

Afrobeats Sing Louder Despite Grammy Losses



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Afrobeats Sing Louder Despite Grammy Losses



By Kunle Awosiyun

Nigerian singers have taken Afrobeats so high that many foreign artists now seek collaboration with them. Rema's *Calm Down* with American Selena Gomez won many awards. Chris Brown's duet with Davido in "Blow my mind". Wizkid with Chris Brown's "Call me everyday" and Wizkid featuring in Beyoncé's *Brown skin girl* are just a few of the duets with Afrobeats stars. The 66th Grammy let many fans of Nigerian Afrobeats singers down as none of the 10 nominees won any award at the event held at Peacock Theatre in Los Angeles, California last weekend.

The nominees were Burna Boy, Davido, Olamide, Asake, Ayra Starr who contested for 10 categories but none of them won as the South Africa's Tyla clinched the Best African Music Performance award with her song "Water".

Even though the award had been generating a lot of debates among music lovers, it however created a kind of solace for Afrobeats in the

music world.

It began with the dazzling of Burna Boy who made history with his performance at the Grammy Awards for the first time, becoming the first Afro-fusion artiste to do so.

Though Burna is largely associated with the more widely known genre of Afrobeats — which itself is often a fusion of genres such as highlife, hip-hop, R&B, and more — he has long attempted to differentiate himself by referring to his own music as Afro-fusion. Other artistes like Ghanaian singer Amaarae, have categorized their music as Afro-fusion as well.

Trevor Noah, the South African host of the night, joked before fellow African Burna Boy took the stage.

"You know people say Afrobeats is new and personally growing up in South Africa, I would get Afrobeats all the time for my mom every time I came home past my curfew," he chided before welcoming the Grammy winning sensation from Nigeria.

In his performance, Burna Boy brought out energetic dancers and a backing band decked all out in green, a seeming nod to the Nigerian flag. Sporting a red

rhinestone-adorned quilted jacket with matching gray pants and a snapback, Burna was all smiles and swagger as he brought his culture to the Grammys stage.

Burna moved to the more modern song "City Boys" before dazzling the audience with "Sittin' On Top of the World" and bringing out Brandy, whose 1998 hit "Top of the World" with Ma\$e is sampled in the song.

Burna Boy and Tiwa Savage combined with Brandy who hasn't graced the stage since the Nineties to deliver smooth vocals. Dressed in a black trench coat and large clear glasses, complete with stunning scarlet boots to mark that she and Burna are indeed on top of the world.

21 Savage, who was featured in the remix of "Sittin' On Top of the World" with Burna Boy, came out in an all-red fit to rap his verse. The onstage collaboration marks 21 Savage's Grammy performance debut.

Reacting to Nigerian singers not winning despite their escapades across the world recently, multiple Grammy award winner, Drake consoles the nominees.

In his message to Davido, Burna Boy, Olamide the popular musician, Drake said the fact that they have their songs being listened to by people is a win and shouldn't allow not winning a Grammy be a problem to them.

To popular American rapper Jay Z, the Grammys has its shortcomings in recognizing Black artists. He highlighted the inconsistencies in the Grammy selection process, emphasizing that even by their own metrics, the system falls short.

Jay-Z referenced his wife, Beyoncé, who boasts an impressive collection of Grammy Awards.

However, despite her numerous accolades, including the most Grammys won by any female artist, she has never won the coveted 'Album of the Year' honour. Jay expressed his opinion by saying, "Even by your own metrics, it doesn't work."

The rapper urged the Recording Academy to rectify this oversight, urging them to "get it right" or at least "get it close to right." His words represented countless artists who have felt overlooked or underrepresented within the Grammy framework.

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Jay-Z also talked about how the Grammy Awards are subjective. He said, "It's music, and it's opinion-based." While artistic evaluations involve personal preferences, he urged the Academy to be fair and transparent, especially when celebrating Black excellence.

To Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the Nigerian nominees should not feel disheartened for not winning any of the awards.

Sanwo-Olu in a post on his official X, wrote: "A special shoutout to @davido, @burnaboy, @ayrastarr, @asakemusik, @Olamide and @temsbaby and all Nigerian talents represented as nominees at the Grammy's, the apex music award in the world.

"Your mastery reached unparalleled heights on those exclusive platforms, showcasing world class talent we are immensely proud of.

"To those who may feel disheartened by the results, remember, in the eyes of your fans and Nigerians, you are everlasting winners and with every global arena and stadiums you fill up, your representation of Afrobeats and Nigeria is unparalleled, and soon you will light up the stages you desire as triumphant victors.

"Cheers to more timeless moments as you continue to tell the world our stories with your music."

The hashtag #GrammySnubNaija trended on X, formerly Twitter, with fans venting their frustration over what they perceived as a missed opportunity for Nigerian music to gain international recognition.

The Twitterverse became a virtual town square for fans to voice their disappointment, frustration, and disbelief.

@NaijaMusicLover tweeted, "I can't believe what I just witnessed. All our hopes were dashed in one night. Davido and Burna Boy deserved better."

X user @AfrobeatsQueen shared a meme of a shocked face, captioned, "Me watching the Grammys realising they snubbed our Nigerian kings. #ShameOnGrammys."

@NaijaJollofQueen wrote, "This is beyond heartbreaking. Our artistes have been making waves globally, and the Grammys failed to acknowledge their impact. Disappointed but not defeated. We'll keep shining.

In a series of passionate tweets, @MusicAficionado expressed, "It's not just about winning awards. Nigerian music has influenced the world. Our artistes have elevated the game. Grammy or not, we are a force to be reckoned with.

#NaijaStandUp."

Celebrities also joined the conversation, stating, "Sending love and respect to our stars who gave their all. We see your hard work and dedication. The Grammys might have missed it, but the world knows who runs the show. #NaijaToTheWorld," they said.

Despite the disappointment, some X users emphasised the need to focus on the bigger picture.

@AfrobeatInsider tweeted, "Let's not forget Nigerian music's impact globally. Awards are just one part of the journey. Our artistes have opened doors for Afrobeats worldwide. The movement continues."

Meanwhile, President Bola Tinubu has congratulated the six Nigeria's musical talents nominated for the 2024 Grammy Awards: Burna Boy, Davido, Olamide, Tems, Asake, and Ayra Starr.

This is contained in a statement issued by presidential spokesman, Ajuri Ngelale.

According to Ngelale, "President Tinubu celebrates these musical marvels who have put Nigeria on the chart of cultural command through their artistry and anthemic earworms, building and earning our nation enormous soft power.

"The President commends these exceptional artists for their fidelity to the art, audacity, and discipline in the pursuit of excellence."

"Our superstars nominated for the Grammy Awards are all winners. I am proud of their exploits. They represent that Nigerian ideal; the courage to strive and succeed against all odds and the hope to stay true to purpose. I congratulate and thank them for being exemplary envoys of Nigeria," the President was quoted as saying. Isreal DMW names Davido the best despite Grammy loss.

