lagos Entrepreneur, Ayobami Idowu, has sued the Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, over invasion, destruction of his properties in Lagos.

Idowu, on March 6, claimed at a Lagos High Court, Epe Judicial Division, that the Anti-narcotics Agency forcefully gained entry to his home and office, both at Ojokoro and carried out the destruction of his properties.

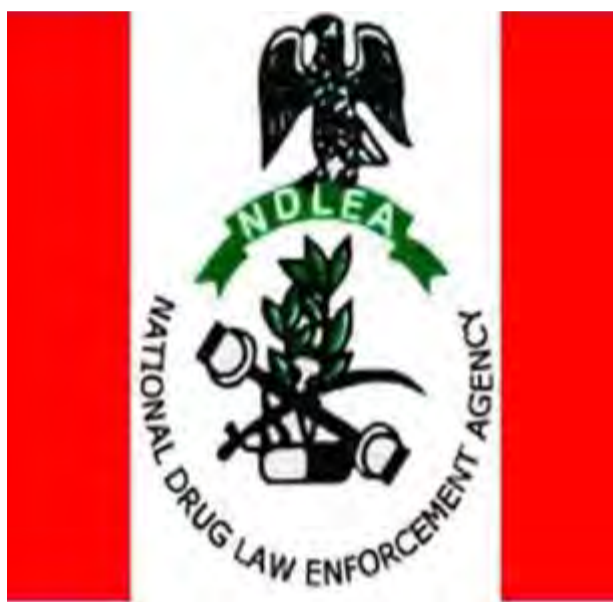
The hotelier is seeking for N100m damages in a file suit against the Chairman/Chief Executive of the NDLEA, Brigadier General Buba Marwa (Rtd) as 1st Respondent, the Commander of NDLEA, Lagos Command,

Abubakar Liman Wali as 2nd Respondent, and CAN, Adekunle Oduola of the NDLEA Lagos Command as the 3rd Respondent in the suit.

Ayobami, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of D&G Motor Dealer Enterprises Limited and D&G Hotel,

Businessman sues NDLEA for invading property

By Felix Kuyinu



Event and Suites, Ijaiye Ojokoro, in Lagos, said that there were repeated invasion alongside threatening acts by personels of the respondents which

degenerated to detention. He also said that the NDLEA laid siege to his home and place of business. The businessman complained that the act

against him, his family and staff members is "without any legal justification, unlawful, illegal, barbaric, and unconstitutional and violates the applicant's right of personal liberty, right to dignity of human person, right to freedom of movement and right to freedom of association, right to own movable and immovable property."

The hotel tycoon also revealed that the sum of One Million Naira was extorted from him, thus, violating the his right to own both movable and immovable properties anywhere in Nigeria as enshrined in Sections 43 and 44 of the 1999 constitution (as amended)".

Ayobami, through his lawyers, Hazzan Muhammed Esq, Hussein Muhammed, and Bodunrin Muhammed Esq. of Complete Solicitors and Advocate, Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos subsequently requested an order restraining all the respondents whether by themselves, their servants, agents, officers, privies or any person acting through or on their instruction from unlawfully invading and ransacking, arresting and detaining, subjecting the applicant into any form of humiliation, molestation, harassment, laying siege at

the home and place of business of the applicant, same having constituted infringement on the fundamental rights of the Applicant as provided under the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended).

They also sought a declaration that the forceful breakage of the lock of the house of the Applicant at building NO 8 Yusuf Street, Ijaiye Ojokoro, Lagos, at night without a search warrant and when the respondents knew or ought to have known that the applicant and his family were not around for search is not only illegal, unlawful, barbaric and archaic but also unconstitutional, null void and violate the applicant's right to privacy as enshrined in Section 37 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended.

In addition, the lawyers sought a declaration that the unlawful invasion of the hotel of the applicant by the respondent in a war-like manner, armed with all sorts of weapons of mass destruction and shooting to the thin air sporadically to disperse lodgers and guests, under

the guise of carrying out search of a place they know harbours nothing incriminating without search warrant, is illegal, unlawful, unconstitutional, null and void.

They, therefore, pleaded with the court for the award of the sum of N100m and a public apology in two national newspapers for putting the applicant through a psychological, mental and emotional trauma by reason of invasion and ransacking of the applicant's home and place of business, threat to arrest and detention, humiliation and molestation, degrading and inhuman treatment meted on the applicant by men of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd respondents acting through the 3rd respondent.

The NDLEA for a reaction stated that the action to search the properties of the plaintiff was authorized as stated by the NDLEA spokesman, Femi Babafemi, who said: "The raid on the hotel was duly authorized because the owner is a wanted suspect." "He was silent on the allegation of theft of a gold chain worth N50 million made earlier by the hotelier. "He also did not say if anything incriminating was found during the raid.

Court Sends Naira Notes Seller To Three Months of Community Service

By Felix Kuyinu

The Federal High Court in Lagos has sentenced one Fabian Itafor to three months community service for hawking the Nigerian currency.

