

Got A Story?
Call
08032178602

To Place
Adverts,
Call
08025378799

Defamation Suit: Court
Awards N30m Damages
Against VeryDarkMan **Pg.37**



Tobi Amusan Delighted
After Claiming Third **Pg.39**
African 100m Hurdles Title

Echonews

www.echonews.ng

A publication of Echonews Newspapers Limited

Monday 18th May - Sunday 23rd May 2026



APC REPS PRIMARIES:

**Pg.
2&4**

PETITIONS FLOOD APPEAL COMMITTEE

... the petitioners besieged the APC party secretariat as early as 12 noon on Sunday to seek redress

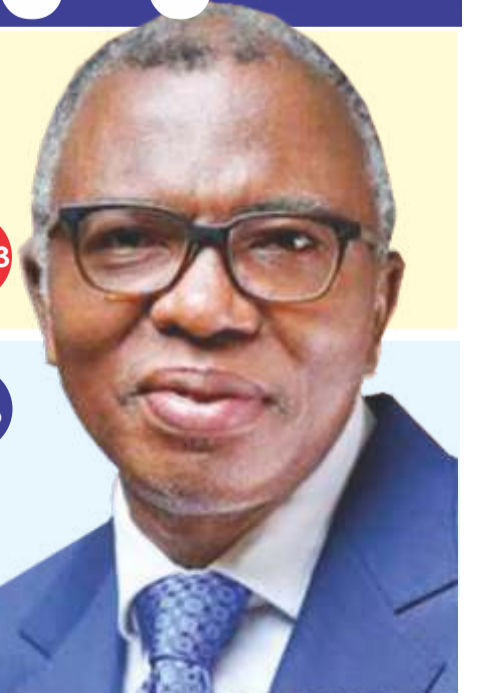
Parents Raise Alarm Over Growing Number of Idle Youths in Agege **Pg.19**

Why LASUSTECH Organised Digital
Skills Training For Traders, Artisans **Pg.33**

DMO Announces **Pg.12**
N600bn FGN Bond
Auction for May 2026

Lagos Set To **Pg.6**
Produce Biogas

Lagos Transport Records Major Milestones Under Sanwo-Olu **Pg.6**



APC Reps primaries: Petitions flood Appeal Committee

By Kunle Awosiyon, Saheed Afolabi, Emmanuel Daniji

Not less than 100 petitions are awaiting the attention of the Appeals Committee set up by the All Progressives Congress to review allegations of irregularities and declaration of false results in the May 16 House of Reps primaries in Lagos State. Echonews learnt that members of the Appeal Committee flew into Lagos from various parts of the country yesterday and will start sitting today.

Top among the complaints in the petitions are that accreditation of voters did not take place, violence and inflation of vote figures.

Yesterday, President Bola Tinubu issued a statement urging the national chairman to do the needful wherever irregularities were used to frustrate the expression of the people's mandate.

Recall that the APC House of Representatives

primaries held across Lagos State on Saturday were marred by allegations of irregularities,

result manipulation, voter intimidation, and violence in several constituencies.

Reports from multiple venues monitored by Echonews indicated that the exercise was characterised by flawed accreditation processes, disputed vote counts, disruptions, and claims of political interference by party leaders.

At Ejigbo Primary School, venue of the Oshodi-Isolo Constituency II primary, the process was fraught with controversy as electoral officers allegedly failed to carry out proper accreditation.

Party members who arrived as early as 9 a.m. reportedly met no electoral officials at the venue. Officials eventually arrived around 2 p.m., accompanied by the Chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, Hon. Taoheed Taiwo.

According to party agents, Taiwo informed members that all aspirants had allegedly been directed to



Are, GAC member

step down for former LCDA Chairman, Monsuru Obe, and advised supporters to queue behind him.

Agents also alleged that supporters wearing campaign-branded materials were not asked to

remove them, contrary to standard electoral procedures.

Supporters of other aspirants, including that of Kehinde Bamigbetan, Ganiyu Johnson, and Akintunde, reportedly

resisted the directive and insisted on a proper count.

Tension escalated when the electoral officer allegedly conducted the counting silently without the use of a microphone, making it difficult for observers to verify figures.

Although five aspirants contested, party agents claimed inconsistencies emerged during collation.

According to Bamigbetan's agent, Mr. Wale Fashola, Bamigbetan scored 816 votes while Obe polled 800, but the final sheet allegedly recorded 1,600 votes for Obe.

Fashola further alleged that Obe's agent, Mr. Wasiu Onibudo, had signed the result sheet before figures were entered.

"I demanded to know why Monsuru Obe's count was not immediately recorded after counting, unlike Bamigbetan's, but no satisfactory explanation was given," he said.

When our correspondent approached Obe's agent, Onibudo, for his comment on the conduct of the poll, he threatened to break the reporter's camera.

Similar allegations surfaced in Isolo, where party members accused local officials of attempting to impose Obe as a consensus candidate despite voting being underway.

In Lagos Mainland, reports of voter intimidation and disruption emerged from centres in Apapa Road, Makoko, Iwaya, and Adekunle.

Supporters of one aspirant, Kazeem Omolaja, were accused by rivals of disrupting the process and allegedly preventing delegates believed to support Abdulhakeem Animashaun from participating.

Animashaun's supporters also alleged that loyalists of the local government chairman, identified as Emilagba, compromised the credibility of the exercise.



The Badagry rivals

A new Lagos is in the works

The future is loading!

Pay your part. **Pay your tax!**



Lagos State Internal Revenue Service

Lagos Revenue House, Assbifi Road, Central Business District, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos State

Tel: 0700-CALL-LIRS (0700 2255 5477)

Lagos State Internal Revenue Service (LIRS) | www.lirs.gov.ng | @lirsgovng | @lirs_govng | info@lirs.net



APC Reps primaries: Petitions flood Appeal Committee

Continued From Page 2

Several aggrieved members rejected the outcome.

"We reject whatever outcome emerges from today's election because the process was flawed and manipulated," one protesting supporter said.

Violence also erupted in Alimosho and Mushin during the primaries. At Onilewura Street, Liasu Road, Egbe, suspected hoodlums reportedly stormed the Alimosho venue, firing sporadically and causing panic among party members.

The chaos disrupted voting and forced participants to flee. Several persons reportedly sustained injuries, while some attendees were allegedly robbed of mobile phones and valuables.

Confirming the incident, Lagos State Police Command Deputy Public Relations Officer, ASP Femi Adeoye, said 10 suspects were arrested and a locally made firearm recovered.

"The hoodlums responsible for the disturbance have been arrested and taken to Ikotun Divisional Police Station. A gun was also recovered from them," he said.

In Mushin, violence broke out before voting commenced for Mushin Constituency II, triggering a stampede. Leading aspirants in the contest included APC spokesman Seye Oladejo and incumbent lawmaker Hon. Oluwatoyin Fayinka.

In Badagry, party members raised concerns over

conflicting result sheets.

One result circulating online showed incumbent lawmaker Hon. Sesi Oluwaseun Whingan polling 3,889 votes against Hon. Olusegun Adeniran Onilude's 3,339.

However, critics noted that the figures covered only six of the constituency's 11 wards.

Another result sheet presented at the Badagry Local Government Secretariat reportedly declared Onilude winner with 18,887 votes against Whingan's 7,489.

Party member Senu Ayodeji Martins questioned discrepancies in figures announced at his polling centre.

"We all knew Onilude scored 989. How did the additional '1' appear to make it 1,989?" he queried.

He claimed video evidence exists showing the original figures announced by officials.

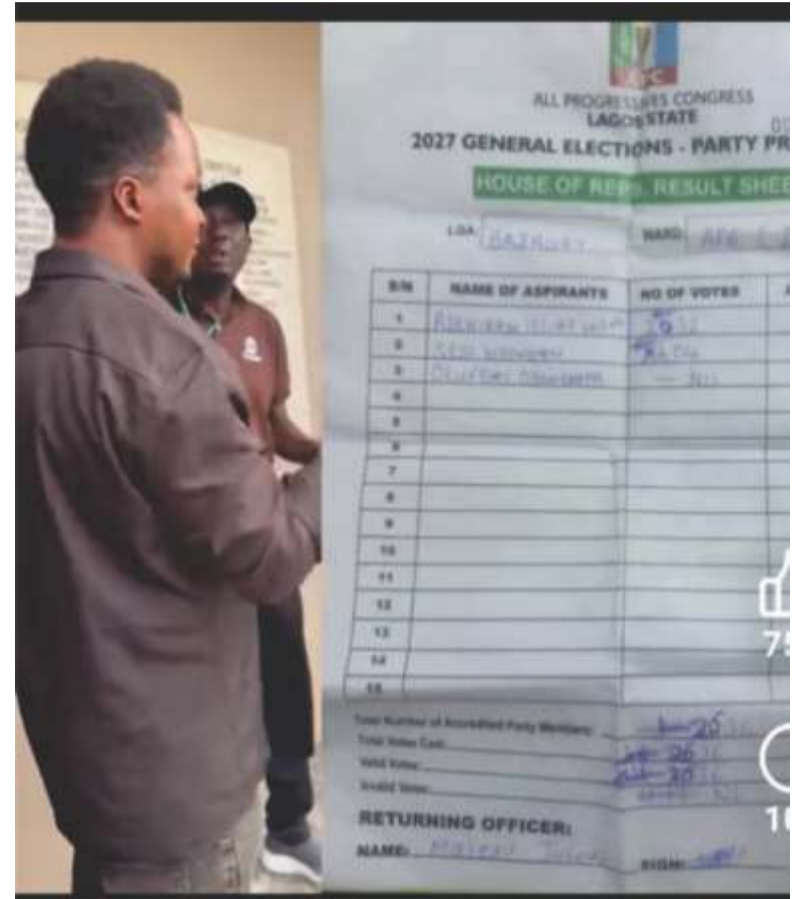
In Apapa-Iganmu LCDA, controversy followed the endorsement of incumbent lawmakers Hon. Adedayo Samuel and Hon. Musibau Aina Lawal for second terms.

While LCDA Chairman Hon. Jimoh Olawale Saliu described the endorsement as the outcome of broad stakeholder consultations, some party members rejected the move.

Meanwhile, in Apapa Federal Constituency, party member Daniel Igwiro appealed to GAC member Alhaji Mutiu Are over allegations that the victory of Hon. Mufutau Egberongbe was substituted after collation.

In Kosofe, Dele Oshinowo reportedly secured 18,614 votes to defeat incumbent Kafilat Ogbara, who polled 5,150, although conflicting results continued to circulate online.

In Agege Constituency I, Lagos State House of



Assembly Speaker Hon. Mudashiru Obasa returned unopposed, while Hon. James Abiodun Faleke also emerged unopposed in Ikeja.

For Lagos Island Constituency II, Hon. Sola Giwa stepped down for Hon. Kayode Moshood Akiolu as consensus candidate. Several aggrieved aspirants have

threatened to challenge the outcome of the primaries before the party's appeal committee, citing alleged imposition, manipulation, and procedural breaches. The APC leadership is yet to issue an official statewide response to the allegations as of press time

ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS BADAGRY FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY



S/N	WARD	WARD	SESI	ONICO	DIF.	REMARKS
1	A	POSUKOH	472	410	62	
2	B	AWANJIGOH	657	988	331	
3	C	IBEREKO	0	0	0	NO VOTE COUNTS
4	D	APA	0	0	0	NO VOTE COUNTS
5	E	KETA-EAST	0	0	0	NO VOTE COUNTS
6	F	IWORO/GBANKO	693	645	48	
7	G	AJIDO	279	540	261	
8	H	ARAROMI/ILOGBO	0	0	0	NO VOTE COUNTS
9	I	IKOGA	1285	183	1102	
10	J	AJARA	0	0	0	NO VOTE COUNTS
11	K	SALU/YAFIN	503	573	70	
TOTAL			3,889	3,339	550	

LASCOPA Signs MoU With MASEON, NARTO, Others To Strengthen Edible Oil

The Lagos State Consumer Protection Agency (LASCOPA) has signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Marketers and Sellers of Edible Oil Association of Nigeria (MASEON), the Nigerian Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO), and the Association of Edible Oil Tanker Drivers of Nigeria under the National Union of Edible Oil Tanker Drivers of Nigeria (ETD/NUEOTDN) to strengthen edible oil transportation safety, hygiene, and compliance standards in Lagos State.