However the chief executive of Grammy awards, Harvey Mason Jr has given criteria to win Grammy Award.

He said no one wins Grammy based on his or her fans, streams or followers. According to him, the awards are given based on merits.

Harvey Mason stated in a video sighted online that people don't win Grammys based on the number of fans they have, the streams they have, or the sales they make.

He says the artist wins awards based on membership of the artists of the Recording Academy and the votes the artists get from the members of the academy.

"Also, members of the recording academy take your works and listen to your songs based on the quality and



Tyler



Drake



JAYZ



Harvey Mason Jr

LAGOS Taskforce Clamps Down on Okada Operations Along Lagos-Badagry Expressway



In a move to ensure public safety and uphold the laid down traffic rules and regulations on the State's Highways, Bridges and other restricted routes, the Lagos State Taskforce has intensified its operations along the Lagos - Badagry Expressway, resulting in the seizure of 497 motorcycles popularly known as Okada

The recent operations led by the Chairman of the Agency, CSP Shola Jejeloye, also covered areas such as Doyin Bus Stop, Alakija, Iyana Iba, Igbo-Elerin, Festac Link Bridge and Igando to stamp the commitment of the Lagos State Task Force to enforce traffic regulations and maintain order and sanity on Lagos Roads. These efforts are part of a broader initiative to enhance safety for all road users and eliminate the risks associated with okada operations on restricted routes and highways.

The Chairman described the activities of okada operators, especially along the Lagos-Badagry Expressway, as reckless due to the nonchalant attitude of the operators on the corridor.

"Okada operators here are the cause of major accidents and a big threat to the security architecture of the State along this route, especially the ones you see facing oncoming vehicles directly on one way. It is complete madness and I recommend anyone

caught in the act be subjected to psychiatric evaluation", Jejeloye stated.

Utilising tactical superiority, the Taskforce achieved a remarkable record of seizures during the operation, signalling a clear message to okada violators that enforcement measures will be rigorously implemented in all nooks and crannies of the State.

The Chairman reiterated the importance of compliance with traffic regulations and warned erring riders to desist from their operations along restricted routes immediately. Failure to adhere to these regulations will result in the impoundment of motorcycles and possible jail term.

Going forward, the Lagos State Task Force affirms its commitment to making these operations a continuous endeavour until all restricted routes and highways are free from the menace of Okada. The Lagos State Task Force, therefore, solicited the cooperation of all stakeholders, including riders and members of the public, in achieving this goal and ensuring the safety and orderliness of all.

He assured Lagosians that the tactical superiority of the Agency would suppress any form of manoeuvring ability of okada riders, reminding them that both rider and passenger are culpable in the event of an arrest while plying restricted routes.

PWDs: LASODA Lauds LASU For Providing Support For Disable Students

The General Manager of Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA), Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal has lauded the Management of the Lagos State University (LASU) for providing Disability Support Unit for students of the school with one form of disability or the other.

Oyetunde-Lawal gave the commendation during a courtesy visit by a team from the Lagos State University's Disability Support Office, led by the Deputy Registrar, Ms. Afolami Arojojoye, emphasising the urgent need for institutions across the State to set up disability desks to ensure inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, Stressing the need to create inclusive policies to ensure that people with disabilities are encouraged to explore the many possibilities of getting an education regardless of their disability type, the

General Manager pointed out the importance of providing an enabling environment for them.

Oyetunde-Lawal highlighted the accessibility issues affecting high numbers of PWDs, saying that inclusion involves creating equal access and opportunities for all students regardless of their disabilities and that the interventions would ensure that students with disabilities can effectively acquire the same knowledge as other students.

She said, "I commend the Lagos State University for this initiative, it is a great development and the overall objective is to create an inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive. It will encourage parents of children with disabilities to see the possibilities of getting their children educated thereby improving their lives".

Furthermore, the General Manager added that a lot needs to be done to create awareness amongst other students as well as the lecturers to provide a well-equipped resource centre where students with disabilities can participate without hindrances thereby exploring their potential.

"You need a well-equipped resource centre for your students; Braille, Jusb-enabled laptops for students with visual impairments, sign language instructors for those with hearing impairments, magnifying glasses for those with albinism, ramps, rails and other tools for the physically challenged", she reiterated.

She said that the Agency remains committed to the advancement of the cause of Persons with Disability and will be willing to refer, support and partner with Lagos

State University in this regard.

Earlier, Ms. Arojojoye, the leader of the visiting team, said the Lagos State University is looking to upgrade the Disability Support Unit of the Institution and needs the input and support of the Lagos State Office for Disability Office Affairs. She said LASU has put in place a Disability Support Unit to cater for the needs of students with disabilities in the institution.

Present at the meeting were the Head, Legal Unit, LASODA, Barr. Babatunde Kazeem Safiu; Director, Admin & HR, LASODA, Mrs. Omolade Sonubi; Director, Monitoring, Evaluation and Orientation, Mrs. Folusho Adeolu; Director, Medical Aids, Rehabilitation and Appliances, Mrs. Eniola Olukanni-Abokhai and other officials and students with disabilities from the Lagos State University.



Odunuga-Bakare Calls For Robust Real Estate Regulation

The Special Adviser to Mr. Governor on Housing, Barr. Barakat Odunuga-Bakare has emphasised the significance of robust real estate regulations in the State, expressing optimism that the #Greater Lagos Rising mantra of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu is achievable through collaborative efforts and adherence to regulatory

standards. She stated this while delivering her keynote address at the Real Estate Outlook 2024 event organised by the Nigerian-British Chamber of Commerce (NBCC), themed "Looking Ahead, Gauging Opportunities", aimed at providing a platform for stakeholders to explore prospects in the real estate sector held on Monday via Zoom.

While emphasising the pivotal role of regulatory measures in fostering a conducive environment for real estate development in Lagos State, the Special Adviser stated that Real Estate regulation must be transparent to achieve sustainable growth within the real estate industry. Underlining the commitment of the Lagos State Government to prioritise the housing sector as part of its agenda to propel the state into a 21st-century economy, Odunuga-Bakare highlighted the implementation of the Affordable Home Ownership Scheme, underscoring the importance of real estate regulation within the sector.

In her presentation, she informed the gathering about the establishment of the Lagos State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (LASRERA), a regulatory agency tasked with overseeing the activities of individuals and organisations operating in the real estate sector.

Odunuga-Bakare outlined LASRERA's mandate, which includes issuing and renewing permit licences, investigating complaints, eliminating unethical practices, and conducting training for industry professionals.

She lauded the collaborative efforts between LASRERA and federal enforcement agencies, stressing the imperative of restoring confidence and trust among local and international investors by combating fraudulent practices effectively.

Furthermore, she stressed the importance of ensuring that only qualified professionals operate within the industry to safeguard the interests of buyers and

investors.

Odunuga-Bakare, therefore, called for the cooperation of all stakeholders in registering with LASRERA to combat fraudulent practices effectively.