The court, presided upon by Justice Kehinde Ogundare gave the rulling after an arrest and arraignment of the perpetrator by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commision, EFCC.

According to the Prosecutor, Abubakar Wara, Itafor, who at the court on Wednesday pleaded guilty to a one-count-charge slammed on him was arrested on February 24, 2024, at Leisure Event Center, Victoria Island, where he was hawking new Naira notes.

Wara informed the court that the sum of N347,000.00 were found in his possession

during the arrest. He also told the court that the convict's illegal act, contravened Section 21(4) of the Central Bank of Nigeria Act 2007, and punishable under the same Act.

The charge against the convict reads: "that you Fabian John Itafor, on or about the 24th day of February 2024 at Leisure Event Center Wale Olateju Street, Victoria Island, in Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, hawked the sum of N347 000.00 (Three Hundred and Forty Seven Naira} issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 21(4) of the Central Bank of Nigeria Act 2007."

The prosecutor urged the court to convict and

sentence him in accordance with the section of the Act, however, the convict while claiming to be first time offender and promising not to indulge in the act pleaded for leniency.

He also prayed the court to consider an option of fine in lieu of the verdict sentence.

Justice Ogundare, upon confirming from the prosecutor that the convict is a first time offender and without any record of previous conviction, sentenced him to three months community service, but ordered him to pay the sum of N50,000,00 in lieu of the sentencing.

The judge also forfeited the convict's POS machine and the sum of N347, 000, 00; \$1, and £50, found on him during his arrest, to the federal government.

Fashion Designer Remanded for Defiling Two-Year-Old Neighbour's Daughter

By Felix Kuyinu

An artisan, Idris Adams, has been remanded in Kirikiri Correctional Centre for allegely raping his neighbour's two-year-old daughter.

The 30-year-old accused was sentenced by Magistrate Bola Osunsami at the Ikeja Chief Magistrates' Court on Wednesday.

According to the

prosecutor, ASP Raji Akeem, the incident which occurred on February 26 forced an immediate needed medical attention, hence, forcing neighbours immediately rushing the victim to the hospital for a medical examination. Magistrate Bola

Osunsami after informing that the alleged offence contravened the provisions of Section 261 of Lagos State, 2015, ordered Adams to remain in custody pending further investigation and trial.

Osunsami adjourned the matter until March 28 for legal advice from the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP).

Bamigboye Bags Award, Applauds Teachers

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye was recognized for his unwavering dedication and contribution to the improvement of primary education in the area.

The Education Secretary, Princess Olufemi Akinlude, praised Bamigboye for his efforts in supporting the development of primary education in Mushin Local Government during the 2023/2024 Mushin Local Government Education Authority Merit Award Ceremony.

Some of his initiatives that were highlighted include the construction and renovation of school buildings, hiring of temporary staff, provision of security personnel, and other forms of assistance to the education sector in Mushin.

Bamigboye, who has previously served as the Vice Chairman and Education Supervisor in Mushin Local Government, has continuously played a crucial role in enhancing education in the region and was well-deserving of the award.

During his keynote address, the council chairman emphasized the ongoing support provided to the education sector, despite the high number of primary schools in Nigeria and numerous demands.

The administration has implemented various projects such as constructing school buildings, renovating dilapidated structures, and recruiting additional staff for schools. Additionally, initiatives like distributing school



supplies, providing free rides for pupils, offering bursaries, and supporting indigent students with exam fees have all been part of their efforts to improve education in Mushin.

The Chairman of Odi Olowo LCDA, Mr. Rasaan Ajala, and other political office holders received awards during the event.

The Onitire of Itire Land - HRM. Oba Tajudeen Ishola Odubiyi, Mr. Owolabi

Falana (Board Member - Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board) were also awarded for their contributions to the educational development in Mushin.

During the award ceremony, a total of 27 staff members, both teaching and non-teaching, received various rewards such as cash and gifts across 7 categories to motivate and encourage them. Additionally, students

who excelled in their classes, subjects, competitions, and other special categories were also recognized for their outstanding achievements.

The event was graced by prominent figures in Mushin Local Government, including Vice Chairman Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe, and leaders from legislative bodies of both Mushin LG and Odi Olowo LCDA.

Councilors, Supervisors, Council Manager, education department

heads, and other important individuals were also in attendance.

Moreover, traditional leaders, community figures, and influential personalities who have contributed to the advancement of primary education in Mushin showed their support at the event.

In closing, the Chairman of Mushin Local Government praised the Education Secretary for her dedication, assistance,

and cooperation in ensuring that the students in Mushin receive the best educational support.

Bamigboye expressed gratitude to the education administrator for her assistance during the 2023 general election.

He praised the teachers for their hard work and encouraged the students to focus on their education and show respect to their teachers and parents for a successful future.