The General Manager of LASCOPA, Afolabi Solebo Esq., stated that the agreement establishes a collaborative framework aimed at protecting consumers from contaminated, adulterated, and unsafe edible oil products resulting from poor transportation practices and tanker misuse.

According to him, the partnership became necessary following

reports that some tankers used for transporting edible oils were also being deployed for petroleum products, diesel, and other hazardous substances, thereby exposing consumers to serious health and safety risks through cross-contamination and chemical residue retention.

Under the terms of the MoU, all parties agreed to enforce strict hygiene, operational, and traceability standards across the edible oil transportation value chain within Lagos State.

The key objectives of the agreement include ensuring that tankers designated for edible oil transportation are used exclusively for that purpose; preventing the use of edible oil tankers for petroleum products and hazardous substances; strengthening tanker registration, identification, and traceability systems; enhancing consumer protection against contaminated edible

oils; promoting industry compliance and public safety; and establishing a Joint Enforcement and Compliance Committee for coordinated monitoring and enforcement activities.

As part of its statutory responsibilities under the Lagos State Consumer Protection Agency Law, 2025, LASCOPA will conduct inspections, compliance monitoring, scientific sampling, and laboratory testing of edible oils where necessary.

The Agency will also continue to investigate consumer complaints, coordinate public awareness programmes, and enforce consumer protection laws against violators.

The National President, Marketers and Sellers of Edible Oil Association (MASEON), Alhaji Labaran Sidi; The President, Association of Edible Oil Tanker Drivers of Nigeria (ETD/NUEOTDN), Ilias Aperun; The State Chairman, National Association of Road

Transportation Owners (NARTO), Alh. Kayode Odunwo, represented by the Deputy State Chairman, Ayinla Kamaldeen also committed to ensuring that only dedicated food-grade certified tankers are used for edible oil transportation while maintaining proper documentation and operational compliance among members.

The MoU further provides for periodic inspections, random spot checks, stakeholders' training programmes, consumer education campaigns, and joint enforcement operations within the limits of the law.

LASCOPA reiterated that consumer safety remains a top priority of the Lagos State Government and warned that violators engaging in unsafe transportation practices or tanker misuse would face sanctions and prosecution in accordance with the law.

LAWMA Advocates Updated Waste Management Master Plan



The Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) has explained the need to update Lagos State's Waste Management Master Plan to align with emerging realities and the growing demands of a rapidly expanding megacity.

The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of LAWMA, Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin noted that the State had operated a rolling waste management framework since the Babatunde Raji Fashola administration, which had guided reforms and improvements in the sector over the years.

He noted that evolving urban challenges, population growth, and changing waste patterns now required a more updated and comprehensive approach to sustain progress and drive future development.

According to him, "What we are doing is building on an existing foundation. The waste management system in Lagos has evolved, and the current effort is to update the framework to reflect new realities and position the State for the future."

He explained that the updated Master Plan would provide a clear roadmap for planning investments in critical infrastructure and system upgrades over the next 10 to 15 years. He identified key priority areas to

include landfill development, material recovery facilities, waste-to-energy systems, biogas plants, mechanical street sweepers, and expansion of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework through PSP operators.

He added that the updated framework would also support capacity development and promote local manufacturing and assembly of waste management equipment, including compactor trucks and tricycle compactors.

The LAWMA boss further noted that the long-term goal was to transition Lagos towards a Zero Waste economy, where waste generation would be minimised while maximising resource recovery, recycling, and reuse.

He emphasised that such a transition would not only improve environmental outcomes but also unlock economic opportunities within the waste value chain.

Dr. Gbadegesin reaffirmed LAWMA's commitment to continuous reform, strategic planning, and collaboration with stakeholders and development partners to build a more efficient, resilient, and sustainable waste management system for Lagos.



Lagos Set To Produce Biogas

The Lagos State Government has announced plans to begin the commercial production of biogas and bio-methane as part of efforts to reduce dependence on imported fuel and promote a cleaner environment. To achieve this, the State has set up a Technical Committee made up of different Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). The Commissioner for Transportation, Oluwaseun Osiyemi, made this known during the 2026 Ministerial Press Briefing held at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, Secretariat, Alausa, to mark the 7th Anniversary of the Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu led administration in Lagos State.

Presenting the Ministry's achievements, Mr. Osiyemi said a feasibility study confirmed that biogas and bio-methane are good alternatives to diesel. He explained that Lagos generates about 13,000 metric tonnes of waste daily, with 45 per cent being organic waste that can be used to produce bio-methane fuel locally at a lower cost. According to him, the newly created Technical Committee will help drive the process towards full commercial production. Speaking on environmental sustainability, the Commissioner said the State Government has introduced several programmes aimed

at reducing carbon emissions and making Lagos cleaner. He listed some of the initiatives to include the conversion of 152 First and Last Mile buses from petrol to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), the development of a seven-line electric rail network, and the gradual replacement of diesel with cleaner energy sources such as CNG, electricity, and biogas in bus operations. Mr. Osiyemi revealed that CNG buses introduced since 2022 have transported more than 600,000 passengers while reducing fuel costs by 50 per cent. He also stated that two electric buses deployed on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes completed a

90-day pilot programme, transporting over 150,000 passengers and reducing about 200,000 kilograms of carbon emissions. In the same vein, the Lagos State Government, through the Office of the Senior Special Assistant on Transportation and Logistics and in partnership with United Bank for Africa, introduced 2,000 CNG-powered trucks under Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's haulage reform programme. The initiative is aimed at replacing old and unsafe trucks responsible for many road accidents, while promoting safer and cleaner haulage operations across the State. The Commissioner

also highlighted the Sustainability Conference organised by Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority, themed "Harnessing Clean Urban Transport Innovation and Investment in Africa". The conference, according to him, brought together African cities, development partners, and transport stakeholders to discuss cleaner and more sustainable transportation systems. Noting that the conference aimed to further strengthen Lagos' position as a leading city in sustainable urban transportation in Africa, Osiyemi stated that programmes such as the E1 Sport Series and EcoMove

Lagos were introduced to encourage innovation in water transportation and promote cleaner and smarter mobility across the State. He also disclosed that more electric and CNG-powered vehicles are now being registered within the e-hailing sector, showing growing support for cleaner transportation in Lagos. In his words, "All these efforts align with the THEMES Plus Agenda of the State Government, which focuses on eco-friendly transportation, reduced emissions, better traffic management, and improved integration of road, rail, air, and water transport systems to support economic growth".



Lagos Onboards Accelerators For N10bn LASMECO Fund

Lagos State Government has onboarded 19 accelerators as it sets to kick off the call for and processing of applications from interested members of cooperative societies for the disbursement of the single-digit interest 10 billion Naira non-collateralised finance initiative for cooperatives-based MSMEs.

The signing ceremony held in the Conference Room of the Ministry of Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment (MCCTI), Alausa, Ikeja, marks the moment when the initiative met the institutions that will carry it across Lagos State and into the lives of thousands of entrepreneurs.

Speaking at the event, Commissioner for CCTI, Folashade Bada Ambrose-Medebem, described the selection process as painstaking, transparent, and merit-driven, as it was guided by competence, technical depth, innovation, demonstrated experience, and alignment with the developmental aspirations of Lagos State.

Her words: "We are satisfied that the organisations represented before us possess the expertise and the institutional commitment required to drive meaningful impact across the LASMECO MSME landscape. You will provide rigorous enterprise support services, strengthen the capacity of beneficiaries, uphold accountability and transparency in every transaction touched by your platforms,



support active monitoring and evaluation under the Ministry's oversight, and ensure every deserving entrepreneur under this scheme receives the guidance required to build a sustainable, bankable, and competitive business." According to her, LASMECO was conceived to do four things: bridge longstanding financing gaps for MSMEs operating through cooperatives; deepen financial inclusion across every Local Government and LCDA in Lagos State; strengthen the institutional capacity of the cooperative structures themselves, and unlock the productive potential of thousands of entrepreneurs whose growth has, for too long, been held back by capital constraints.

"This is why our partnership with the Bank of Industry (BOI) illustrates the power of strategic collaboration in advancing economic development. By combining the institutional weight of

BOI with the vision and grassroots reach of Lagos State, we are establishing a financing model that is practical, scalable, and people-centred. The initiative aligns directly with our broader agenda to formalise businesses, stimulate industrial growth, reduce unemployment, empower women and youth entrepreneurs, and strengthen the productive base of local enterprises across our State.

"Through this initiative, the State is delivering capital alongside mentorship, business development support, market facilitation, and institutional strengthening. This programme sits squarely within the unambiguous economic agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration, which is building an inclusive, resilient, innovation-driven economy in which Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises stand as full engines of productivity, employment, and prosperity for our

people," she said.

The Commissioner stressed that accountability, transparency, and impact measurement remain fundamental pillars of LASMECO as every naira deployed under the programme must translate into visible economic value: business expansion, job creation, and improved livelihoods for Lagos residents, while noting that MCCTI will continue to monitor implementation closely, in collaboration with BOI, to safeguard efficiency, compliance, and long-term sustainability.

She called on cooperative societies and MSMEs to seize the opportunity with seriousness, integrity, and ambition, encouraging them to deploy the resources prudently, to maintain sound financial practices, and to build enterprises capable of competing within Lagos, across Nigeria, throughout Africa, and on the global stage. Permanent Secretary,

MCCTI, Mr. Babatunde Onigbanjo, tasked stakeholders to remain united in purpose to ensure that the LASMECO Programme delivers measurable impact across communities, markets, and industries in Lagos State. "Together, through strong partnerships, accountability, and collective action, we can build a more resilient MSME ecosystem and create greater economic opportunities for present and future generations," he said. Regional Manager, South West, Bank of Industry, Richard Imonije, and Project Manager, Sterling Bank Plc, Paul Olatoye, both pledged the support of their respective institutions to support and work with the accelerators. Chief Executive Officer, Watershed Capital Limited, Dr. Olumuyiwa Olanrewaju, appreciated the state government for the opportunity and committed to doing their best to ensure the success of the programme.

Lagos Lands Bureau Holds Retreat On Digital Transformation

The Lagos State Lands Bureau has concluded a three-day Team Bonding and Performance Enhancement Retreat themed "Sustainable Performance, Digital Readiness & Team Excellence for a Greater Lagos" at Jubilee Chalets, Epe. The retreat is part of the strategic efforts by the Bureau aimed at strengthening institutional efficiency, promoting teamwork, and enhancing service delivery through digital transformation initiatives.

The Lagos State Head of Service, Bode Agoro, while declaring the retreat open, commended the Lands Bureau for its commitment to institutional transformation and innovation within the State Public Service. Agoro noted that

advancement continues to reshape public service operations and citizens' expectations globally, stressing that Lagos State is deliberately positioning itself at the forefront of this evolution.

According to him, the State Government is steadily transitioning from conventional administrative processes to modern electronic systems, making digital adaptation and technological competence essential for all public servants, particularly officers of the Lands Bureau.

The Head of Service also applauded the professionalism, resilience, and dedication displayed by the staff of the Bureau, describing their responsibilities as critical to the State's socio-economic growth and

investment climate. He further commended officers for their patience, civility, and professionalism in handling public interactions, noting that their conduct has continued to distinguish the Bureau among the State Ministries, Departments, and Agencies in Lagos State.

In his remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Lands Bureau, Mr. Kamar Olowshago expressed appreciation to the Lagos State Government for its sustained investment in human capital development and digital transformation initiatives within the public service.

Olowshago stated that under the administration of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu and the THEMES Plus Agenda, the Bureau is not only embracing

technology but also redefining land administration processes in Lagos State to ensure greater efficiency, transparency, and ease of doing business.

He explained that the retreat was specifically designed to strengthen collaboration among staff, deepen digital readiness, and align the workforce with the demands of a modern and technology-driven land administration system.

The retreat featured strategic sessions on leadership development, institutional effectiveness, digital innovation, performance management, and team-building activities aimed at improving productivity and enhancing overall service delivery across the Bureau.

Education District I Trains Tomorrow's Leaders

Education District I recently held its Young Uplifters' Club Leadership Camp 2026 (2nd Edition), a four-day transformative experience themed: "From Potential to Purpose: Building Tomorrow's Responsible Leaders" at Model College Meiran. The camp brought together young minds in an atmosphere charged with purpose, growth, and the desire to become responsible leaders of tomorrow.