She urged real estate practitioners to comply with the provisions of the State Real Estate Law and advised investors to verify LASRERA permits before engaging in property transactions.

The Special Adviser on Housing emphasised the need to sanitise the sector to encourage partnership with the private sector to boost confidence in investors.



LNSA Visits. Lauds Lotteries Authority

...Expresses Appreciation For Support

The General Manager of the Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Agency (LNSA), Prince (Dr.) Ifalade Oyekan has lauded the management of the Lagos State Lotteries and Gaming Authority for its support.

Speaking during a courtesy call to the Lotteries Authority recently, Ifalade said the Authority has been a huge pillar of support in the quest to make Lagos State safer for all and one can only appreciate the Governor for his timely initiatives and appointments which have emphasised merit above all sentiments.

He also acknowledged the huge support the Board has given the LNSA, especially in the acquisition of modern technologies and basic tools of work.

Ifalade informed that the Agency, in compliance with global standards, is changing from wooden to rubber batons just as it is upgrading its situation room to deploy facial

recognition technologies in collaboration with the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA).

"This is to further enhance the intelligence gathering and sharing capacity of the Agency as it has established itself as the number one intelligence provider to other security Agencies in the State", Ifalade stated.

In his response, the General Manager of the Lagos State Lotteries and Gaming Authority, Mr. Bashir Are lauded the management of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency for the innovations recorded in recent times.

He said the organisation is elated to be part of the success story of the agency, adding that having witnessed most of what the LNSA is doing in the state there is no doubt that further funds received from the lotteries authority will be put to good use by the Agency.

#ForAGreaterLagos

Lagos Partners Stakeholders To Strengthen Primary Healthcare

The Lagos State Primary Health Care Board (LSPHCB) hosted a critical stakeholder engagement with its strategic partners on the 7th of February 2024 at the Marriott Hotel Ikeja.

The event, themed: "Strengthening the Capacity of the Primary Health Care System Through Efficient Partners' Support", was aimed at solidifying collaboration and enhancing healthcare delivery, particularly for residents at the grassroots level.

In his welcome address, Permanent Secretary of the LSPHCB, Dr. Ibrahim Akinwunmi Mustafa emphasised the engagement's focus on ensuring effective coordination of partner support and funding. This collaborative approach, encompassing the entire project lifecycle from planning to implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, aims to significantly improve the health and well-being of

Lagosians, with a specific focus on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Plus Nutrition (RMNCAH-N), Data Management, Research, Demand Generation and Quality Improvement.

"This engagement serves as a testament to our unwavering commitment to fostering a collaborative ecosystem that facilitates a seamless flow of resources, knowledge, and expertise, ultimately bolstering the Primary Health Care system". Dr. Mustafa stated.

He further highlighted how the programme aligns with the current administration's shared vision of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 17, which emphasises partnerships for the goals.

The engagement witnessed partners reflecting on their key activities and achievements in 2023, challenges encountered, and revised programme scopes for 2024. This

facilitated open dialogue and ensured alignment with the overarching goals of strengthening the primary healthcare system.

Present were the Permanent Secretaries of the Lagos Health Districts, Development and Implementing Partners: United States Agency for International Development Youth-Powered Ecosystem for Adolescent Health (USAID-YPE4AH), Centre for Integrated Health Programmes (CIHP), WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and a host of other partners as well as Heads of Directorates, Programme Officers and other stakeholders.

It must be noted that the Lagos State Government recognises the invaluable contributions of its partners in propelling the Primary Healthcare System forward as this engagement signifies a strong commitment to collaborative efforts that will deliver tangible improvements in the health and well-being of all Lagosians.

Lagos Offers Rewarding Investment Opportunities-Sanwo-Olu

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has assured investors that Lagos State offers highly rewarding opportunities for investments as it is home to the majority of European companies operating and contributing to the economic prosperity of Nigeria.

Sanwo-Olu stated this at the stakeholders' conference organised by the European Business Chamber Nigeria, Eurocham, in Lagos recently, themed: Sustainable Business Growth 2024.

Represented by the Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade & Investment, Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem, the Governor described the theme as apt because it speaks to the need for a concerted effort on the part of all stakeholders, particularly policymakers and the business communities in Europe and Nigeria to take advantage of our economic potentials given the increasing changes in the global ecosystem.

His words: "The unfolding events in Europe as we speak has brought to the fore the need for realignment of economic and trade ties, especially with Africa of which Nigeria stands out as the largest economy. As a government, and in the realisation of the position of Lagos State as the economic hub of Nigeria and the 5th largest economy in Africa, we are not oblivious of the role we must play to ensure that the goal of harnessing our potential for sustainable growth is achieved.

"Our focus as a government committed to making Lagos the most attractive destination for investment in Africa is to continue to design and implement policies that will promote the ease of doing business and

provide a conducive environment for business to thrive", he added.

According to Sanwo-Olu, his administration launched its Land Administration e-GIS portal which has not only effectively aligned Lagos with modern cities with the most advanced system in land documentation and acquisition but will also sanitise the system towards attaining higher levels of transparency and accountability which are major factors that promote ease of doing business.

"Lagos is open for business and we are committed to addressing challenges hindering the growth and smooth operations of businesses in the State, which is why we are investing massively in critical infrastructures,

especially those that have a direct impact on businesses including MSMEs. Lagos offers highly rewarding investment opportunities in areas such as tourism, agriculture, real estate, healthcare, technology, transportation etc, and we look forward to strengthening existing economic ties that will be mutually beneficial to European and Nigerian investors.

The European Union, EU, Ambassador to Nigeria and Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, Her Excellency, Mrs. Samuela Isopi described the EU as an important business partner with Nigeria because four out of 10 European companies come to do business here.

"European businesses, comprising about 300



companies that provide a decent 160,000 direct and indirect jobs, continue to demonstrate their resilience operating here despite the challenges. The European Union is ready to work with Nigeria to overcome its challenges", she said. She expressed commitment to the EU's

participation in executing the Lagos-Abidjan Green Transport Project as part of its strategic support to Lagos and Nigeria's development.

Chairman, Lagos Internal Revenue Service, LIRS, Mr. Ayodele Subair expressed the commitment of the State to continuously improve

tax administration processes through the deployment of technologies that will enable ease of compliance, provide quality and transparent customer services as well as ensure continuous engagement with stakeholders for mutually beneficial relationships.

The Lagos State Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mr. Mobolaji Ogunlende has assured Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) of equal opportunities under the THEMES Plus Agenda of the present administration in the State.

Speaking on Saturday at the International Disability Day celebration and recognition of PWD Caregivers organised by the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs, LASODA, held at Ikeja, the Commissioner informed that the THEMES Plus Agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu emphasises Youth Engagement, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion.