Lagos HOS, Assembly Seek Improved Synergy



By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State Head of Service, HOS, Bode Agoro, has called for more synergy between the Lagos House of Assembly towards realization of targets set by both institutions. Agoro made the call while hosting the

House Committee Chairman on Establishments and Training, Hon. Oladele Ajayi and Members of the Committee. The HOS revealed during the engagement held at the Conference Room, Public Service Office, Alausa Secretariat, Ikeja, that it is logical for

the duo to form a relationship so as to adequately carry out their duties under the present administration in the state. Agoro, maintaining that the priority of the HOS is to ensure adequate welfare and well-being of the entire workforce in the state said a link up with the Assembly

can go a long way in creating more enabling environment for more achievements recorded at his office. He uttered that his office would not rest on its oars, thus, ensuring adequate welfare if public servants as it holds a significant role of the public service in the state.

The HOS appreciated the Chairman and Members of the Committee for the visits to his office which was quickly followed by a remark by the Hon Ajayi who commended Agoro for making the welfare of Public Servants a priority. Ajayi further said that such workrate is the

only through means the Public Servants would be able to discharge their duties effectively and efficiently. Ajayi further hinted that the Assembly would be delighted to have a continuous and improved harmonious relationship with the Office of the Head of Service.

Alimosho Residents Benefit From Jelili's N30m Cash Donation

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Mr. Jelili Sulaimon, recently donated over N30 million in cash to alleviate the current economic difficulties of the residents in the area. The special cash palliatives program

took place at Abati Primary School in Akowonjo on Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Various groups from the Alimosho community, including CDAs, CAN, League of Imams and Alfas, Market Association, among others,

gathered to receive assistance, with about 40 beneficiaries from each of the 60 CDAs present. During his speech at the event, Council Boss Mr. Jelili Sulaimon highlighted that the cash transfer program is an extension of the

Federal and State Government's conditional cash transfer initiatives. While the state and federal governments provide N25,000 to selected individuals, the local government can only afford N10,000 per resident but aims to ensure that many residents receive this support.

The funds were distributed to over 2000 CDA members and 1000 other community stakeholders, including PLWD, the Market Association, CAN, the Youth Council, and the League of Imams and Alfas. While some were given in cash, others had the

money transferred to their account at the venue of the program. The cash palliatives makes the 4th palliatives distribution in Alimosho Local Government in the last 6 months. And members of the local government came enmass to appreciate the Council Boss for his love for them.

Lagos Island LG Boss Lauds Residents On Cooperation

By Saheed Afolabi



The chairman of Lagos Island LG, Prince Tijani Olusi has lauded the residents for their cooperation on the

rehabilitation of Oju Olokun Street. The council boss revealed that the street is facing a total rehabilitation to offer

convenience for road users and the community. He said the road will be made with interlocked stones and

he appreciated residents for their support as they near the completion date. "Grading of Oju Olokun Street, Lagos Island, by the Hon.Prince Tijani

Adetoyese Olusi led administration, in readiness for the installation of interlock stones.

"We appreciate the cooperation of residents and shop owners in the area as we strive towards its timely completion."

Ikosi Isheri Council Boss Presents Official Vehicles To Community Leaders

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman of Ikosi-isheri LCDA, Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada handed over official vehicles to key community stakeholders to enhance their mobility for official duties.

The recipients included the Ikosi-isheri CDC, the League of Imams, the CAN, the Iyaloja of Ikosi-isheri LCDA, the Revenue Chairman, and the

Ikosi-isheri Media Team.

Princess Samiat highlighted the stakeholders' crucial roles in supporting government initiatives and their proactive contributions to the community's success.

These vehicles will aid them in their official activities, recognizing their dedication and impact on the local government.

Princess Samiat

emphasized the significance of good deeds and their rewards, citing teachings from the Quran and the Bible. She mentioned that the dedication of stakeholders to their roles has not only benefitted the community but will also result in rewards in this life and the afterlife.

In particular, the Mayores

commended the exemplary leadership of the Iya Oloja general, who supervises around 12 markets in Ikosi Isheri.

Princess Samiat lauded her for effectively communicating messages and ensuring the markets operate smoothly, which has significantly contributed to the success of the local government.

The strong and cordial relationship between the government and

stakeholders has been the driving force behind the achievements thus far.

Princess Samiat assured the community that this token of appreciation is just the beginning, as more initiatives are in the pipeline. She expressed her excitement for the future, emphasizing that this is just the start of a new beginning for the community.

The recipients were very thankful to Princess Samiat Bada for her constant support and for providing them with these official vehicles. These vehicles will improve their ability to move around for their official duties within the LCDA and beyond, helping them fulfill their responsibilities, support the community, and contribute to Ikosi-isheri's development and progress.

Shobowale Set To Distribute 250 Free JAMB Forms

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Ayobo-Ipaja LCDA, Mrs. Bola Shobowale will be hosting the 6th edition of the JAMB support programme for the Indigent residents of the area on Thursday, March 14th, 2024.

The event will be held at the local government Secretariat in

Igbogila.