At the heart of this impactful programme was the Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary of Education District I, Dr. Idowu Olufunke Oyetola, who spoke passionately about the theme, emphasising that while everyone possesses potential designed to give life direction and meaning. She encouraged the students to be intentional in their actions, disciplined in their pursuits, and conscious of the responsibilities that come with leadership. In her interaction while engaging with the student, she demonstrated that leadership is not only about authority but also about connection, humility, and genuine human engagement.

The organisers of the event ensured that each day of the camp was filled with meaningful and engaging activities. From the very first day, students were welcomed into an environment that encouraged bonding and collaboration through ice-breaker sessions and team-building exercises. These activities

helped build trust, unity, and a strong sense of community among participants.

As the camp progressed, attention shifted to personal growth and self-discovery. Through interactive workshops, group discussions, and reflective sessions, students began to identify their strengths and understand key values such as resilience, communication, and discipline.

The organisers also invited external bodies that contributed significantly by sharing real-life experiences, practical knowledge, and guidance on personal development, career paths, and social responsibility. The sessions broadened the students' perspectives and inspired them to think beyond their immediate environment.

By the final day, the transformation among the students was evident. They confidently presented group projects that showcased creativity, teamwork, and a deeper understanding of leadership and purpose. The closing ceremony was filled with joy and reflection, marking not just the end of the camp but the beginning of a renewed mindset.

In essence, the Young Uplifters' Club Leadership Camp 2026 was more than just a four-day event; it was a journey that truly brought its theme to life, equipping students with the mindset, confidence, and values needed to transform their potential into purposeful leadership.



Lagos Transport Records Major Milestones Under Sanwo-Olu

The Lagos State Ministry of Transportation has highlighted major achievements recorded under the administration of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu as the State marks the third year of the Governor's second term in office.

Speaking during the 2026 Ministerial Press Briefing held at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, Secretariat, Alausa, the Honourable Commissioner for Transportation, Mr. Oluwaseun Osiyemi said the State Government has continued to transform Lagos into a modern megacity through strategic investments in rail, road, water transportation, traffic management, and sustainable mobility initiatives.

According to him, the administration has intensified efforts aimed at reducing traffic congestion and improving connectivity through several ongoing and completed transport projects across the State.

Among the major achievements highlighted were the expansion of the Lagos Rail Mass Transit system, including the ongoing Blue Line Phase II project from Mile 2 to Okokomaiko, increased operations on the Red Line Rail, and the introduction of additional train coaches to improve passenger movement and reduce waiting time.



The Ministry also revealed that over 3.5 million passengers have used the Blue Rail Line, while Lagos Bus Services Limited (LBSL) has transported more than 60 million passengers since its inception, with over 42,000 commuters currently using the buses daily across different corridors.

In the area of traffic management, the State Government embarked on major junction improvement projects along Toyin Street, Opebi Road, Allen Avenue, and other strategic corridors. This was alongside the installation of intelligent traffic signal lights in Ikeja, Lekki, Ikoyi, Surulere, Epe, Gbagada, and Victoria Island to improve traffic flow and

roadsafety.

The briefing also highlighted the introduction of technology-driven transport solutions, including the E-Call Up System for trucks along the Lekki-Epe Corridor, deployment of Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras, digital parking management systems, and the expansion of the Cowry Card unified payment system across rail, buses, and ferries.

On waterways transportation, the Ministry disclosed that about two million passengers now use Lagos waterways monthly, while new ferry routes, safety campaigns, life jacket distribution programmes, and the OMI-EKO electric ferry initiative are helping to

reposition water transportation as a safe and reliable alternative.

The State Government also reaffirmed its commitment to environmental sustainability through cleaner transport initiatives such as electric buses, CNG-powered vehicles, electric ferries, and ongoing plans for bio-methane fuel alternatives.

Osiyemi noted that the Ministry remains committed to delivering a safe, integrated, affordable, and sustainable transportation system in line with the THEMES Plus Agenda of the Sanwo-Olu administration.

He added that several new projects are already planned for 2026, including the

Green and Purple Rail Line projects, the Lekki Water Taxi initiative, AI driver simulators for training, modernisation of transport infrastructure, and further deployment of smart mobility systems across Lagos State.

Earlier, the Honourable Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Gbenga Omotoso said the impact of Governor Sanwo-Olu's administration in the transportation sector is being felt across Lagos State. He added that people who believe transportation is only about the Blue and Red Line Rail projects or NURTW activities would now better understand that transportation is much broader and involves several interconnected sectors and initiatives.

ADVERTISE IN

Echonews

DIGITAL NEWSPAPER



ADVERT RATES

COLOUR PAGE		BLACK & WHITE	
FULL PAGE	N250,000	FULL PAGE	N200,000
HALF PAGE	N145,000	HALF PAGE	N115,000
QUARTER PAGE	N70,000	QUARTER PAGE	N55,000

Subscribe | Advertise | Partner

www.echonews.ng | www.facebook.com/EchonewsNG

Got A Story? Call / Whatsapp 0803 217 8602 To Place Adverts, Call 0810 568 4363

NSCDC Arrests Togo, Benin Nationals For Fraud

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC, has arrested 21 Togo, Benin and Central African Republic nationals accused of running a fake job placement scheme in Badagry. The NSCDC carried out the enforcement following a complaint lodged by a citizen of the Central African Republic, identified as Atari Allah Iderim, who alleged that he was deceived and unlawfully restricted by persons linked to a business scheme identified as QNET. Iderim told the agency that he was promised employment opportunities and arrangements to travel to Cameroon, but upon arrival in Nigeria, he and others were allegedly

pressured to register for the business scheme instead. He further alleged that his mobile phone was taken and sold, while his foreign SIM cards were destroyed. He claimed he was later given N10,000 for feeding and warned not to leave the premises until he sourced money to register for the business. Following the complaint, NSCDC operatives carried out a raid at Torikoh area of Badagry, leading to the arrest of the suspects comprising 16 males and five females, some identified themselves as leaders and trainers within the organisation, while preliminary interrogation allegedly revealed that the group

operated a network marketing structure requiring recruits to pay about 650,000 CFA francs as registration according to the body further findings indicated that the group allegedly operated through

different camps or branches located in Aradagun, Mowo, Badagry Town and Limca area. It disclosed that the suspects were transferred to the Nigeria Immigration Service for further

investigation over alleged immigration violations. The agency stated that several of the suspects were found without valid travel documents. The NSCDC said investigations are ongoing to determine

the full extent of the activities, identify other collaborators and establish possible offences relating to irregular migration, fraudulent recruitment, extortion and unlawful restriction of movement.



Businessman Bags 7yr Jail Term For \$247,390 Fraud

The Lagos State Special Offences Court in Ikeja has sentenced a businessman, Kingsley Obasi, to seven years imprisonment for perpetuating fraud to the tune of \$247,390. Obasi was arraigned alongside his company, Great King Parkson Industrial Company, by the Lagos Zonal Directorate 1 of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a one-count charge of stealing, after which he was sentenced by the court judge, Mojisola Dada. The EFCC had

filed a one-count charge against the transgressor on February 22, 2023, stating that the offence was in violation of Section 287(9)(b) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2011. The anti-graft agency, the anti-graft agency the conviction reflects ongoing efforts to ensure accountability and combat economic and financial crimes in the country. The EFCC also urged members of the public to remain vigilant against fraudulent schemes and reaffirmed its commitment to prosecuting

24yr Old Man In Custody Over Possession Of Stolen 2.8M Cash

offenders. The police in Lagos has arrested one Toheeb Ameen, 24, over accusations of being in Possession of N2.8M stolen cash. The police, while arraigning the suspect at the Ikeja Magistrates' Court, held that Ameen is facing a one count charge bordering on receiving stolen property, as said by the Police Prosecutor, John Ibwredem. Ibwredem told the court that the suspect committed the sometime in March at Oshodi after allegedly receiving the sum from

one Faruk Abiola, who is now standing trial in the court, knowing same to have been stolen or unlawfully obtained. The

policeman relayed that the offence is in violation to Section 328 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015, albeit, the defendant

pleading not guilty. The court granted the defendant bail in the sum of 500,000 with two responsible sureties and adjourned





DMO Announces N600bn FGN Bond Auction for May 2026

The Debt Management Office (DMO) has unveiled plans for a 600 billion Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) bond auction scheduled for May 2026, as the country continues to lean on the domestic capital market to fund budgetary needs and manage fiscal pressures.

The planned issuance forms part of the government's routine borrowing programme, designed to support public spending while providing fixed-income investment opportunities for

institutional players such as pension fund administrators, banks, insurance companies, and asset managers.

The auction is expected to include long-term FGN bonds aimed at attracting strong demand from investors seeking relatively stable, naira-denominated returns amid ongoing economic reforms and inflationary pressures.

Financial market operators note that FGN bonds remain a key pillar of government financing in Nigeria, helping to bridge budget deficits while also

AtumeTerfa

deepening liquidity in the domestic debt market and establishing benchmark interest rates for the broader financial system.

The DMO reiterated that FGN bonds are fully backed by the Federal Government, making them one of the most secure investment instruments in the country's financial ecosystem. The securities are also listed on both the Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX) and the FMDQ OTC Securities Exchange, ensuring secondary market

liquidity for investors.

Recent bond auctions have consistently attracted strong participation, with subscription levels often surpassing offer sizes, underscoring continued investor confidence in sovereign debt instruments despite macroeconomic headwinds.

Analysts say Nigeria's growing reliance on domestic borrowing reflects a broader strategy to reduce foreign exchange exposure while managing the rising cost of

external debt servicing and global financing constraints.

Pension fund administrators are expected to play a dominant role in the upcoming auction, given regulatory investment requirements and their traditional preference for low-risk, long-duration government securities.

However, financial experts continue to caution that sustained borrowing must be matched with stronger revenue mobilisation and structural reforms to avoid further strain on fiscal sustainability and

debt servicing obligations.

Despite these concerns, the DMO maintains that bond issuances remain essential for financing infrastructure development, executing government budgets, and supporting overall stability in the domestic financial market.

Investors and analysts will closely monitor the outcome of the May 2026 auction as a key gauge of market sentiment and confidence in Nigeria's macroeconomic direction.

SEC Bets on AI, Big Data to Transform Nigeria's Capital Market

AtumeTerfa



capacity-building initiatives across regulatory bodies and market institutions.

The Commission also pointed to ongoing investor education programmes aimed at improving financial literacy and ensuring that market participants can effectively interpret and use data-driven tools for investment planning and risk management.

As Nigeria continues to seek deeper diversification of its economy and stronger capital market participation, regulators maintain that technology will play a decisive role in unlocking growth, improving efficiency, and expanding investment opportunities. Ultimately, the SEC insists that the integration of data intelligence, artificial intelligence, and digital innovation is key to building a more resilient, transparent, and globally competitive Nigerian capital market.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has reiterated its drive to modernise Nigeria's capital market, stressing that data analytics, artificial intelligence, and emerging digital technologies will define the next phase of investment decision-making across the country's financial system.

According to the Commission, Nigeria's investment environment is rapidly shifting toward a model where real-time data, digital infrastructure, and technology-enabled

regulation play a central role in improving market transparency, efficiency, and investor confidence.

SEC officials noted that technology adoption is no longer a future ambition but an urgent necessity, particularly in strengthening market surveillance, detecting fraudulent activities, and improving risk assessment within an increasingly complex and fast-moving financial ecosystem.

The regulator explained that properly deployed AI systems can process large

volumes of trading and financial data, detect unusual patterns, and provide actionable insights that support both regulators and investors in making more informed decisions.

Beyond artificial intelligence, the SEC also highlighted broader digital transformation efforts across the capital market value chain, including automated regulatory reporting, blockchain-based verification systems, and improved interoperability between market platforms.

Market

stakeholders say this direction aligns with global regulatory trends, where capital market authorities are increasingly adopting fintech-driven solutions to enhance transparency, reduce manipulation risks, and strengthen investor protection frameworks.

Nigeria's capital market has continued to attract growing participation from both retail and institutional investors, and regulators believe that improved access to reliable data and analytics tools will help close existing information gaps

that often influence investment behaviour.