He reiterated the government's pledge to ensure that PWDs are active participants in the THEMES Plus Agenda with a particular focus on providing equal opportunities for all citizens. In her goodwill message at the event, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of

THEMES Plus Agenda: LASG Assures PWDs of Equal Opportunities

... As LASODA Rewards Caregivers at International Disability Day celebration

Youth and Social Development, Pharm. Oluwatoyin Oke-Osanyintolu said that the celebration of International Disability Day by LASODA is one of the ways of creating awareness about the plight of PWDs.

She added that the recognition and presentation of awards to some caregivers who have devoted their time and resources to the needs of PWDs shows the state government's acknowledgement of their significant contributions to improving the standard of living of PWDs.

Oke-Osanyintolu also seized the opportunity to encourage other caregivers who are yet to register with the state to do so, imploring other members of the society to join hands with the present administration to ensure PWDs are fully integrated into society.

On her part, the General Manager of LASODA, Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal said that the event also marks World Braille Day as a way of giving credence to the policy of inclusiveness by the Lagos State Government

Speaking on the theme of the International Disability Day celebration: "United in Action to Rescue and Achieve the SDGs For, With and By Persons with Disabilities", Oyetunde-Lawal stated that there is a need for joint efforts by all relevant stakeholders to make life more liveable for PWDs.

She reiterated the mission of the Agency to provide a platform of transformative solutions for inclusive development, opportunities, accessibility, and social justice that will integrate PWDs into society. The General Manager revealed that LASODA will

be distributing Guide Canes/Slates and Stylus to students with visual impairment in addition to recognising and appreciating Homes, Teachers, Coaches, Sign Language Interpreters, Parents, and Caregivers who have set exceptional standards in catering to the needs of persons with disabilities.

She noted that individuals like Dr. Lekan Muhammad, who is a PhD holder and the first deaf lecturer at the Lagos State University, and other PWDs doing great in their chosen fields and excelling against all barriers in society have proven that disabilities should not limit the height which anyone can attain.

In her words: "It is pertinent to note that these groups of people that would be recognized today are groups that are passion-driven towards ensuring the

promotion and improvement of PWDs. They provide adequate education, healthcare, and assistance to them, thereby improving their societal self-worth.

Guest Speaker at the event, Mrs. Crystal Chigbu called on the State Government to initiate and promote inclusive policy that takes into cognizance the needs of PWDs.

She harped on the need for improved and accessible transportation, adaptable technology as well as education for all PWDs regardless of the nature of their disabilities.

Chigbu also told PWDs to explore the windows of inclusive learning opportunities made available by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration, saying that the Lagos State Government is at the forefront of ensuring compliance with the Special Peoples' Law.

Sexual, Gender-Based Violence: -Lagos Calls For Proactive Security Response

... Honours Outstanding Officers of Domestic Violence Contact Centre



The Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA) has charged the Nigeria Police and other security corps to continuously work towards curbing all forms of abuses, especially as relates to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence among women, girls and other members of the society

Speaking during a combined training session to commemorate the annual conference on Women's Peace and security themed: "Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for Global Goal and Domestic Violence", held recently at LCCI, Centre, Ikeja, the Commissioner for WAPA, Mrs. Bolaji Dada stated that the training is necessary to intimate stakeholders on the need to synergize in curbing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence among women in Lagos State.

Dada reiterated the periodic sensitisation and enlightenment campaign ongoing in the Ministry to raise the consciousness of women to immediately seek redress anytime violence or dehumanising treatment is meted out on them by their male

counterparts.

She said, "As a Ministry, we had made concerted efforts to curb all forms of abuses among women by establishing a call toll-free line 767, also known as the Purple project, to enable victims of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence reach out to the Ministry immediately this act is perpetrated for quick responses. Referrals are made by the Ministry to other MDAs – the Ministry of Health, Justice – to ensure that victims get fair justice all the time".

She noted that the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, themed "Action for Peace; Our Ambition for Global Goal", is a clarion call for everyone to come together and actively work towards a more peaceful and equitable world, adding that all over the world there is an urgent call for peace and this can only be achieved by the collaborative efforts of Men, Women, Youth and everyone. The Commissioner admonished security agencies and paramilitary organisations such as the Nigeria Army, Navy, Air force, Police, Customs and Immigration among

others at the session to share ideas with representatives from all the Local Governments and Local Council Development Areas on the need, and how to involve women and youths in the process of building and sustaining peace in the society.

Similarly, Mrs. Saheed Adebambo, Deputy Director, Social welfare and Head of Adoption, Ministry of Youth and Social Development called on all stakeholders to be proactive in responding to cases of gender violence, just as she charged stakeholders to collaborate in the fight to reduce abuses in the society.

While speaking on best practices in nabbing perpetrators of SGBV, Mrs. Olawumi Oluwatoyin Evans-Emmanuel, Assistant Commandant of Corps, National Security, Civil Defense Corps, said that Gender-Based Violence is a criminal act and prosecutors of such act should be punished not as civil offenders.

She intimated participants to cascade the information shared at the event to other officers, even as she requested that victims of

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence should be encouraged to speak out to get their issues addressed immediately by the security officials in the State.

In his address, Mr. Idris Ibrahim, Head of WAPA Contact Centre, LASEMA, stated that Domestic Violence call centres are the first point of call for survivors and as such Head of Departments in the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation situated in 57 Local Governments and Local Council Development Areas should support the initiative to ensure that callers get the appropriate respond to their complaints.

The highlight of the event was the presentation by the Commissioner for WAPA, Hon. Cecilia Bolaji Dada to the outstanding officers from the Domestic Violence contact centre, namely Mr. Solomon Famolu, Family Social Services, Alimosho and Mrs. Olatoun Akingboye, Surulere as well as Mrs. Shukurat Arigbabu, Head of Department, Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Oshodi/Isolo Local Government.

Digital Literacy: Ministry of Waterfront Trains Staff



The Lagos State Ministry of Waterfront Infrastructural Development on Thursday held a training programme for members of staff on digital and online safety

Speaking at the training, organised in collaboration with Co-Creation Hub, a Social Innovation Centre dedicated to the application of social capital and technology for economic prosperity, the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Kehinde Gbajumo charged participants to be attentive and ready to optimise what they learned less they fall victim of cybercrime and online fraud.

The Permanent Secretary, who was represented by the Director, Finance and Administration, Mrs. Kehinde Fasuyi, noted that a lot of people have lost their life investments due to ignorance, adding that knowledge earned from the exercise will go a long way in protecting personal

data, work files and Government records.

The Chief Facilitator, Miss Shalom Arturigbo urged participants to pay attention to the training as it will protect them and their families from online crimes. She highlighted areas of concentration such as browsing, searching, filtering data, protection of data and password, phishing, cyber security, data verification and how to identify fake news which can protect users from online bullying, identity theft, misinformation, harmful content, inappropriate contact and breaches of privacy.

Responding on behalf of the participants, Mr. Murtala Kassim Ajadi, Director of Procurement commended the efforts of the organisers as well as the management of the Ministry, describing the training as timely while maintaining that the knowledge gained would be put to good use by participants.