During this event, 250 forms will be distributed to deserving applicants from the five political wards, helping them to access higher education and pursue their academic aspirations after undergoing screening.

The event Indigene/Indigent is

anticipating a strong community presence, including LCDA members, students, parents, teachers, and community figures.

It is a chance for all stakeholders to gather in unity to promote youth growth and recognize the role of education in advancing progress and prosperity in Ayobo-Ipaja.



Lagos State Government has commenced the enforcement operations of three-metre drainage Right of Way for all its drainage channels in Apapa.

Speaking with newsmen after an inspection tour to check the level of compliance, Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab said the enforcement activities are coming after the expiration of notices and convening of stakeholders meetings with property owners to voluntarily move their fences that fall within the drainage setback earlier in the year.

He said the Ministry had served contravention notices to the buildings on the Drainage setbacks, adding that for several years, the Ministry has not been able to access the eight major collectors for maintenance purposes due to encroachment which is a major contributor to flooding issues being experienced in Apapa.

He said the State Government was determined to find a lasting solution to the flooding issues in Apapa while directing enforcement officers to ensure that all contravening properties are removed from the drainage Right of way by the three metres required by law, assuring that the State will not cherry-pick properties during the

Lagos Govt Begins Enforcement of Three-Metre Drainage Right of In Apapa

enforcement process.

"We want to check the state of collectors in Apapa to evacuate and treat the Collectors, the whole of the Collectors in this area are blocked and the right of way taken over by individuals who moved their fences to acquire extra land thereby denying us access to the drains", he said.

The Commissioner, in the company of the Special Adviser on Environment, Mr. Kunle Rotimi-Akodu; Permanent Secretary, Office of Drainage Services, Engr Mahamood Adegbite; General Manager, LASEPA, Dr. Tunde Ajayi; Managing Director, LAWMA, Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegeshin and some Directors in the Ministry visited Pele Wura Collector drain, Abayomi Collector drain, Aerodrome Collector drain, all in the Apapa area of the State.

The Commissioner also inspected Rock Drive in Lekki I following a major complaint that some individuals engaged in the conversion of a purely residential area into a diesel depot

directing immediate enforcement, emphasising that the illegal depot poses the risk of a major fire outbreak in the area.

Wahab directed the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) to seal up the property while the Kick Against Indiscipline (KAI) officials demolished and arrested individuals found at the illegal shanties built around the depot and thereafter towed away the diesel

trucks and vehicles stationed at the illegal depot.

He also visited Auntie Ayo Collector drain in Ikoyi where he expressed satisfaction with the ongoing cleaning of the drainage channels sounding a note of warning to residents who usually engage in the unwholesome acts of indiscriminate refuse dumping to desist from such acts even as the rainy season is here.

He hinted that following the expiration of relocation notices issued to all squatters occupying illegal shanties around the Lagos Coastal Road in Mayegun, Lekki area of Lagos, enforcement will commence fully next week.

On his part, the Special Adviser on Environment, Mr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu said the Government is determined to find a realistic solution to the

flooding issue across the State by embarking on all-year-round drainage cleaning measures to control flooding.

He added that it is necessary for residents to also clean the tertiary drains that run across residences regularly while the Ministry has been consistently desilting and working on various linkages to the secondary and primary channels to enable them to discharge efficiently.



Content Creation: AFYMP Trains LASUSTECH Mass Communication Students

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In a bid to equip the next generation of media professionals with essential skills, the Africa Foundation for Young Media Professionals (AFYMP) recently hosted a training session at the Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH).

The session focused on enhancing the abilities of mass communication students in content creation and news writing, with insights shared by esteemed speaker Mr. Yinka Olaito.

Mr. Olaito, in his opening remarks, drew inspiration from notable journalists who overcame initial doubts to excel in their field, citing the late Komla Dumor of the British Broadcasting



Corporation (BBC) as an example. Stressing the importance of continuous self-improvement and consistency, he emphasized the role of fact-checking in distinguishing credible journalism, asserting that

accuracy is paramount in storytelling. During the session, students were encouraged to identify their passions and leverage them in content creation across various niches, ranging from

sports to beauty and lifestyle. Mr. Olaito underscored the significance of creativity, proper utilization of text and graphics, mentorship, and balanced opinions, while adhering to professional ethical guidelines.

Ethical considerations

took center stage as Mr. Olaito highlighted the necessity of obtaining consent before using individuals' images or videos and emphasized the critical role of fact-checking prior to publication. He urged students to forge emotional, intellectual, and storytelling connections with their audiences, emphasizing the power of human-centric narratives.

Addressing the students' potential as journalists and content creators, Mr. Olaito stressed the importance of understanding audience preferences, vocabulary choices, and the art of crafting compelling stories. He emphasized active listening, creativity, and inspiration, coupled with a commitment to transparency,

authenticity, and prompt acknowledgment of mistakes.