The SEC further stated that building a strong digital backbone will be critical in attracting greater domestic and foreign capital inflows, especially as global investors increasingly prioritise markets with strong governance structures, regulatory clarity, and technological readiness.

However, financial experts caution that achieving these goals will require sustained investment in digital infrastructure, cybersecurity systems, and

Nigeria's Oil Output Edges Higher, Still Trails OPEC Production Target

Nigeria's crude oil production has recorded a slight upward movement, offering a modest sign of recovery, but the country continues to fall short of its OPEC production quota amid lingering structural and security challenges in the petroleum sector. Latest industry figures show a marginal month-on-month increase in output, driven by improved performance in select onshore and shallow-water fields. However, the gains remain insufficient to lift Nigeria consistently to its Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) allocation. The gap between quota and actual production persists, underscoring longstanding constraints that have kept Africa's largest oil producer below its potential despite its vast reserves and capacity. Operators in the sector attribute the shortfall to a mix of

AtumeTerfa



disruptions, including pipeline vandalism, crude oil theft in the Niger Delta, ageing infrastructure, and intermittent shutdowns at critical export terminals. These issues continue to weigh heavily on production stability and export reliability. Industry officials have also acknowledged that crude losses through theft and metering inefficiencies remain a major challenge, with significant volumes

reportedly lost before reaching official export points—impacting both output statistics and government revenue. In response, the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) has stepped up surveillance, enforcement operations, and monitoring systems across key oil corridors. Security deployments around strategic pipelines have also been reinforced in a bid to curb illegal

tapping and sabotage. Analysts note that the recent production uptick reflects gradual improvements linked to reforms, asset recovery efforts, and the gradual return of output from previously shut-in fields. Still, they caution that sustained growth will depend on stronger infrastructure investment, tighter security coordination, and more efficient regulatory execution. Despite being Africa's top oil

producer, Nigeria has repeatedly struggled to meet its OPEC production benchmarks in recent years, even as global crude prices and demand patterns fluctuate. The shortfall continues to constrain foreign exchange earnings and government revenue, deepening fiscal pressure. Energy experts argue that while the country retains significant untapped upstream potential, unlocking stable

and higher production will require deeper structural reforms—ranging from pipeline modernisation and digital surveillance expansion to renewed investor confidence in the oil and gas sector. Even so, the latest marginal increase is being viewed as a cautiously positive development, suggesting that ongoing recovery efforts may be gradually stabilising output, even as Nigeria remains below its OPEC production ceiling.

At Lekki Port, China Deepens Its Economic Grip on Nigeria

From the sprawling Lekki Deep Sea Port in Lagos, where Chinese-built cranes efficiently offload container ships beside a Beijing-backed free trade zone, to rail corridors stretching across northern Nigeria, China's presence is steadily reshaping the country's economic landscape. In Abuja, parts of Nigeria's digital backbone rely on infrastructure supported by Chinese technology giant Huawei, while in the oil and gas sector, Chinese firms are increasingly transitioning from traditional contractors into long-term

AtumeTefa

operational partners aligned with Nigeria's refining and energy expansion plans. Over the past two decades, China has moved from being a peripheral trading partner to becoming one of the most influential external actors in Nigeria's economy, financing and executing major infrastructure projects spanning railways, bridges, ports, power plants, industrial parks, and telecommunications systems. The transformation is most visible in transport and logistics. Chinese-funded railway lines are helping redraw internal

trade routes, particularly in northern Nigeria, improving connectivity between production hubs and urban markets. Similarly, transmission projects backed by Chinese financing are strengthening parts of the national power grid, aimed at improving electricity access for households and industries. At the Lekki Deep Sea Port, one of West Africa's most modern maritime gateways, Chinese engineering and investment partnerships have been central to its development, integrating port operations with rail infrastructure designed to move cargo more

efficiently into Nigeria's economic corridors. In the telecom sector, Huawei and other Chinese technology firms have played a key role in expanding network infrastructure, supporting broadband rollout and strengthening data transmission systems that underpin Nigeria's growing digital economy. Beyond individual projects, analysts note a broader strategic shift in China's engagement with Nigeria. Between 2006 and 2025, Chinese entities are estimated to have committed over \$8 billion in investments across energy, transport, real estate, and

industrial development sectors, reflecting a long-term economic partnership rather than short-term project financing. However, the nature of that engagement is evolving. Early involvement under China's Belt and Road Initiative largely focused on debt-financed infrastructure development. Today, the relationship is increasingly characterised by integrated industrial participation—where Chinese firms are not only building infrastructure but also participating in its operation, maintenance, and long-term commercial use. This shift signals a deeper embedding of Chinese capital and expertise in Nigeria's economic structure, particularly in sectors seen as critical to industrialisation, including logistics, energy production, manufacturing, and digital infrastructure. While supporters argue that Chinese investment has helped bridge Nigeria's massive infrastructure gap, critics continue to raise questions around debt exposure, project transparency, and long-term economic dependence. Still, the trajectory is clear: China's role in Nigeria is no longer limited to construction sites and financing deals—it is increasingly woven into the operational fabric of the country's most strategic economic assets.

Lagos Targets N4tr Investment at 'Invest in Lagos 3.0' Summit

The Lagos State Government is gearing up for the third edition of its flagship investment forum, "Invest in Lagos 3.0," a high-level summit designed to attract over 4 trillion in combined local and foreign investment inflows into Africa's commercial powerhouse. The event is expected to convene global investors, development finance institutions, policymakers, and private sector leaders in a coordinated push to spotlight Lagos' expanding pipeline of opportunities across infrastructure, technology, energy, housing, transportation, and the creative economy. According to state officials, the summit forms a critical pillar of Lagos' long-term strategy to consolidate its position as Africa's premier investment hub, leveraging its large market size, coastal access,

AtumeTerfa

and rapidly evolving urban economy. Building on outcomes from previous editions, "Invest in Lagos 3.0" is expected to prioritise bankable projects, structured public-private partnership (PPP) deals, and policy reforms aimed at making investment entry smoother, faster, and more transparent. In recent years, the Lagos State Government has accelerated reforms aimed at improving its business environment, including digital

governance systems, tax administration reforms, infrastructure expansion, and streamlined regulatory approvals to boost investor confidence. Economic analysts note that Lagos continues to dominate subnational investment attraction in Nigeria, benefiting from its dense population, strong consumer demand, and relatively advanced infrastructure base compared to other states. At earlier investment engagements, the

state has consistently pitched major opportunities in transport infrastructure—such as rail systems, port expansion, and road networks—alongside fast-growing sectors like fintech, real estate development, and renewable energy. The upcoming summit is also expected to highlight Lagos' urban renewal agenda, including large-scale housing projects, industrial development corridors, and smart city initiatives aimed at supporting long-term

sustainable growth. Stakeholders say the 4 trillion investment target reflects an aggressive push to bridge infrastructure funding gaps through private capital, especially at a time when governments are increasingly relying on PPP models to finance development. International agencies, venture capital firms, sovereign funds, and institutional investors are also expected to participate in discussions around climate-resilient investment, innovation ecosystems, and

sustainable urban growth strategies. Despite global economic uncertainty and tightening capital markets, Lagos continues to rank among Africa's most attractive investment destinations, driven by policy continuity and a steadily growing pipeline of structured projects. As preparations intensify, officials remain confident that "Invest in Lagos 3.0" will deepen investor engagement, unlock fresh capital commitments, and further accelerate the state's transformation agenda.



Folawiyo Launches Monitoring Team Against Environmental Infractions

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Lagos Island East Local Council Development

Area (LCDA), Mr. Muibi Folawiyo, his administration has commenced

a comprehensive monitoring and enforcement operation aimed at eliminating

environmental infractions and public nuisances across the council area.

In a statement, Mr. Folawiyo emphasized that the operation is in fulfilment of the

council's statutory responsibilities.

"In line with its statutory mandate to rid Lagos Island East LCDA of environmental infractions and public nuisances,

my administration [is] out on a monitoring and enforcement operation to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Lagos State Environmental Protection Law of 2017," he said.

The initiative is expected to involve intensified patrols, inspection of premises, and strict enforcement actions against offenders who violate environmental sanitation regulations, waste management rules, and other provisions of the 2017 Lagos State Environmental Protection Law.

Authorities in the LCDA believe the sustained operation will promote a cleaner, healthier, and more organised environment for residents and businesses operating within Lagos Island East. Residents have been urged to cooperate with enforcement teams and ensure full compliance with environmental laws to avoid penalties.



Oyekan Outlines People-Centered Vision For Residents

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Lagos Island Local Government, Prince Taiwo Oyekan, has revealed a detailed plan focused on bringing governance closer to the people and ensuring positive impacts on residents.

In a statement outlining his administration's direction, Prince Oyekan stressed the importance of grassroots governance.

"My vision is not merely to lead Lagos Island, but to ensure that governance at the grassroots remains close to the people; because local government is the first and closest tier of government, and every resident deserves to genuinely feel its impact in their daily lives," he said. The Chairman reiterated his commitment to making local government more responsive, accessible, and result-oriented.

He stated that effective leadership at the local level should translate into improved basic services, better living conditions, and direct benefits for residents across all communities in



Lagos Island. Prince Oyekan's administration is expected to prioritize initiatives that strengthen

citizen engagement, enhance service delivery in areas such as sanitation, security,

healthcare, and infrastructure, while maintaining close interaction with the people. This people-first

approach is seen as a renewed effort to restore confidence in local governance and demonstrate

the relevance of the local government system as the tier closest to the citizens.

Parents Raise Alarm Over Growing Number of Idle Youths in Agege

Parents under the Agege Parents Forum have raised concerns over the increasing number of out-of-school children and unemployed youths in Agege, calling on the government to establish more technical and vocational schools within the community. The appeal was made during the forum's Annual General Meeting held at the Agege Stadium on Tuesday, where parents, community stakeholders and education advocates gathered to discuss challenges affecting education and youth development in the area.

Kehinde Adeleye

Speaking at the meeting, the forum's Zonal Secretary, Oluwatoyin Ike, lamented that many young people are left without opportunities after completing their Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination due to limited access to higher institutions and vocational training centres. According to her, the situation has contributed to the growing number of idle youths roaming the streets, especially those who struggle academically after junior secondary school and are unable to continue conventional education. She urged the

Lagos State Government and lawmakers at both federal and state levels to establish more technical colleges in Agege and neighbouring communities, stressing that existing schools in areas such as Ikotun and Ogba are too far for many parents to access conveniently. Ike explained that transportation costs and economic hardship discourage several families from enrolling their children in vocational schools outside the community. She noted that technical and vocational education could help tackle unemployment, reduce social vices

and equip young people with practical skills needed for self-reliance.

The forum secretary also decried the poor condition of infrastructure in many public schools, particularly the shortage of chairs and other learning materials, insisting that parents should not be left alone to shoulder the burden of providing basic facilities.

She called for urgent government intervention to improve learning conditions and create a more conducive educational environment for students across public schools in Agege.

Ike, however,

commended Jubree Abdulkareem for supporting educational programmes in the constituency, especially through the sponsorship of free Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) registration forms for students over the past four years. According to her, the initiative, which started with 100 students, has now benefited more than 1,700 students, many of whom reportedly secured admission into tertiary institutions. She added that nearly 6,000 students and youths have also benefited from other educational support programmes and empowerment

initiatives facilitated through the collaboration between the forum and the lawmaker.

The forum recently partnered with Abdulkareem to organise vocational training in solar and CCTV installation for about 350 youths and students within the community.

Ike said many of the participants had already acquired valuable practical skills capable of helping them become financially independent.

Other parents at the event also praised the educational interventions, describing them as timely support for struggling families amid economic challenges.



Navy Seizes 249 Jerrycans Of 6,000 Petrol Litres In Badagry

By Felix Kuyinu



The Nigerian Navy has seized 249 jerrycans or 6,000 petrol liters from smugglers in Badagry in an initiative to curb diversion of petroleum products through unauthorized routes and other illegal activities at the area. The seizure held by personnel of the Forward Operating Base, Badagry in an FOB, in the area was carried out following a credible intelligence reports of activities of smugglers who were prepared to illegally transport the items through waterways around the border communities. Spokesman of the Nigerian Navy, Abiodun Folorunsho, said that the exercise was part of ongoing efforts by the Navy to dismantle illegal fuel trafficking networks and also highlight the body's determination to sustain pressure on criminal elements involved in economic sabotage and illegal maritime activities. Folorunsho further reaffirmed the commitment of the Navy to securing the nation's maritime environment and strategic border communities against smugglers and other trans-border crimes. He mentioned that the recovered petroleum products were immediately evacuated to the FOB Badagry base for further necessary actions in line with operational procedures.