Pharmacy Summit: Stakeholders Seek Collaboration, Innovation For UHC

.... As Heads of Pharmacy Unit in Lagos Public Service Holds Three-Day Summit

The Summit of the Heads of Pharmacy Units in the Lagos State Public Service convened at Orchid Hotels, Lekki, a pivotal platform for stakeholders to delve into the complexities and opportunities surrounding pharmacy practice in the pursuit of universal health coverage.

With a diverse array of attendees, including policymakers, regulators, pharmacists, pharmaceutical companies and healthcare professionals, the three-day summit which commenced on Wednesday facilitated robust discussions and exchanges of insights aimed at addressing challenges and harnessing the potential of new trends in pharmacy.

Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Health, Dr. (Mrs.) Kemi Ogunyemi, in her keynote address at the opening ceremony of the Summit themed: "Achieving Universal Health Pharmacy Summit: Stakeholders Seek Collaboration, Innovation For UHC

Coverage through New Trends in Pharmacy", highlighted the critical role of pharmacy in healthcare delivery and its evolution in the pursuit of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). She emphasised the need for collaboration, innovation and excellence in pharmaceutical practices to attain this goal.

She underscored the transformative potential of new trends in pharmacy, including digital health technologies and e-pharmacy solutions, in enhancing healthcare access, particularly in remote areas. Dr. Ogunyemi noted the importance of pharmacists in providing essential medicines and services, regardless of individuals' social or economic status.

Furthermore, the Special Adviser emphasised the evolving role of pharmacists



in promoting preventive and holistic healthcare approaches, urging collaboration with other healthcare providers and community engagement to empower individuals and communities.

Dr. Ogunyemi, therefore, urged stakeholders to embrace new trends, emphasising the commitment of the Lagos State Government to achieving universal health coverage through its THEMES Plus agenda with a focus on health and the environment.

Speaking in the same vein, the Permanent Secretary of Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye also advocated collaboration and tighter regulations in the pharmacy sector, emphasising the need for local solutions and tighter regulations to address challenges facing the pharmacy sector.

Dr. Ogboye highlighted the importance of the State Drug Revolving Fund (SDRF) and the need for its survival. He emphasised the simplicity of the system, which aimed to leverage

economies of scale to keep prices low.

He, however, noted that challenges have arisen, including the majority of stock in hospitals being sourced independently, leading to concerns about authenticity and undermining the system's integrity.

Moreover, Dr. Ogboye addressed issues surrounding prescription practices, emphasising the importance of adherence to the essential drug list and discouraging the arbitrary prescription of medications not stocked by the hospital. He called for hospitals to become one-stop shops to eliminate the need for patients to seek medications elsewhere.

In addition, Dr. Ogboye emphasised the need for enhanced monitoring and enforcement to combat the proliferation of fake drugs and unlicensed pharmacies. He urged pharmacists to play an active role in regulation, stressing that the State Government has rejigged efforts to address these challenges effectively.

Speaking on the lingering issue of consultant pharmacists, Dr. Ogboye expressed hope for a resolution through continued engagement between leadership and stakeholders. Dr. Ogboye encouraged open and frank discussions amongst stakeholders and participants to generate meaningful outcomes that would enhance the work of pharmacists in Lagos State. In his goodwill message, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Primary Health Care Board, Dr. Ibrahim Mustafa, who was represented by the Director of Pharmaceutical Services at the Board, Pharm. Shakirat Adeosun underscored the pivotal role of pharmaceutical services in primary healthcare delivery.

Celebrating the achievements of the Board, particularly in implementing the Sustainable Drug Revolving Scheme (SDRF) across numerous Primary Health Care Centres (PHCs) in Lagos State, Dr. Mustafa restated the commitment of the board to equitable

healthcare access and quality medicine provision for all residents.

Earlier, Director of Pharmaceutical Services at the Lagos State Ministry of Health, Pharm. Oyeibisi Omolambe highlighted the importance of the summit as a platform for meaningful engagement, idea exchange, and networking. She emphasised the significance of collaboration, learning, and growth in addressing pressing issues and seizing new opportunities in the pharmacy profession.

Furthermore, Pharm. Omolambe underscored the alignment of the summit's objectives with the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, noting the shared commitment to achieving universal health coverage through innovative pharmacy practices.

Encouraging active participation and fruitful dialogue, Pharm. Omolambe urged attendees to leverage their collective expertise to inspire change and make a lasting impact in the pharmacy sector.

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Lagos Assembly Mourns Wigwe, Urges Bankers To Emulate His Legacy

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State House of Assembly has mourned the demise of late Chief Executive Officer of Access Bank, Herbert Wigwe, urging his colleagues to emulate his footprints and sustain his legacy.

Wigwe's passing came in a helicopter crash in the United States of America alongside his wife, Doreen, son and Abimbola Ogunbajo, a former chairman of Nigeria Exchange Group.

Speaking under a plenary tagged 'Matter of Urgent Public Importance', Speaker of the House, Mudashiru Obasa, described Wigwe's demise as "shocking, painful, disturbing and unexpected."

Obasa who called for a stand-up minute silence for the deceased recalled the late banking tycoon as a highly passionate individual who was engrossed with Nigeria's development.

He said that Wigwe was a creature who struggled to establish himself in terms of professionalism, his contributions and activities in the banking industry and even his personal life.

He recalled the banker as a patron of the Lagos City Marathon which he supported for many years.

Obasa, who said that Wigwe was concerned about the economy of the nation and it's polity uttered, "All we can do now is mourn and accept what happened as what fate has brought upon us. He did not die alone. His wife, son and friend were with him.

"The lesson from this is that even though none of us wants to die, we must put the best of us in our relationships with others and contribute our best to our society and nation as these are what people will remember after us.

"I want to urge his colleagues to sustain his

legacies, his philanthropic activities part of which is the Lagos City Marathon which has been expanded beyond the shores of Nigeria as well as the Wigwe University which, I am sure, was for the benefit of Nigerians." Some of the House members described the late Wigwe as a man who was humble despite his financial strength.

"Though very wealthy, he brought himself to understanding people. He was a friend of this state for many years. He despised domestic violence and spoke against it vehemently," Hon. Desmond Elliot said.



KNOW YOUR LEGISLATOR

Honourable Adedamola Kasumu Position : Deputy Majority Leader

Honourable Adedamola Richard Kasumu, born on 29th March 1983 in London, England, is an indigene of Lagos State. He is a legislator at the existing 10th Legislative Assembly. His journey at the Assembly began in 2015 after claiming a convincing victory at the polls to become a member of the 8th Legislative Assembly as representative of Ikeja Constituency 02 under the All Progressive Congress, APC, hence, becoming the youngest lawmaker in the Assembly. During this period, Hon. Kasumu also served as the Chairman, House Committee Youth, Sports and Social Development, among other adhoc services and functions.

His first term spanned through 2015-2019 and therefore got a return certificate having won in the election for a second term in his Constituency. He won the election in March 2019 and was sworn-in as a

member of the 9th Assembly on June 7th 2019, also doubling as the Chairman, House Committee on Lands from November 2019 to May 2023.