Moreover, Mr. Olaito provided practical advice on establishing a platform to share knowledge, leveraging social media platforms such as LinkedIn, Instagram, TikTok, and podcasts to gain visibility and authority in the field.

In conclusion, the session advocated for simplicity in communication, advocating for the use of straightforward language to enhance accessibility and audience engagement.

The training session at LASUSTECH served as a catalyst for aspiring journalists, empowering them with the tools and knowledge necessary to excel in the dynamic world of media and communication.

EFCC Cracks Down on Cybercrime, Apprehends 45 Suspects in Ikorodu

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In a significant move to combat cybercrime, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has apprehended 45 individuals suspected to involve in internet fraud. The arrests were made by operatives of the Lagos Zonal Command in collaboration with intelligence agencies during a raid conducted in Ikorodu, Lagos. The suspects were targeted following extensive intelligence gathering on the activities of an Organised Cybercrime Syndicate Network (OCSN) operating within

the state as stated on the Efcc website. The EFCC's swift action aimed to disrupt and dismantle the criminal network responsible for various online fraud schemes. Upon their arrest, law enforcement officials recovered a substantial amount of incriminating evidence, including exotic vehicles, sophisticated mobile devices, and laptops believed to have been used in perpetrating fraudulent activities. This seizure highlights the scale and sophistication of the operation carried out by the alleged cybercriminals.



According to EFCC sources, the apprehended individuals will undergo thorough interrogation and investigation to uncover the full extent

of their involvement in cybercrime activities. Once investigations are concluded, the suspects will be arraigned before the appropriate judicial authorities to face

prosecution for their alleged offenses. The EFCC has reiterated its unwavering commitment to combatting cybercrime and

ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice. The agency has called on members of the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious online activities to law enforcement authorities promptly. The arrests in Lagos serve as a stern warning to cybercriminals that their illegal activities will not go unpunished. With the cooperation of law-abiding citizens and the relentless efforts of law enforcement agencies, the EFCC remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard the integrity of Nigeria's digital ecosystem and protect citizens from the scourge of cybercrime.

Ramadan Fasting: Olayinka Distributes Foods To Ifako-Ijaiye Muslims

Kehinde Adeleye



The Governor's Special Adviser on works, Dr. Engr. Adekunle Olayinka, initiated a special program for breaking the Ramadan fast as part of the annual Islamic fasting program that began on Monday, 11th March, 2024.

The program involves distributing packaged food and fruits at specific mosques like Iju-Ishaga Central Mosque, Rogo, in Ifako Ijaiye LGA, and Markaz

Mosque in Jankara area of Ojokoro LCDA. Referred to as "iftar" in Islam, the feeding program aims to serve over twenty mosques in Ifako Ijaiye Federal Constituency, where fast observers can collect food to break their fast during Ramadan.

This initiative is set to be a yearly tradition during the holy month of Ramadan.

The special adviser conveyed his congratulations to

Muslim followers and the whole Muslim community for being alive to experience another Ramadan.

He encouraged them to utilize this time for spiritual reflection, acts of charity, regular Quran recitation, and other spiritual activities to strengthen their relationship with Allah and renew their dedication to serving Him.

The Special Adviser mentioned that the

iftar program provides packaged meals for fasting individuals daily during Ramadan.

Engr. Adekunle acknowledged the challenging economic conditions in the country and introduced the initiative to alleviate hardship, particularly during this sacred month.

"It is very pathetic and disturbing for a man to spend the day fasting with no meal to eat after breaking the fast. So, at the government level, we

felt it is our duty to provide succor for our people to observe one of their compulsory religious injunctions with ease." Engr. Adekunle emphasised. He mentioned that he aims to assist 5,000 households as part of Governor Sanwo-Olu's efforts to ease the current economic challenges.

He reassured residents that the government is prepared to distribute resources to bring