Ojokoro Residents Embrace Free Health Insurance Scheme

Kehinde Adeleye

Ojokoro LCDAs residents are benefiting from expanded access to affordable healthcare as the council, under the leadership of Hon. Barr. Oluyemisi Adenike Rosiji, rolls out the second phase of its fully sponsored Health Insurance Registration Exercise for members of Community Development Associations (CDAs) and

Community Development Committees (CDCs).

The initiative, which forms part of the council's social welfare drive, is aimed at enrolling more residents into the Lagos State health insurance scheme, Ilera Eko, to ensure families have access to quality and affordable medical care without financial strain.

Speaking during the exercise, Rosiji

encouraged beneficiaries to take full advantage of the opportunity, stressing that good health remains the foundation of a productive and stable community. She noted that the programme is designed to ease the burden of hospital bills, encourage routine medical check-ups, and promote early detection and treatment of illnesses.

She reaffirmed her administration's

commitment to people-focused initiatives that directly improve the living conditions of residents across Ojokoro LCDAs, adding that healthcare remains a key priority in her development agenda.

Officials from the Lagos State Health Insurance Scheme, led by Mrs. Mojisola Ojo, also sensitised residents on the benefits of the Ilera

Eko scheme. They explained that enrollees would enjoy subsidised medical services, reduced cost of treatment, access to essential drugs, and in some cases, free medication depending on medical prescriptions.

Community leaders and participants at the event praised the initiative, describing it as timely and impactful, especially at a time when many

households are struggling with rising healthcare costs. They also commended the council chairman for her consistent investment in the wellbeing of residents and her efforts to bring healthcare services closer to the grassroots.

The exercise continues across various communities in Ojokoro LCDAs as more residents are expected to be enrolled in the coming days.



Kosofe 2027: APC Stalwart Rejects Religious Politics

BY Emmanuel Daniji

A community developer and All Progressives Congress (APC) stalwart in Greater Kosofe Local Government, Oloye Salami Oluwaseun, has faulted a recent publication alleging religious imbalance in political representation within Kosofe Constituency I, describing the narrative as divisive and misleading ahead of the 2027 elections.

In a rejoinder to a report titled "Kosofe 2027: Federation of Young Men and Christian Association Condemns 26-Year Muslim Representation Against 4-Year Christian Record In Kosofe Constituency I," Salami warned against attempts to frame the constituency's political realities around religious sentiment.

He noted that while individuals and groups have the constitutional right to express their opinions, such expressions must not be allowed to create tension or division in a community he described as historically



peaceful and united.

According to him, Kosofe has remained a strong example of peaceful coexistence and political maturity, where Muslims and Christians continue to work

together for community development and progress.

Salami stressed that leadership selection and electoral outcomes in the area have never been based solely on religion, but on

factors such as political engagement, party structure, competence, public acceptance and the ability to deliver effective representation.

He expressed concern over

what he described as deliberate attempts to introduce religious sentiment into local politics for political advantage ahead of the 2027 elections, warning that such narratives do not

reflect the values and aspirations of residents of Kosofe Constituency I.

The APC stalwart maintained that residents are more focused on tangible governance outcomes, including infrastructure development, youth empowerment, education, healthcare delivery and accessible representation, rather than the religious identity of candidates.

He further urged political actors and interest groups to avoid inflammatory statements capable of deepening divisions, stressing that Kosofe's strength lies in unity and shared progress.

As political activities ahead of 2027 continue to gather momentum, Salami called for issue-based conversations anchored on development and performance rather than sentiments.

He added that Kosofe deserves peaceful politics, responsible engagement and mature leadership.

Kosofe's New 12,000-Capacity Stadium Nears Completion

BY Emmanuel Daniji

Excitement is steadily rising across Kosofe as a landmark sports infrastructure project, facilitated by Hon. Femi Saheed, lawmaker representing Kosofe Constituency II, moves into its final phase of completion.

Echonews Reporter, Emmanuel Daniji, who visited the site at Idera Primary School, observed a near-completed 12,000-capacity FIFA-standard stadium that is already reshaping conversations around grassroots sports development in the area.

Construction workers were seen putting finishing touches to key sections of the facility, which officials say is being delivered through the Lagos State Government Ministry.

During the visit, the atmosphere around the school community reflected growing anticipation, with residents, school staff, and sports enthusiasts expressing optimism about what the project will mean for youth development and



school sports in Kosofe.

In a previous engagement, Hon. Saheed described the stadium as a strategic intervention aimed at strengthening grassroots sports and expanding access to world-class facilities within the constituency.

"This is more than just a football pitch," he said. "It is a multi-purpose sports hub designed to support a range of

activities, including football, basketball, and athletics such as relay races."

He further explained that the project would significantly reduce the burden on athletes and residents who currently travel long distances to access major sporting venues such as the National Stadium in Surulere and the Teslim Balogun Stadium for competitions and major events.

At the project site, school stakeholders expressed strong

optimism about the impact of the facility. A senior staff member of the host school, who preferred not to be named, noted that the stadium would "redefine school sports in the area," adding that inter-house sports and inter-school competitions would now have a standard, professionally equipped venue. Strategically located within Idera Primary School, the stadium is also

expected to function as a central hub for both public and private schools, providing a regulation-standard space for sporting events, talent discovery, and youth engagement programmes.

Sports observers within the community who spoke to Echonews described the development as a potential turning point for Kosofe, noting that access to such infrastructure could

help nurture young talents and strengthen community participation in athletics and football.

As the project edges closer to commissioning, expectations continue to build that the facility will not only serve as a sporting venue but also redefine the landscape of grassroots sports development in Kosofe, positioning the constituency as an emerging hub for youth athletics in Lagos State.

Residents to Benefit as Isolo Strengthens Health Insurance Awareness Campaign

Kehinde Adeleye

who serve the community. Olasoju further assured that Isolo LCDA will support LASHMA's grassroots sensitisation drive, including plans to establish an information and registration point within the council secretariat to make it easier for residents to access the Ilera Eko scheme without having to travel far. According to him, the goal is to ensure that more people in Isolo can benefit from quality healthcare without financial strain, especially in cases of unexpected illness or emergencies. The engagement was facilitated by the Council's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Anne Okonma, and attended by LASHMA officials including the Oshodi-Isolo Area Coordinator, Ruth Joseph; Corporate Liaison Manager, Elisha Foluke; and Mrs. Mojisola Ojo. Community members are expected to gain increased access to health insurance awareness and registration services as the partnership rolls out across the LCDA.



Residents of Isolo LCDA are set to benefit from improved access to healthcare services as the council deepens collaboration with the Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) to boost enrolment in the Ilera Eko health insurance scheme.

The initiative was discussed during a recent engagement at the council secretariat, where the leadership of Isolo LCDA met with LASHMA officials led by the Head of Sales and Agent Coordination, Mrs. Uche Omolewa. The meeting focused on bringing health

insurance closer to residents, increasing awareness of the scheme, and encouraging more families, workers, and vulnerable groups within the community to enrol. Speaking during the engagement, the Council Chairman, Hon. Olasoju Adebayo, said the

administration is committed to improving the wellbeing of residents through affordable and accessible healthcare services. He explained that strengthening health insurance coverage remains one of the most practical ways to reduce the burden of medical

expenses on households. He added that the council is also considering special arrangements to extend health insurance coverage to non-pensionable staff within the local government, as part of broader efforts to improve welfare and support workers



Aruwe Sensitises Residents On PVC Registration

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Mushin LG, Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe, has called on all eligible residents to actively participate in the ongoing Permanent Voter Card (PVC) registration exercise, describing it as critical to the future of Nigeria's democracy. Mr. Aruwe acknowledged the importance of civic responsibility and timely voter registration. "The future of our democracy depends on the active participation of every citizen. I encourage all eligible residents of

Mushin and Nigerians at large to take advantage of the ongoing PVC registration exercise," he said. He further urged residents not to delay their registration, stressing the need for collective action. "Do not wait until the last minute.

Register today, encourage others, and be part of the movement for progress, unity, and responsible leadership. Together, we can build a stronger democracy, a better Mushin, and a greater Nigerian nation." The Chairman's appeal comes as

the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) continues its voter registration and PVC distribution efforts across the country. He noted that active participation by citizens, especially at the local level, remains key to electing credible

leaders and strengthening democratic governance. Residents of Mushin LG have been advised to visit designated INEC registration centres promptly with the necessary documents to complete their registration and collect their PVCs.

Jakande To Commission Health Centre

By Saheed Afolabi



Chairman of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mr. Seyi Jakande, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to strengthening primary healthcare delivery at the grassroots, describing it as a core responsibility of local governments. Jakande made this known after

participating in the Lagos State Ministry of Health's strategic retreat themed 'Rebuilding the Foundation, Primary Healthcare Revitalisation.' "Strengthening healthcare at the grassroots is not just a policy goal, it's a responsibility we must embrace," he said. The Chairman revealed that he joined other LGA and LCDA

chairmen at the retreat where they signed the Lagos State LGA Chairmen's PHC Compact, a collective pledge to revitalise Primary Health Centres across the state.

Jakande explained the purpose of the retreat which is to rebuild confidence that PHC should be the first contact of residents seeking medical care before accessing

the major hospitals.

"The purpose of this retreat was clear: to rebuild confidence in PHCs as the first point of contact for healthcare, reduce the strain on secondary and tertiary hospitals, and ensure that every resident has access to quality care close to home."

He assured residents of his commitment to the initiative, noting that his

administration is fully aligned with the state's vision.

"At Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA, we are fully aligned with this vision. In line with my administration's HEWA Agenda, I am pleased to share that we will soon commission a newly reconstructed PHC in our community. This project reflects our dedication to modern, accessible, and community-driven healthcare

delivery."

The Chairman further emphasised the constitutional role of local governments in healthcare provision.

"Healthcare is a constitutional responsibility of local governments, and we are committed to delivering on that mandate. Together, we are building a healthier, stronger Lagos."



Chairman for prioritising staff welfare. He also acknowledged the cooperation of management and union leaders, describing their synergy as key to the council's progress.

The Chairman of NULGE, Comr. A d e s i n a Arowosafe, who also serves as Chairman of Conference 58 NULGE Chairmen in Lagos State, described Igando-Ikotun LCDA as a peaceful and stable council with strong collaboration between management and staff.

He noted that the Chairman has consistently shown fatherly leadership and commitment to workers' welfare, adding that the council continues to operate as one united family.

Comr. Arowosafe further disclosed that visits had been carried out across area offices to document staff needs and concerns, which have since been forwarded to management and the council leadership for consideration and action.

The visit ended on a positive note, with stakeholders expressing optimism about continued cooperation, improved welfare systems, and stronger institutional harmony within the council.