The lawmaker contested again for the same seat in the 2023 elections and was re-elected to become part of the 10th Legislative Assembly in a historic third term win on the 18th of March 2023 with a landslide victory, thus, once again making him the first lawmaker to be re-elected for a third term in the history of Ikeja Constituency 2 and later became the Deputy Majority Leader.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Hon. Kasumu attended ABC Nursery Land, Ifako, Lagos for nursery and primary school education. He proceeded to Modupe Memorial School, and then Kings College for his Secondary School education.

He is an alumni of Irwin College, Leicester in



England and the University of Wolverhampton in the UK where he got a Diploma in Law.

Before venturing into politics, Hon Kasumu

became an administrator with Modupe Memorial School and then a became a Business Consult at Excel Plus Business solution, Omole Lagos.

Lagos Empowers Refugees, Residents ... Gives Out Assistive Tools At LASEMA IDP Camp, Igando

In a bid to ensure financial stability and independence amongst all active residents of Lagos State, the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA) has empowered 250 refugees, vulnerable and indigents of the Ikotun - Igando Community at a Short-Term Training Programme on Nine Entrepreneurship Skills. Speaking at the closing ceremony of the training programme held on Monday, at the LASEMA IDP Camp, Igando, Mrs. Cecilia Bolaji Dada, Commissioner for WAPA, represented by the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Oluyemi Kalesanwo, said the programme is an intervention initiative tailored to specifically uplift the lives of residents for social inclusion and viable means of survival. She said, "With the Lagos State being recognised as the 19th global human capacity building city by 'Time Out Group' ratings, we are proud to be one of the key factors that has enhanced this accomplishment, possibly because one of the key factors contributing to this



recognition is our commitment to providing free skills acquisition training and empowerment programmes for the indigent, vulnerable, people with disabilities, and internally displaced persons from some African Nations". While commending the efforts of the 1,250 participants towards financial independence across the five centres of the State, the Commissioner applauded the participants for their resilience in acquiring

different skills, such as Tie & Dye, Catering and Confectioneries, Gele Tying and Make-Up application, Hair Dressing and Wig Making, Fabrics Stoning and embellishments, Production of Soap and Pomade/Healthy Insecticide Production, Barbering Techniques and lots more, during the four weeks duration of the training programme. She reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to provide start-up packs to enable participants commence

their businesses immediately upon completion of the training, reiterating that the Social inclusion in the T. H. E. M. E. S Plus agenda of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's administration has afforded these recipients the opportunities of training and empowerment programmes for their developmental progress. In the same vein, she implored participants to adopt the entrepreneurship skills they were taught during

the training and practise proper bookkeeping, in order to access loans through the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF). According to Mrs. Onyime Obioma, the Associate Protection Officer, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Lagos State, who represented Ms. Bernadette Mutashi, the representative of UNHCR in Nigeria, recalled that the four weeks short-term Skills Acquisition programme for refugees is a response to WAPA's

capability to train and empower refugees following UNHCR's courtesy call to the Ministry in the year 2023. In his remark the Chairman of CDC Ayedade Community, Mr. Ogbagbolabo Orefuyi said, "I am very impressed by what WAPA has done for my people and I will ensure that the beneficiaries share their wealth of knowledge with others, thereby creating a chain of empowerment. Also, I encourage you all to maximise your knowledge and skills, so that you can bring glory to our community".

The highlight of the programme was the presentation of Certificates of Competency and Start-Up Packs for various ventures, including Wig-Making and Hair-Braiding, Barbing Sets, Make-Up and Gele Tying, Tie and Dye, Catering and Confectionery, Garments Stoning, Pomade Making Insecticide and Stove Wick, Ankara Craft and Interior Decoration, which were presented to all participants of the four weeks, short-term training programme.

Honourable Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment (MCCTI), Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem and members of the MCCTI Family formally welcomed the new Permanent Secretary, Dr. Olugbemiga Ayoola Aina, to the Ministry on Monday. While welcoming the new Permanent Secretary at a brief reception organised for him at the Conference Room of the MCCTI, the Commissioner expressed delight at the coming of Dr. Aina and assured of her readiness to work with him to deliver on the mandate given to the Ministry by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

MCCTI Gets New Permanent Secretary

Her words: "We are a team of very hardworking individuals dedicated to delivering on the Governor's expectations as expressed in our tagline: "Take Part, Take Pride, and Deliver Excellence", and the coming of the new Permanent Secretary will be a value addition in our quest to achieve the given mandate. The Commissioner reflected on the Ministry's readiness to embrace Dr. Aina's leadership and vision for a transformative journey ahead, saying the MCCTI team is ready to ensure he makes a success

of his tenure. In his response, the new Permanent Secretary outlined his vision for the future, emphasising on collaboration, innovation, and staff welfare, stressing the importance of managing expectations across the board - from the Political Heads to Public Servants to achieve seamless working relationships. Dr. Aina emphasised the need for the Ministry to embrace automation and strategic planning, including setting Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to achieve targets.

Innovation, he noted, might bring disruption, but it is a necessary step towards progress that requires an open mindset from all members of the staff. "Let me underscore the fact that we require a collective effort to script the success story of MCCTI, and I want to emphasise unity and shared responsibility in achieving the Ministry's goals. We are all on this journey and I want to encourage everyone to stop working in silos and foster a collective and harmonious working

environment devoid of animosity or division. "I also want to highlight the importance of social marketing to enhance the Ministry's public image and advocate a dynamic, non-toxic work environment that focuses on positive attitudes to meet deliverables", he stated. He said he always aspires to leave a lasting legacy everywhere he works because he is a process person and he aims to implement systems that will continue to benefit the Ministry long after his tenure.

"I believe very strongly in welfare, which does not necessarily have to be monetary all the time but I pledge to prioritise the entitlements and benefits of staff, guided by the understanding of the critical role it plays in the overall satisfaction and productivity of the workforce. "We are embarking on a new beginning, necessitating a change from all of us. Micromanagement is not my method but rather, empowering everyone to contribute their best to achieve the mandate of the Ministry", he added.

Omotoso Advocates Bridging Generational Gap Between Old and Young Politicians

How do we bridge the gap between the youth and elders in politics? That was the question this at the 13th convocation of Caleb University, Imota, Lagos State where Commissioner for Information and Strategy Gbenga Omotoso advocated bridging the generational gap, saying it is not merely a goal but an objective that is imperative for Nigeria's progress.

Omotoso, a journalist and writer, was the Convocation lecturer. In the audience were the Chairman and Visitor of the University, Dr. Ola Adebogun; Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nosa Owens-Ibie; Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi; Rev. Mother Esther Ajayi; Member House of Representatives for Kosofe Federal Constituency, Mrs. Kafilat Ogbara; former Minister for Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed; Police Commissioner Adegoke Fayode, who represented Police Inspector-General Kayode Egbetokun; Benue State Commissioner for Education and Knowledge Management, Rev. Frederick Ikyaan, who represented Governor Hyacinth Alia, and the MD/CEO, Tumpy Estate Development, Mr. Akintayo Adaralegbe.