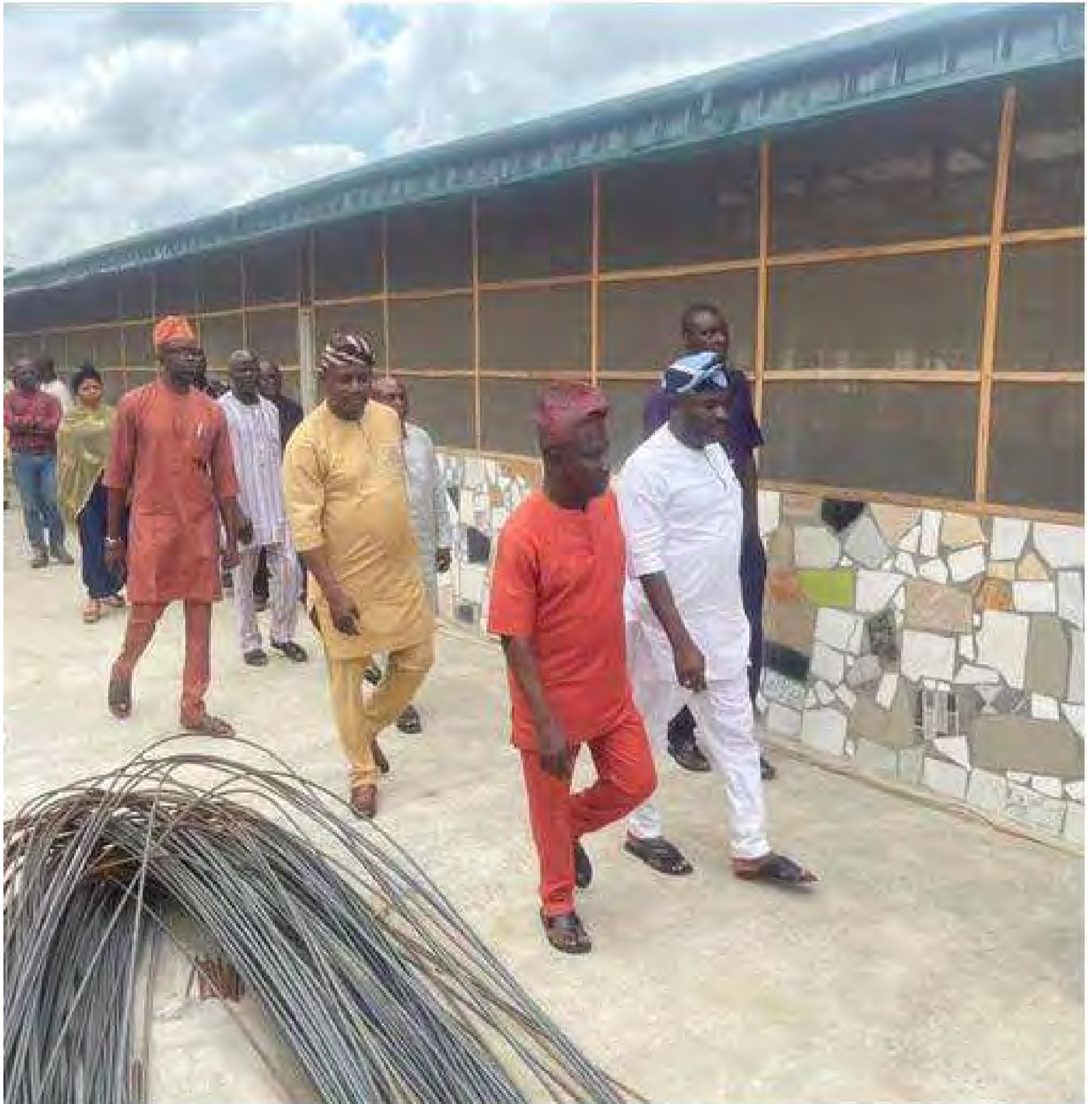
happiness and support social and sustainable development.

He also urged individuals and organizations to support the government's initiatives in aiding the less fortunate.

The initiative began at Iju Ishaga Central Mosque, where Alhaji Lateef Sunmonu, the president of the Muslim Community in Ifako Ijaiye LGA, and other Islamic scholars were present.

Somolu Council Boss Commends Construction Work on Olaleye Market

By Saheed Afolabi



The chairman of Somolu LG, Abdulhamed Salawu has commended the quality of construction work on Olaleye Market, while emphasizing its

importance in serving the grassroots community.

Salawu urged the contractor to expedite efforts to ensure the readiness of over 80 subscribed shops and the K-Clamp market

for commissioning within the next few weeks.

Once completed, the New Olaleye Market promises to be a significant relief for traders and a new revenue stream for the

Local Government. Notably, Mike Oikeh, Chairman of the Somolu Revenue Board, was included in the impromptu visit, underscoring the collaborative efforts towards the market's

revitalization.

The remodelling of the traditional market was entrusted to Premium Heights Integrated Solutions Limited, led by Oloye Ashabi Morounranti Adams.

The Council's Helmsman praised the company's efforts, highlighting the integral role played by Project Engineer, Engr. Olajide Oyedun, of Integrated Solutions Limited.

Army Commander Promises Improved Relationship With LASU

By Saheed Afolabi



The 15 Field Engineering Regiment of Nigerian Army, Topo, Badagry on Monday pledged to synergize with Lagos State University School of Basic Education and Advanced Studies (LASUSBAS) to improve their relationship. Lt. Col. SL Lawan, the Commanding Officer,

made the pledge during his courtesy visit to the institution in Badagry. According to him, the visit is to synergize and further strengthen the existing relationship between the Army and the school, as they are only a few metres away from each other. He said that the visit was also to have a

mutual understanding of the school and its environs. Going round the school premises and infrastructure, Lawan said that he was impressed and satisfied with the school. Responding, Prof Yunus Dauda, the Director, LASUSBAS, said the school would soon commence

courses on defence and security. According to Dauda, this will be an avenue for interested officers to acquire more knowledge. Dauda said that Nigerian Army are always very nice people, despite the fact that people think they are not friendly people. According to him, they are easy-going and friendly with people. "On one side, we have the Nigerian Army, and on the

other side, we have the Nigerian Navy. I always feel secure whenever I'm here. "We had a cordial relationship with the previous commandant, and we assure you of our corporation. "We hope that this relationship will extend to a comfortable end, as you can also enrol your child in our school."