State Delegation Visits Igando-Ikotun LCDA to Strengthen Labour Relations

Kehinde Adeleye

Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area (LCDA), under the leadership of the Executive Chairman, Snr. Comr. Lasisi Ayinde Akinsanya, has received a delegation from the Department of Industrial Relations of the Local Government Establishment and Training Department, Local Government Service Commission, Ikeja, on an official monitoring and assessment visit. The visit was aimed at reviewing administrative

operations, staff welfare systems, and industrial relations within the council as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen efficiency across local government institutions in Lagos State. The delegation was warmly received by council management, alongside executive members of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) and the Medical and Health Workers Union of Nigeria (MHWUN), in a

show of unity and cooperation among stakeholders. Welcoming the team, the Head of Human Resources, Mrs. Yemisi Omogbare, appreciated the Commission for the oversight visit and reaffirmed the council's commitment to maintaining high professional standards and ensuring a conducive working environment for staff. During the engagement, the Director of Industrial Relations, Mr. Adeniyi

Samuel Ogunnubi, highlighted key issues affecting the local government workforce, stressing the need for continuous improvement in workplace culture, discipline, and staff development. He emphasised the importance of strong collaboration between NULGE and MHWUN, noting that harmonious labour relations remain critical to peace, productivity, and effective service delivery. The Director also drew attention to staff welfare matters such as festive bonuses, provision of official vehicles for

management staff, revenue buses, and improved office facilities, all aimed at boosting morale and performance. He further urged workers to maintain professionalism by adhering to proper dressing codes, punctuality, and workplace ethics, advising against idleness and unnecessary movement during official hours. In his remarks, the Council Manager, Mr. James Akowanu, appreciated the visiting delegation for the assessment exercise and commended the Executive

Lagosians Ready to Re-Elect Tinubu in 2027 - Akinpelu

Kehinde Adeleye

Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, joined thousands of party supporters and faithful at a special congregational prayer programme organised by The Renewed Hope Network (TRN) at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena in support of the re-election bid of President Bola

Ahmed Tinubu ahead of the 2027 general elections. The prayer gathering drew a large crowd of party loyalists, political stakeholders and supporters from different parts of Lagos State, who converged to offer prayers for the President and the nation. Speaking with journalists during the event, Akinpelu described the turnout as a

reflection of the growing support for President Tinubu's administration among Lagos residents. "The election is still months away, but the ecstasy here and the large turnout show that Lagosians strongly support the President's administration and are eager to re-elect him. The crowd here is overwhelming. In Alimosho, we will

do everything humanly and legally possible to mobilise and deliver a huge number of votes for Mr President," he said. The council chairman explained that the gathering was primarily organised to seek divine guidance, protection and continued wisdom for the President as he pilots the affairs of the country. "We are not here

today to campaign, but to pray to God for His continued mercy, blessings, guidance and protection over our leader and mentor, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu. It is only God who has power over everything, and that is why we are calling on Him. We believe that with God, all things are possible. So, for Asiwaju, it is 4+4," Akinpelu added.

The event also featured an endorsement of President Tinubu's second-term ambition by members of the group and party supporters present at the arena. In addition, Deputy Governor Kadri Obafemi Hamzat was presented to party faithful and Lagosians as the consensus candidate of the party, drawing applause from attendees at the programme.



Akinpelu Commends Oba of Shasha

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, has called for increased vigilance and stronger collaboration among security agencies and residents ahead of the forthcoming Sallah celebrations in Lagos State.

Akinpelu made the call during the monthly Peace and Security Meeting of the council, where community leaders, traditional rulers, security agencies and other stakeholders gathered to discuss issues affecting the safety and wellbeing of residents across Alimosho.

During the meeting, the council chairman reviewed the environmental sanitation exercise held on April 25, 2026, and commended the Oba of Shasha Kingdom, Oba Nosiru Ogunronbi Babatunde, as well as other community stakeholders for their active support and participation in ensuring the success of the



exercise.

He noted that environmental cleanliness remains a shared responsibility and assured residents that his administration would continue to invest in sanitation initiatives aimed at creating a healthier and safer environment across the local government.

Speaking on security concerns, Akinpelu urged all security agencies to heighten surveillance following reports suggesting that criminal elements and suspected terrorists may attempt to

infiltrate Lagos State through trailers transporting Sallah rams into the state ahead of the festive period.

Officials of the Department of State Services (DSS), who were present at the meeting, disclosed that intelligence reports had indicated possible plans by terrorists to target critical national assets. They, however, stressed the need for intensified monitoring and proactive security operations during the Sallah celebrations.

The security agencies present at the meeting

assured residents that surveillance operations had already been strengthened across Alimosho and surrounding communities to prevent any breakdown of law and order before, during and after the festivities.

The police and other law enforcement agencies were also advised to ensure strict enforcement against the practice of transporting human beings alongside animals and goods in trailers and trucks entering the state. Another major

issue discussed at the meeting was the growing concern over criminal activities linked to some commercial motorcyclists, tricycle operators and mini-bus operators popularly known as Korope.

Stakeholders expressed worries over the increasing cases of "one chance" robberies allegedly being carried out by some unscrupulous operators within the transport sector, particularly against unsuspecting commuters across parts of Alimosho. In response,

security agencies resolved to intensify operations targeted at identifying, arresting and prosecuting criminal elements disguising as commercial transport operators within the local government area. Residents at the meeting also commended the local government for sustaining regular engagement with security agencies and community leaders, describing the initiative as important in promoting peace, safety and public confidence across Alimosho.

Flood Fears Grow Along Coastal Highway Over Blocked Drainage

Tension is mounting across several coastal communities along the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway route as residents battle worsening floods allegedly linked to ongoing construction activities on the massive federal road project. In parts of Ibeju-Lekki and neighbouring shoreline settlements, families say recent downpours have triggered severe flooding that has

submerged homes, cut off access roads, and disrupted daily life. Many residents blame the situation on blocked natural drainage paths and altered water channels caused by sections of the highway construction. According to locals, areas that previously drained rainwater naturally into nearby lagoons and creeks are now struggling to cope, leaving floodwaters

trapped within residential communities for days. The growing crisis has sparked fear among residents, with some warning that entire neighbourhoods could face displacement if urgent intervention is not carried out before the peak of the rainy season. Images and videos circulating online have shown flooded compounds, damaged household items, and desperate residents wading

through dirty water in attempts to rescue belongings. In some affected areas, parents reportedly carried children through flooded streets in search of safer locations. While the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway remains one of the Federal Government's most ambitious infrastructure projects — expected to boost transportation, tourism, commerce, and regional connectivity across Nigeria's

coastline — the environmental impact of the development is increasingly becoming a source of concern for host communities. Environmental advocates and urban development experts have long warned that many coastal parts of Lagos are already highly vulnerable to flooding due to rising sea levels, rapid urbanisation, poor drainage infrastructure, and large-scale land reclamation projects.

They argue that any disruption to existing waterways or natural flood channels without adequate drainage alternatives could worsen the already fragile environmental situation in low-lying coastal communities. Beyond the immediate flood threat, some fishing communities are also expressing fears over erosion, loss of livelihoods, and ecological disruption linked to dredging and heavy construction activities along the coastline.

Community

leaders are now appealing to the Federal Government, contractors, and environmental agencies to urgently address blocked drainage systems, improve stormwater management structures, and carry out additional environmental assessments to prevent further damage.

Several residents insist they are not against development or the coastal highway itself, but say infrastructure expansion should not come at the expense of people's homes, safety, and livelihoods.

Despite the concerns, supporters of the highway project maintain that the road will transform economic activities and unlock major investment opportunities across Nigeria's coastal corridor. However, for many families currently surrounded by floodwaters, survival and protection from displacement remain the immediate priority.



Akinloye Continues Monthly Welfare Drive for Widows, Elderly in Eredo

[AtumeTerfa](#)



Residents of Eredo in Epe Local Government Area have once again benefitted from a sustained monthly welfare programme aimed at supporting widows and elderly persons, as community leader and philanthropist Akinloye reaffirmed his commitment to social care and grassroots empowerment. The latest distribution exercise, which forms part of a continuous monthly intervention, provided food items and essential supplies to vulnerable residents, with beneficiaries drawn from different wards across the community. The initiative is designed to ease economic hardship among widows and senior citizens, many of whom rely on limited income sources amid rising living costs and inflationary pressures affecting

households across Lagos State. Speaking on the programme, organisers said the support scheme was created to ensure consistent assistance rather than one-off charity gestures, stressing that sustained intervention is key to improving the welfare of the most vulnerable members of society. Beneficiaries expressed appreciation for the regular support, noting that the monthly

outreach has helped reduce financial strain and improve access to basic necessities, particularly for households without stable income earners. Community stakeholders in Eredo also commended the initiative, describing it as a meaningful contribution to social welfare and grassroots development, especially at a time when many families are grappling with

economic challenges. The programme reportedly focuses on widows, elderly residents, and other vulnerable groups, with emphasis on food support, basic household items, and emotional encouragement to help improve overall well-being. Observers say such community-driven interventions complement government social support programmes, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas where access to formal welfare structures

remains limited. Organisers have reiterated that the monthly outreach will continue, with plans to expand its reach to accommodate more beneficiaries in the coming months. The initiative has been widely described by residents as a lifeline for struggling families, reinforcing the importance of sustained private and community-led welfare programmes in addressing poverty at the grassroots level.

Adeshina, Honoured For Outstanding Grassroots Leadership

Former Chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Wasiu Adeshina, has been honoured with an Award of Excellence and Outstanding Performance in Local Government Administration by the Eminent Persons of Ikorodu Division. The award was presented during a ceremony held at the Ikorodu Ultra-Modern Townhall on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, in recognition of his contributions to grassroots development, governance reforms and community advancement during his tenure as council chairman. Speaking shortly after receiving the award, Adeshina expressed appreciation to the organisers for what he described as a meaningful recognition of his service to the people of Ikorodu. "I am highly delighted and grateful for this honour by the Eminent Persons of Ikorodu Division. It shows that we have not been

BY Emmanuel Daniji

forgotten and that what we achieved while in office is still being recognised," he said. The former council boss noted that his administration worked towards modernising local government administration in Ikorodu while laying structures that improved governance and service delivery at

the grassroots.

According to him, the achievements recorded during his tenure remain a source of pride and motivation.

"I am happy to have gone this far and to have contributed immensely to the growth of my community. If given another opportunity, I will do even more," Adeshina stated.

"Our administration laid a very solid

foundation for the people of Ikorodu. We moved Ikorodu from the old style of administration to a more modern system, and I am proud to have been part of that transformation," he added.

Adeshina also used the occasion to call on residents of Ikorodu and Nigerians generally to continue supporting the All

Progressives Congress, stating that the party has continued to deliver developmental projects across Lagos State and the country.

He urged Nigerians to support the re-election of Bola Ahmed Tinubu in 2027, while also backing APC candidates in future elections.

"I want to implore our people to vote massively for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in 2027 and also support all APC

candidates. More developmental projects and greater benefits will come to the people through the party," he said. The event attracted political associates, community leaders, traditional stakeholders and residents from different parts of Ikorodu Division, all of whom gathered to celebrate Adeshina's contributions to local government administration and grassroots development.



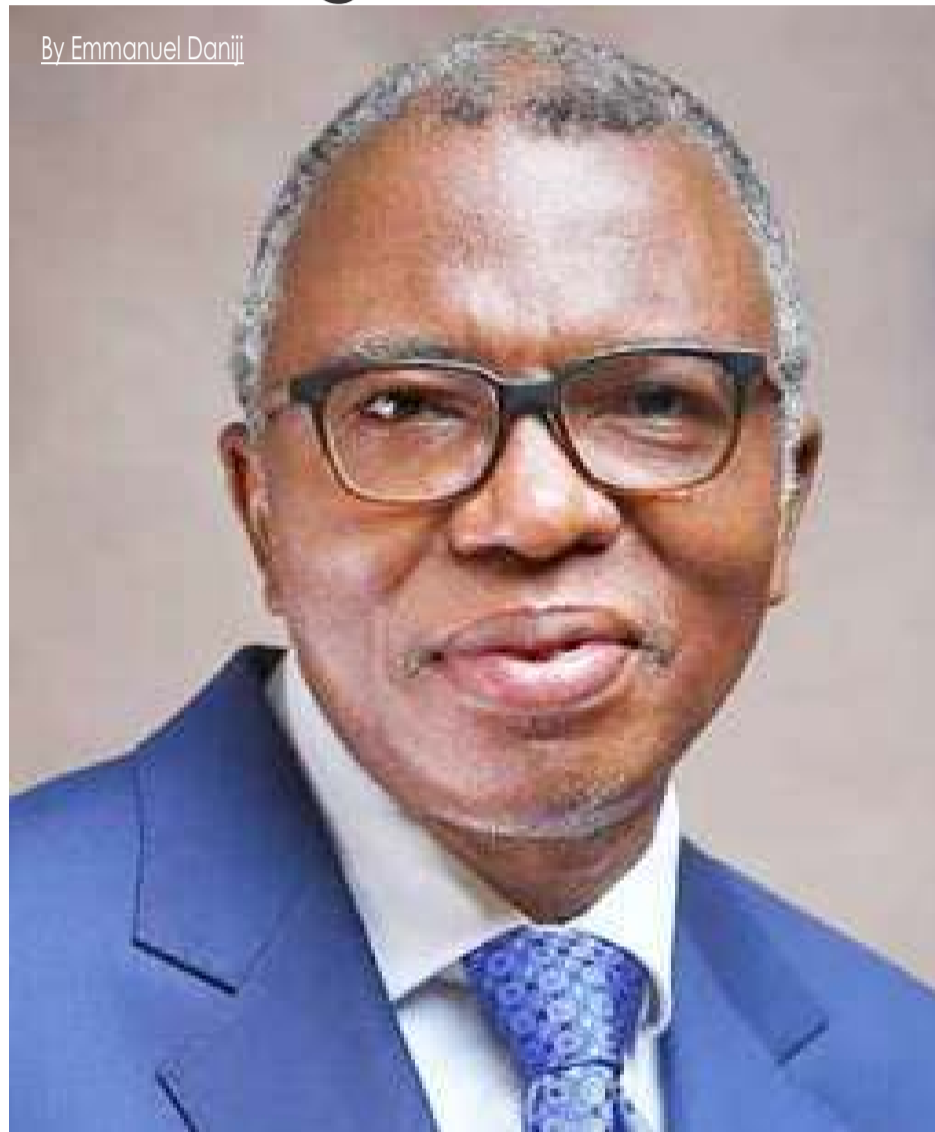
Why LASUSTECH Organised Digital Skills Training For Traders, Artisans

The Vice Chancellor of Lagos State University of Science and Technology, Olu Muyiwa Odusanya, has explained that the recently concluded one-month digital skills training organised for traders and artisans in Ikorodu was aimed at improving the economic capacity of residents within the university's host community.