To Omotoso, there is a need for the youth to become more involved in political parties, parliaments, political appointments, elections, and civic spaces as a matter of right (rather than of benevolence as it is sometimes suggested) and as part of the solution rather than a problem to be resolved by others. Omotoso's lecture was titled: "Closing The Generational Gap between The Old and Young In Nigerian Politics". He noted that through legislative actions, youth empowerment programmes, and inclusive governance structures, Nigerians will witness a gradual but significant transformation in the country.

He said that as the nation grapples with the dynamics between the old and the young, it becomes imperative for both generations to collaborate and learn from each other's experiences, forging a path



Gbenga Omotoso

that combines the wisdom of the past with the innovation and energy of the present to tackle the challenges of the future.

His words, "The common cliché that youths are leaders of tomorrow is no longer in tune with present-day reality. The truth is that what becomes of tomorrow is determined by what happens today. So, the more everyone grasps the fact that the youth are actually the leaders of today and not tomorrow, the better for all". The Commissioner pointed out that with the younger members of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's cabinet in Lagos State, one is bound to reaffirm that the future is now. "Fortunately, they have not disappointed the people as they cover themselves in glory through trail-blazing performances."

Omotoso went on: "To further harness the peculiar talent of youth in the State, Governor Sanwo-Olu has prioritised youth empowerment in all its budgets. All the budgets of the current

administration since 2019 have been carefully designed to meet the aspirations of the teeming youth by focusing on sectors with job-creating potential like Agriculture, Construction, Technology and Security.

"The aim is to improve the economic conditions and social safety needed for the youth and ensure all hardworking Lagosians flourish. Resources have been committed to sectors that need to grow for the youth to become self-reliant and economically empowered.

"A pivotal crux of all the budgets has been the promotion of an entrepreneurial culture among the youth. In the light of this, micro, small, and medium enterprises will be strengthened because their activities help to facilitate socio-economic advancement".

Omotoso averred that a lot had been done to support the entrepreneurial aspirations of young people through the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund,

LSETF.

The Commissioner assured the audience that this year, more will be done in the provision of technical and financial support to generate employment that will stimulate equitable economic prosperity.

It, however, according to him, needs to be stressed that youths who will be relevant in nation-building must be those ready to take responsibility and live responsibly. "The present trend where some youths act irresponsibly will not augur well for the nation", he said.

While emphasising that the nation must draw useful inspiration from its bustling strength and vigour, the Lagos spokesman maintained that young people must reposition themselves as agents of positive change.

The lecture drew huge applause from the audience of graduates, academics, royal fathers, government officials and other guests.



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400 Isolo LCDA Residents Undergo Eye Test Screening

Kehinde Adeleye

The people of Isolo LCDA will remember the past week for a long time as the government once again showed them that their health is extremely important and will always be given the utmost attention. Once again, the focus was on the visual health of the residents as they had their eyes tested for the right glasses, and those with serious issues were given medical advice on how to find solutions to their

impairments. Speaking to the beneficiaries from various areas within the council, Olasoju emphasized that preventing visual impairment and making Isolo a blindness-free area is a top priority for his administration. "This optical service is in furtherance of our healthcare policy aimed at providing attention to the health needs of residents of our community, especially those with one optical ailment or the other. In Yoruba, it's believed

that the eye is the most important organ of the body hence it deserves maximum care. This program is a recurrent exercise here in Isolo and the mission is simple; it is to make our council area a blindness-free zone. "We derive immense pleasure in meeting the demands and expectations of our people in all areas of governance. It's a thing of joy that the beneficiaries have trooped out in their numbers to make the most of this opportunity. We won't rest on our oars until our #IsoloOfOurDreams agenda is substantially achieved," Olasoju remarked. Beneficiaries were full of praise for the council boss as they spared no



words in expressing their appreciation. An Islamic Cleric who went by the name Kareem Usman described the gesture as commendable.

"I'm happy to be among the lucky people to have the benefit of glasses. It's not usually easy to teach from Arabic textbooks, especially at night. With this glass

gift; I don't have anything to worry about when taking my students in Arabic lecture class" Kareem enthused.

KAI Removes Touts from Oshodi, Ikeja-Along Pedestrian Bridges

In response to numerous complaints from residents of Lagos, the government of Lagos State has taken action to remove touts from pedestrian bridges at Oshodi and Ikeja-Along.

The Lagos Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC), also known as KIA, conducted the operation on Monday to rid these bridges of individuals causing disruptions.

The head of the agency's Public Affairs and Advocacy Unit, Ajayi Lukman, issued a statement highlighting the importance of ensuring safe and unobstructed use of pedestrian bridges by pedestrians, with the Corps Marshal, Major Olatunbosun Olaniyi Cole (Retd), emphasizing the need to eliminate any activities that hinder this. "We received outcries from Lagosians about the activities of miscreants and touts occupying the Oshodi and Ikeja-Along bridges on the guise of seeking shade, thereby placing themselves

strategically to dislodge pedestrians of their valuables which discourages their use of the pedestrian bridges on the highways as it serves the purpose of protecting them from being knocked over by speeding motorists," Cole said.

Cole emphasized the commitment of the Agency to enhance existing law enforcement efforts, reaffirming that anyone who endangers pedestrians on highways will be arrested and taken to court as a deterrent to others.

He stressed the significance of residents in Lagos using bridges for their safety instead of crossing highways, cautioning that disobedient pedestrians caught by KAI agents would also be prosecuted.

The Corps Marshal of the Agency also cautioned against street trading, prohibited by the State's Environmental Laws, specifically in the proximity of pedestrian bridges, and announced that those who violate this regulation would face legal consequences.

Support Group in Oshodi Clears Bushes in Methodist Primary School

In an effort to support the re-election of Oshodi-Isolo local government chairman Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, the Kendoo Independent Campaign Council (KICC) performed a community service by clearing bushes at Methodist Primary School in Oshodi.

The bushes had been a source of distress for the school and community, as dangerous animals posed a threat to their safety.

The KICC chairman, Mr. Azeez Olubiyo, and his team responded to the plea for help and mobilized a group of bush cleaners to cut the grass and create a safe environment for the students.

Mr. Olasunkanmi Owofunwa, speaking on behalf of the group,



expressed that their actions were a show of concern and aligned with the administration's goal of creating conducive learning environments for students.

The school headmistress represented by Miss Oni glowingly appreciated the council chairman and the KICC for hearken their

calls praying God help them all.

Other members of the KICC apex council that were present at the bush clearing exercise are the Baale of Irube, Mr. Sikiru Rauf, Mr. Habib Shittu; Alhaja Morenikeji, Alhaji Mudshir Are, Mrs Uche Balogun, Mr. Idowu Shola, Mr Julius Jolayemi and Mr

Wasiu Al-Moroof. Also appreciating the kind gesture, chairman of Igbehinadun Community Development Association, Tunde Afolabi thanked the KICC for clearing the bushes which he said has remain a big challenge for them because of the dangerous animals coming from it.