Dauda also, extended the pleasantries of Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, the vice chancellor of Lagos State University, Ojo, adding that she was not surprised that the Nigerian army has officers with intimidating credentials. "We recognise your magnanimity, humility, and simplicity to having recognised us," he said.

MC Oluomo, Pledges to Serve Humanity on His 49th Birthday

By Nurudeen Adebayo

As he celebrates his 49th birthday today, the Chairman of Lagos State Parks and Garages, MC Oluomo, took to his Instagram page to express gratitude for another year of life and to make a heartfelt pledge to humanity.

In a reflective post, MC Oluomo thanked the Almighty for the gift of life and the experiences of the past year. He

emphasized the importance of learning valuable lessons, particularly the significance of keeping truly dedicated and loyal individuals close. In his own words, MC Oluomo stated, "Alhamdulillah, Alhamdulillah, Alhamdulillah. What shall I say to almighty Allah, all I have to say is thank you, Allah. I'm grateful to Almighty Allah for yet another age. I'm so grateful for the gift of life and all

that comes with it. Last year was eventful! A lot of lessons were learned and many things hitherto unknown were made bear."

Continuing with his reflection, MC Oluomo shared his resolve to rededicate himself to the cause of humanity. He pledged to serve humanity to the best of his ability, with the hope that posterity would handle the rest. He concluded his

statement by affirming his commitment to his values and identity, stating, "I Alhaji Musiliu Ayinde Akinsanya... E ru ndupe ooo. Happy birthday to me."

MC Oluomo's pledge to humanity on his special day resonates with his longstanding dedication to community service and underscores his commitment to making a positive impact on society.



Sheila Courage Celebrates Second Chance at Love

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In a whirlwind of emotions, Sheila Courage, formerly known as Sheila DMW, took to her Instagram page to share the joy of her impending nuptials, marking a significant turn in her romantic journey.

The announcement comes amidst a backdrop of controversy surrounding her previous marriage to Isreal DMW, a prominent figure known for his affiliations in the entertainment industry.

Reports suggest that Sheila, whose marriage to Isreal was marred by public scrutiny, has found solace in a new chapter of her life. Isreal, in a series of online rants, has alleged that Sheila was motivated solely by wealth, casting shadows over the authenticity of their relationship.

Furthermore, he claimed that despite her purported virgin status prior to marriage, Sheila exhibited dissatisfaction in their intimate



encounters, adding fuel to the ongoing speculation surrounding their union.

However, Sheila has largely remained silent amid the public discourse, choosing instead to address certain aspects of the situation through subtle gestures. She notably confirmed the end of her marriage by returning the bride

price paid by Isreal, signifying a formal closure to their relationship.

Confirmation of Sheila's engagement surfaced through her close friend Ginika, who conveyed her congratulations via social media. The announcement coincided with Sheila and Ginika's recent travel escapade, prompting speculation that the proposal occurred during their overseas journey.

Nollywood Actor Welcomes New Child

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Nollywood actor, Etim Effiong and his wife, Toyosi are in a joyous mood as they celebrate the birth of their third child, a baby girl.

Congratulations flood in as colleagues from

the industry and well-wishers offer warm blessings to the Effiong family on the birth of their newest addition. Etim Effiong and his wife took to the image-sharing platform, Instagram to announce the arrival of the baby

with a photo of them holding their bundle of joy.

"She's here Our song! Our love-gift! Our evidence!! Another arrow in our quiver to the glory of GOD!! Thank You LORD for your kindness towards us ," she captioned the photo.



Ibeju-Lekki LG Chairman Initiates Secretariat Road



Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government, Hon. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa, led the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Secretariat Road. The newly announced road project, spanning 400 meters, will feature state-of-the-art paving, advanced drainage systems, and modern street lighting. It is strategically designed to link the bustling Lekki Epe Expressway with vital locations such as the local government

secretariat, the Legislative Building, and a forthcoming housing estate slated for construction under the local government's ambitious development agenda. In his address during the groundbreaking ceremony, Hon. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa reiterated the local government's unwavering commitment to infrastructural development, emphasizing that

“our commitment to infrastructural development is non-negotiable.” He highlighted the importance of quality roads in facilitating economic activities, improving transportation efficiency, and enhancing the overall quality of life for residents and businesses in Ibeju-Lekki. According to him, the construction of the Secretariat Road holds immense socioeconomic significance for the local government and its residents.

Olowa noted that the improved road network will streamline access to key administrative and governmental facilities, promoting administrative efficiency and effectiveness.