Prof. Odusanya stated that the initiative was designed to equip small business owners and artisans with practical digital tools capable of helping them expand their businesses, improve visibility and compete effectively in the modern digital economy.

According to him, digital literacy has become an essential requirement for businesses to survive and grow in today's global marketplace.

"The world is now a global village. Things happen at the speed of light. One does not need to stay long under the sun forever to advertise or make



By Emmanuel Daniji

money. Digital literacy is the language of business today and what we have done is to bring selected people together in the last four weeks and show them how they can become more profitable, how they can compete globally and run their businesses with less energy and labour using different digital methods," he said.

The vice chancellor explained that the training exposed participants to social media marketing, digital

branding, online visibility, content creation and modern communication tools capable of transforming local businesses into competitive enterprises.

Using a food vendor as an example, Odusanya noted that traditional methods of advertising were becoming inadequate in a rapidly evolving business environment.

"For example, look at a woman selling food with a signboard written in Yoruba. It is only

people passing by or those who hear about her through word of mouth that will patronise her. Now imagine if she has a brand presence on LinkedIn or Facebook. People can place orders online or arrange delivery services to bring the food to them. It becomes faster, less stressful and gives her global visibility and a wider business network," he explained.

He added that digital skills can help people across different professions

including shoemaking, tailoring, financial services and other trades to improve productivity and profitability.

Odusanya disclosed that the selection process for participants was transparent and open to members of both the university and Ikorodu community.

"The application process was open. People from the university community and Ikorodu neighbourhoods applied and were screened based on their visible interest, access to mobile phones, online presence and engagement level online," he stated.

The LASUSTECH Vice Chancellor further revealed that the programme would not end as a one-time initiative, noting that plans were already underway for another edition later in the year.

"This is not a one-off programme. We are planning a second edition before too long this year and intend to make it an annual programme. We also plan to monitor the activities of participants after the training to see

how they apply the skills in promoting their businesses through social media marketing and content creation," he added.

He urged beneficiaries to maximise the knowledge acquired from the training to improve their businesses and livelihoods.

Some of the participants also commended the university for organising the programme, describing it as impactful and beneficial to their businesses.

One of the participants, Atobajaye Bolaji Taiwo, who operates BJ Phones and Tech in Ikorodu, described the initiative as timely and transformative.

"The training has enabled me to use my phone better to drive my business and improve my relationship with customers, many of whom work in different organisations across Lagos. It has repositioned my business online and helped me become more proactive digitally. I commend the organisers for this fantastic programme," he said.

FG Announces Partial Closure Of Ikorodu-Sagamu Road

BY Emmanuel Daniji

The Federal Ministry of Works has announced a partial closure of sections of the Ikorodu-Sagamu Road beginning from Monday to allow the completion of ongoing reconstruction works along the highway. The Federal Controller of Works in Ogun State, Olayiwola Komolafe,

disclosed this in a statement issued on Saturday. According to Komolafe, the closure followed a directive by the Minister of Works, Dave Umahi, instructing the contractor handling the project, Arab Contractors, to resume work on critical sections of the road to ensure speedy completion of the reconstruction.

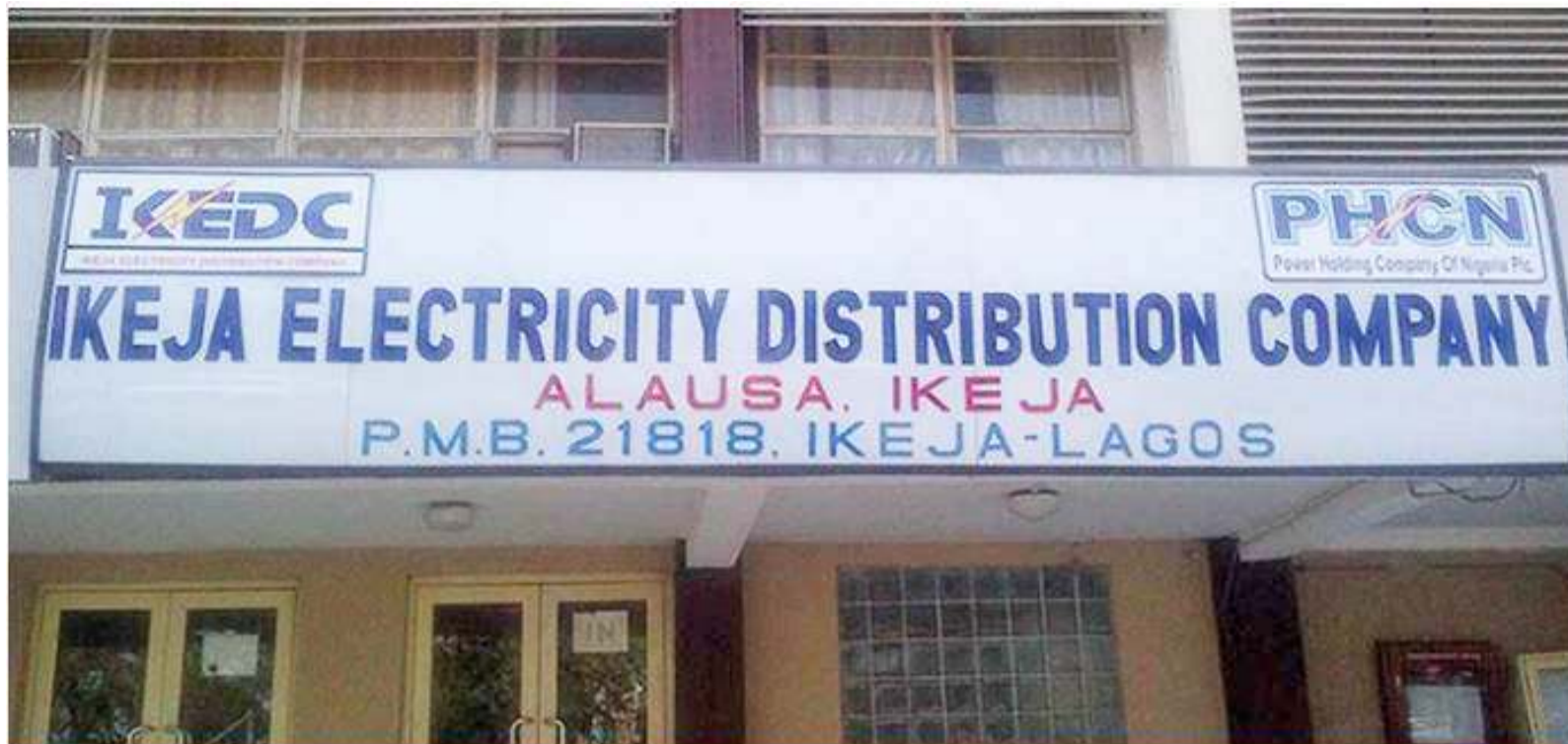
He explained that the affected portions include the stretch from Ikorodu Roundabout to Sabo Junction in Lagos State, as well as the Cement to Coca-Cola inward section in Sagamu, Ogun State. Komolafe stated that vehicular movement from Ikorodu towards Sagamu would be diverted through the construction

corridors under a counterflow traffic arrangement throughout the reconstruction period. According to him, the rehabilitation work is expected to last for three months to allow for the completion of construction activities and proper curing of the rigid pavement being installed on the affected sections.

The controller added that officials of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority would be deployed to manage traffic flow and minimise congestion during the period of the road closure. He appealed to motorists and other road users to cooperate with traffic officials and law enforcement agencies deployed along

the route to ensure smooth movement and safety. Komolafe also expressed regret over the inconvenience the reconstruction work may cause commuters and residents using the busy highway, assuring that the intervention is aimed at improving road infrastructure and enhancing transportation along the corridor.





Ikorodu Women Lock Up IKEDC Office Over Prolonged Blackout

By Emmanuel Daniji

Hundreds of women from Ifeso wapo, Irewolede and Ifeso kakan communities in Imowo Nla, Ikorodu Local Government Area of Lagos State, on Tuesday staged a peaceful protest over what they described as a prolonged blackout in their communities. The protesters stormed the Omitoro, Ikorodu Business District office of Ikeja Electric, barricaded the entrance, locked the gates and prevented movement in and out of the premises for several hours. Carrying placards with inscriptions such as "IKEDC! Give us our transformer",

"Prolonged blackout: Enough is enough", "IKEDC, restore our light", "Our businesses are suffering due to blackout" and "We want our transformer back and working," the women demanded immediate intervention from the electricity distribution company. Residents said the protest followed months of darkness after the only transformer serving the communities reportedly developed faults and was removed by Ikeja Electric for repairs without being returned. According to the protesters, repeated appeals and meetings with officials of the company failed to produce any

meaningful result, forcing residents to take their grievances directly to the company's office. Speaking during the protest, the leader of the women, Bisi Oluwo, accused the electricity company of neglect and insincerity, saying the communities had exhausted all peaceful means of engagement before embarking on the protest. "Before we came out to protest, the CDAs had several meetings with officials of Ikeja Electric so that the transformer they took away could either be repaired or replaced, but nothing was done. All they gave us were empty promises," she said. "At this point, we told ourselves that enough is enough.

Our businesses and means of livelihood have collapsed. Economic and commercial activities have been crippled because of the blackout. "The few privileged residents who can afford fuel for generators are doing so at huge costs," she added. Another protester and frozen food seller, identified simply as Teju, lamented the financial losses caused by the prolonged outage. "We are suffering severe losses because of the blackout caused by the removal of our transformer. It has damaged the goods in my shop and left me stranded. We are also battling the

rising cost of fueling generators," she said. During the protest, some officials of Ikeja Electric trapped inside the office attempted to address the crowd but were resisted by the women, who insisted on getting a specific date for the return of their transformer. Police officers later arrived at the scene and appealed to the women to reopen the office gates, but the protesters initially refused. A senior official of the company, who spoke anonymously because he was not authorised to speak to the press, later addressed the protesters from the office balcony. The official explained that the repair or replacement of a

faulty transformer involves certain procedures which take time to complete. He also urged the women to nominate representatives who would interface directly with the company and communicate feedback to the affected communities. However, the protesters maintained that their primary demand remained the immediate return of their transformer and restoration of electricity supply. Calm was eventually restored after officers from the Igbogbo Police Division, led by the Divisional Police Officer, intervened and persuaded the women to reopen the office gates. The protesters later dispersed after officials of Ikeja Electric, in the presence of the police, assured the communities that the transformer would be repaired and returned within two weeks. Efforts to get an official response from the Head of Corporate Communications of Ikeja Electric, Kingsley Okotie, were unsuccessful as calls to his phone were not answered, while messages sent to his WhatsApp line were yet to receive a response as of the time of filing this report.

'God Will Punish Cancer' - Blessing CEO Mourns Alex Ekubo

Kehinde Adeleye

Controversial personality, Blessing CEO, has reacted to the reported death of Nollywood actor Alex Ekubo, expressing shock and sorrow over

the development. Reports had earlier claimed that the actor died in a Lagos hospital on Monday after battling stage 4 liver cancer, although official confirmation from his family or representatives had not been made public at the time of filing this report. Reacting to the news on her Instagram page, Blessing CEO shared a photo of the actor and expressed grief over his passing, while also making a strong emotional

statement about cancer.

"God will punish cancer. We waited for u to show up. You fought silently. Rest in peace," she wrote.

In a separate post, she reiterated her frustration with the disease, writing: "God will punish cancer," a remark that appeared to reflect her earlier public claim of battling stage 4 cancer.

DAILY POST recalls that Blessing CEO had in March 2026 solicited financial assistance from the public, claiming she was undergoing treatment for

stage 4 breast cancer. However, the claim later generated controversy after the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Delta State chapter, accused her of allegedly altering a medical report linked to another patient from Xinus Medical Diagnostics.

The matter also drew further attention after social media critic VeryDarkMan filed a petition that was reportedly approved by the Inspector-General of Police, calling for an investigation into the allegation.



I Was a Hot Mess as a Child - Bucci Franklin

Kehinde Adeleye

Award-winning Nollywood actor, Bucci Franklin, has opened up about his difficult childhood, revealing that he was raised solely by his mother after being abandoned by his father. Speaking during an interview with media personality Chude Jideonwo, Franklin described his early years as "messy," noting that growing up without a father

figure had a deep emotional impact on his life.

He disclosed that the absence of his father pushed him into a troubled phase where he struggled with drug use as a way of coping with the emotional void.

"I was a hot mess as a child. My dad abandoned me. My mom raised me alone, and I turned to drugs," he said.

Franklin, however, explained that he was able to overcome the

addiction with the unwavering support and guidance of his mother, whom he credited as the strongest influence in his life and career.

He praised her sacrifices, saying she played both parental roles and ensured he did not lose his direction despite the challenges they faced.

The actor also used the opportunity to highlight the challenges of single parenting,



stressing the importance of father figures in the upbringing of

children, especially boys, while acknowledging

the strength of mothers who raise children alone.

Defamation Suit: Court Awards N30m Damages Against VeryDarkMan

A Federal High Court sitting in Effurun, Delta State, has ordered popular social media personality, VeryDarkMan, to pay a total of N30 million in damages to the wife of comedian Mr Jollof, Mrs. Esinjemiyotan Uroneyonjuyei Atsepoyi, over defamatory statements made online. The judgment followed a heated

online exchange in September 2024 between VeryDarkMan and Mr Jollof, during which the social media commentator accused Mr Jollof's wife of infidelity, alleging she engaged in relationships with politicians and internet fraudsters to influence political appointments for her husband in Delta State. The allegations sparked strong

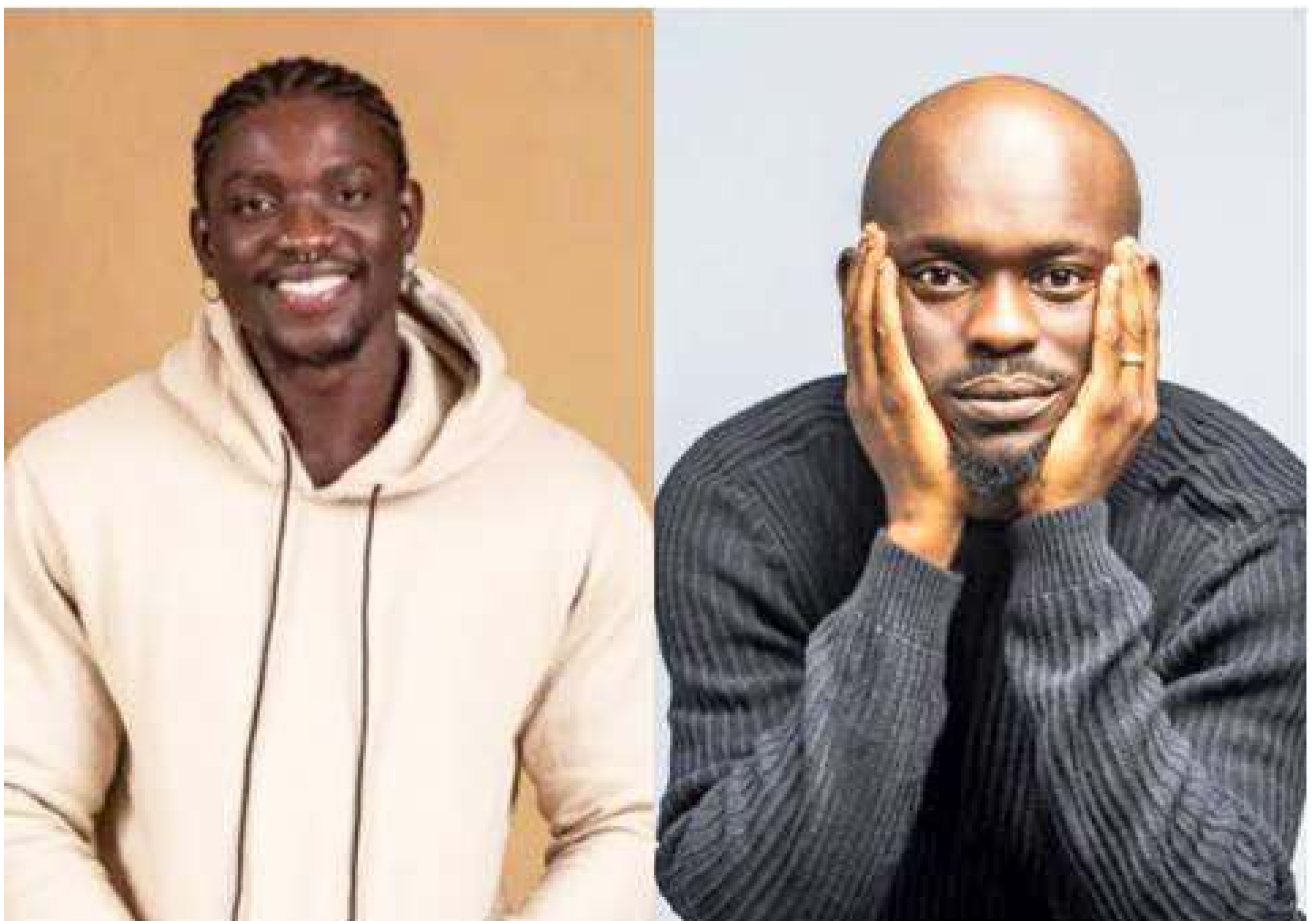
reactions online, with Mr Jollof also firing back, describing VeryDarkMan as someone who lacked proper upbringing, escalating the public feud between both parties. In response to the claims, Mrs. Atsepoyi filed a N500 million defamation suit against VeryDarkMan, insisting that the statements damaged her

reputation and exposed her to public ridicule. Delivering judgment on May 13, 2026, Justice R. Harriman held that the defendant failed to provide evidence to support the allegations and ruled that the published statements were defamatory in both natural and ordinary meaning. The court awarded N20 million as general damages and an

additional N10 million as aggravated damages against VeryDarkMan. The judge also ordered him to publish a public apology within 14 days in two national newspapers and across all his social media platforms, retracting the defamatory statements made in his posts of September 15, 16, and early hours of September 19, 2024.

Kehinde Adeleye

The court further restrained VeryDarkMan, his agents, and associates from making any further defamatory remarks against the claimant. Justice Harriman noted that due to the wide circulation of the posts, a retraction and apology were necessary to help restore the claimant's reputation.



Grammy Awards Reveal Full Timeline for 2027 Edition

Kehinde Adeleye



The Recording Academy, organisers of the Grammy Awards, has announced key dates for the 2027 Grammy Awards, including the nominations timeline and the official date for Music's Biggest

Night. The announcement was made on Tuesday during a presentation in New York, where the academy unveiled the full schedule for the upcoming awards season. According to the organisers,

nominations for the 2027 edition will be announced on November 16, 2026. Eligible recordings must have been released between August 31, 2025, and August 28, 2026. The main awards ceremony is

scheduled to hold on February 7, 2027, and will take place at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles. The event will be broadcast live on ABC and will also be available for streaming on Disney+ and Hulu.

This marks a notable shift as it ends the Grammys' long-standing 54-year broadcast partnership with CBS. Announcing the update on its official Instagram page, the Recording Academy wrote:

"IT'S TIIIIIME! The road to the 2027 Grammys officially begins now. Mark your calendars for submissions, nominations, voting, and all the key moments leading up to Music's Biggest Night. Grammy Season."

Tobi Amusan Delighted After Claiming Third African 100m Hurdles Title

By Saheed Afolabi



Nigeria's sprint sensation, Tobi Amusan is delighted to clinch her third African title at the 2026 African Senior Athletics Championships following her dominance in the continental stage.

The world record holder stormed to victory in the women's 100m hurdles final, delivering Team Nigeria's first gold medal of the championships and further cementing her status as one of Africa's most

decorated track athletes. In an emotional reflection shared on her social media platforms shortly after the race, Amusan expressed deep gratitude while signalling her unrelenting drive for greater

achievements. "Beyond grateful to God, my team, supporters, and everyone who continues to believe in me through every season. Historic feeling still hungry for more. The mission continues," she

said. The victory marks yet another chapter in Amusan's illustrious career, as she maintains her supremacy in African sprint hurdles and continues to serve as a powerful inspiration for

upcoming Nigerian and African athletes. Her commanding performance in Accra once again highlighted her class and consistency, extending her reign as the undisputed queen of the event on the continent.

Busari Seeks Support For Flamingos

By Saheed Afolabi

Nigeria U17 Women's National Team coach, Akeem Busari, has called on Nigerians to rally behind the Flamingos as the team intensifies preparations for the African

qualifiers of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.

Busari made the call while speaking during an event organised by the Ogun State Chapter of the Coaches Association, where he was honoured for his contributions to

y o u t h development in football.

"I feel excited. It's part of the advancement towards the contribution to the development of coaches in the Southwest and Nigeria at large. It is highly encouraging that

the Coaches Association has come together in large numbers to celebrate some of those coaches who have contributed one or two things towards the younger generation coming up," he said.

The experienced tactician expressed optimism that other states would replicate Ogun State's initiative to strengthen coaching standards nationwide.

"I think few other states would emulate this to add value to the

Coaches Association."

While reflecting on his journey and the recognition, Busari maintained a humble stance, attributing his success to hard work, passion, and divine grace.

"As humans, we tend to look to greater heights and still pray to go higher. Everything belongs to Almighty Allah; our own is to remain calm and dedicated to whatever He has placed before us."

The Flamingos are currently in camp at the Remo Stars Stadium in Ikenne, Ogun State, ahead of crucial African qualifiers. Busari described his return to the state as emotional, having previously coached Gateway FC and other clubs in the region.

"The state is very friendly. I served here with Gateway FC and also in neighbouring clubs like Shooting Stars and Crown FC. Coming back with an award this time is a result of those hard works.

"It is always a plus when you do something with passion. I always tell our colleagues that our reward is not only in heaven. When we continue to do more, someone somewhere will definitely identify the hard work."





FATTI RENTAL SERVICES



Tables • Chairs • Canopies • Drums



- 1 Plot Canopy
- 1/2 Plot Festival Canopy
- 20X40 Festival Canopy
- 15 X 30 Festival Canopy
- 12 X 20 Canopy
- Bridal Canopy
- Banquet Tables
- Normal Tables & Chairs



21 Ona Iwa Mimo Street, Ori Oke
Bus Stop, Ejigbo Lagos



+234 802 905 4032





For News Round Lagos

Read Echoneews

Read Echoneews Online
 Subscribe for Echoneews Whatsapp E-Copy
 www.echoneews.ng @ Publisher@echoneews.ng

Published by Echoneews Newspapers Limited

21, Ona Iwa Mimo Street, Ori Oke Bus Stop, Ejigbo, Lagos. www.echoneews.ng Email: echoneews1111@yahoo.co.uk
 Managing Editor: Obe Rasheed • Editor: Kunle Awosiyan Circulation: Opeyemi Akinlade • Adverts: 08025378799