Additionally, he stated that the integration of advanced drainage systems will address longstanding drainage challenges, mitigating the risk of flooding during the rainy season and safeguarding the community's infrastructure. He added that the

installation of modern street lighting will enhance visibility and safety, fostering a secure environment for pedestrians and motorists alike. The Secretariat Road project aligns with the broader vision of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government to position itself as a hub of progress, innovation, and sustainable development. It underscores the proactive approach of the local government under the leadership of Hon. Abdullahi

Sesan Olowa in prioritizing infrastructure that drives economic growth, attracts investment, and enhances the overall well-being of its residents. As construction commences on the Secretariat Road, anticipation grows among residents and stakeholders for the tangible benefits it will bring, symbolizing a transformative step forward in the ongoing journey of development and prosperity in Ibeju-Lekki Local Government.

Osimhen is suited for Premier League football - Glenn Hoddle

By Saheed Afolabi

Former Chelsea player, Glenn Hoddle believes the English Premier League football is suitable for Victor Osimhen style of play. The Nigeria striker has been involved with transfer speculations after revealing he will be leaving Napoli at the end of the season. Hoddle said the Premier League suits Osimhen and he has shown hunger to succeed. He stated that the Africa Footballer of the year is hungry to score goals which is a huge

mindset or character. "He's a Premier League player looking at him, the style of him as well, and the league, the style suits him, but he's got his hunger back. "That's the main thing. I think now he's back to his best. He's got the hunger, and the movement, he wants to score goals. That's the big difference, the mindset." The 25 year old helped Napoli to win the Scudetto title after 33 years and also won the golden boot award last season.



The fourth edition of the Extra Quality Ramadan Cup kickoff date have been revealed. The invitational tournament will start on Wednesday, March 27 and end on Sunday, April seven. 12 teams will participate in this year's edition which has been established to celebrate the holy

Extra Quality Ramadan Cup kicks off March 27

By Saheed Afolabi

month of Ramadan. Speaking to ECHONEWS, the founder of MS Success FC and LOC chairman, Musbau Oseni said the purpose of the

tournament is to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan. He added that, the tournament will also serve as a medium of uniting and promoting football in the

grassroots. Oseni further stated that, the Extra Quality Ramadan Cup will also make the community lively as fasting Muslims and other religion faithfuls will troop out in the

evening to get entertained with the tournament. Over 160 players are expected to horn their skills and show their brilliance in the annual

tournament which the inaugural edition started in 2021 and MS Success emerged the champions at the Eko Boys High School, Mushin.

Fatodu Calls For Mass Participation In Archery

The Director-General, Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC), Lekan Fatodu called for mass participation in sports, particularly archery that focuses on determination and dedication, just as he joined others in the Sport Skills Demonstration Fatodu made the call recently at an Archery Demonstration held at the Zen Archery, Ilupeju, as part of the preparation for the commencement of a two-day Zen Archery Open Lagos Championship scheduled to be held at the Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere,



between Saturday, 9th March – 10th Sunday, 2024.

He stressed that the LSSC is committed to supporting the growth and development of

archery, aiming to transform it into a mass-participation sport in Lagos. This resonates with the commitment and

vision of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu led administration to diversify sports in Lagos, bring out the best in sporting events and support rising stars

like Oyeleke.

He said, “It was a fascinating experience trying archery for the first time today with

renowned international archer and medalist, Emmanuel Oyeleke, and the incredible team at Zen Archery”.

“Archery is a sport rapidly gaining traction in Nigeria. Trying it out and learning the basics of the sport was an enriching experience that provided me with technical knowledge and insight into the art and sport of archery”, Fatodu added.

The DG, therefore, encouraged everyone to consider trying archery, saying “It's a spectacular sport offering a unique blend of physical and mental challenges within a recreational and stimulating environment”.

Director-General, Lagos State Sports Commission, Lekan Fatodu has applauded the Lagos State Cricket Association for organising a Schools Cricket developmental programme for pupils aged 4-12 years in both Private and Public Schools. Fatodu gave the commendation at the second phase of the Schools Development Programme held recently at the Cricket Oval, the University of Lagos Sports Complex, Akoka, Yaba.

He described the event as a way of developing Sports at the grassroots and encouraging mass participation by introducing pupils in primary schools to the sports, which helps in building confidence,

... lauds Association for developing cricket in schools

character and team building.

Fatodu stated that the presence of the Lagos State Sports Commission is a testament to the commitment of the state government to develop all sports and support the various Associations in enhancing productivity and potential.

The DG appreciated the Cricket Association for initiating this project as a way of promoting the sport, saying “I know the role of education in sport, so we need to collaborate more



with the Ministry of Education to bring the best out of the children. As such, we want all the stakeholders to use

this as an opportunity to collaborate to achieve more”.


“With the support of the Lagos State Government, a “Train

the Trainer” Course will be organised so that we can identify the areas where we can improve the capacity, as well as

provide tools and kits that will bring the best individuals out in various sporting areas”, Fatodu added.



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