Badagry Free Jamb Forms Excite Beneficiaries



Beneficiaries of Free Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) forms sponsored by Former aspirant of Lagos State House of Assembly and the founder of Ejalonibu Foundation, Mr. Wusu Ejalonibu have been advised to focus on their studies for excellent results in a career-guidance session. Miss Grace Popoola, a graduate of Lagos State University, Ojo who took the session urged the jamb candidates to build relationship with colleagues and lecturer in university so that they can have smooth ride. Popoola advised them not to be lazy in school, adding that they should balance both academic and social life together. Isiaq Kodir, one of the beneficiaries promised to study hard to gain admission into university with the opportunity given to him. Kodir commended the foundation for assisting them to further their education by providing free JAMB forms to them.

Ejalonibu encouraged the youths of Badagry to work hard, prepare ahead and break the jinx of failure and mediocrity as he distributed Over 400 (JAMB) forms to candidates in Badagry Division. According to him, the exercise is to gear the candidates to study hard and prepare them to come out in flying colours in the JAMB examinations. And the motive behind the gesture was to support candidates who could not afford getting Jamb forms. He further made reference to how Badagry has been deprived of the governorship sit in Lagos State, explaining that with qualified, educated and experienced distinguished person's, Badagry will take its rightful place. He explained that Badagry is a historical town where civilization started, but isn't where it should be in Nigeria. "So, we believe the only thing that we can use to gain access to where we actually belong, is

education. "The foundation believe that many candidates in Badagry division are willing to go to University but they do not have the fund or support. "We are providing succour to everyone be it Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo or Ogu living in Badagry division, once you a Nigeria citizens, the foundation is ready to support you. "We intended to give out about 350 forms to interested candidates but since people continued coming, we have to continue to help them," He noted that the foundation would provide scholarship to candidates who gained admission to study medicine and education departments in the university. He urged beneficiaries who got the forms to study very hard so that the effort would not be in vain. He commended people who has been assisting the foundation to fulfill its objectives to residents of Badagry and Lagos.

Godonu Presents Uniforms To Pupils of Methodist Primary School

The head teacher of Methodist primary school, Sawa in Badagry West Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mrs. Comfort Akinwolere has appreciated Councillor, Hon. Friday Godonu for gifting the school pupils with school uniforms and other writing materials. She noted that in return, the pupils will utilize the gifts to also reward the school in their future time. She further disclosed that the school has a large population of over 300 pupils and only the

selected pupils will benefit from the 100 school uniforms provided by the Councillor. She appealed to the Councillor that the school is open for more and any other donation items for the school. According to the Councillor representing Ward B, Badagry West (LCDA), Hon. Godonu the exercise kicked started from the cherished Alma-Mata school, Methodist Primary School, Sawa on Valentine's Day, Wednesday 14th February 2024. "I decided to put the

event on Valentines Day to show love to school pupils." He further stressed that the project is an educational intervention programme aimed at assisting helpless parents who are struggling to get a better life for their children especially at this period of economic hardship and to further encourage the pupils to put in their best to studies. He disclosed to have planned to distribute not less than 100 school uniforms with other writing materials to school pupils within his ward.



Timi Dakolo Opens up on Upbringing

Nigerian singer, Timi Dakolo has opened up about how his parents abandoned him and left him in the care of his grandmother.

This was discussed by the singer during a recent interview on the Tea with Tay podcast.

Timi Dakolo claimed his parents, who were young at the time, abandoned him with his grandmother soon after his birth.

The musician claimed that his parents "They dropped him with his grandmother and ran away" because they did not have the resources to care for

him.

"My parents, I don't know why they were doing knocking at a very young age. They were very young so they didn't know what they were doing," he said.

"When they had me they were like 'Let's go and see your grandma' Then they dropped me with her and ran away because they were too young and didn't know what to do with me.

"I don't think my mother was up to 20 years old when she had me and my dad was probably in his early 20's. They were childhood sweethearts, then they left each other and he went back to Ghana."



Late Alaafin of Oyo's Wife Praises Portable On Valentine Day



Late Alaafin of Oyo's ex-wife, Queen Dami lavishes praises on her lover, Portable as she lists out the various qualities in him that she loves.

The socialite joined other couples to wish her own man a happy Valentine's Day with an adorable message.

Queen Dami note that she loves Portable with the whole of her being, adding that he is the most strongest and principled person that she knows.

Writing further, she stated that she's proud of him and proud to be his.

She wrote "My man, my whole heart, the love of my life, I love you for everything that you are. You are the strongest and most principled person I know. I want you to know that I am so proud of you, proud to be yours. I also want you to know that I trust you with all of my heart and I believe my heart is safe with you."

Timini Egbuson Declares Himself Africa's Biggest Actor in Nollywood

In a recent episode of the Menisms Podcast, Timini Egbuson, a prominent Nigerian movie star, confidently declared himself the biggest actor to emerge from the African continent.

Known for his roles as the Nollywood 'bad boy,' Egbuson asserted that his 15 years of consistent acting, without any breaks, sets him apart as a trailblazer in the industry.

During the podcast interview, Timini shared his perspective on the evolution of Nollywood, emphasizing his role in changing the narrative for young actors. He claimed that before his arrival, there were limited opportunities for young performers to secure leading roles in the Nigerian movie industry. "I have been acting for 15 years consistently. I've never had a time off or fall off for 15 years consistently. I believe that



I genuinely opened up the way for a lot of new school young actors. I also believe that I opened up the leading male young actor category," Timini confidently stated during the Menisms Podcast. The actor went on to humbly acknowledge his

contribution to the industry, stating, "When I joined Nollywood, there were no lead roles for young men. You either had to be an old man or a lady. All the young men that were acting were playing minor roles. Nobody was actively

writing lead roles for young men."

Timini Egbuson concluded his bold claim by expressing his belief that when all his accomplishments are considered collectively, he stands as the biggest actor in Africa.

The First Language Our Hope

-Solomon Atala

By Kunle Awosiyan

Olubunmi Atala's idea of personal and national development is predicated on the effective use of mother's tongue as the medium of knowledge dissemination and acquisition.

Ironically Atala is an American trained architect who believes he would have done better if he had learnt architecture in Yoruba instead of English Language

He attended University of Maryland, (UMES) Princess Ann, Maryland in 1975.

He transferred to Howard University, Washington, D.C. in 1976, from where he obtained a Master's degree in Architecture in 1980.

However, he is an addict believer in the use of indigenous language as the basis on which Nigeria can get out of its steady educational fall and economic debacle.

In his 368-page book, "The First Language Our Hope; Idea Towards A Great Africa", Atala posits that Africa remains generally underdeveloped compared with the rest of the world due to its education which is on the wrong pedestal-- in foreign languages.

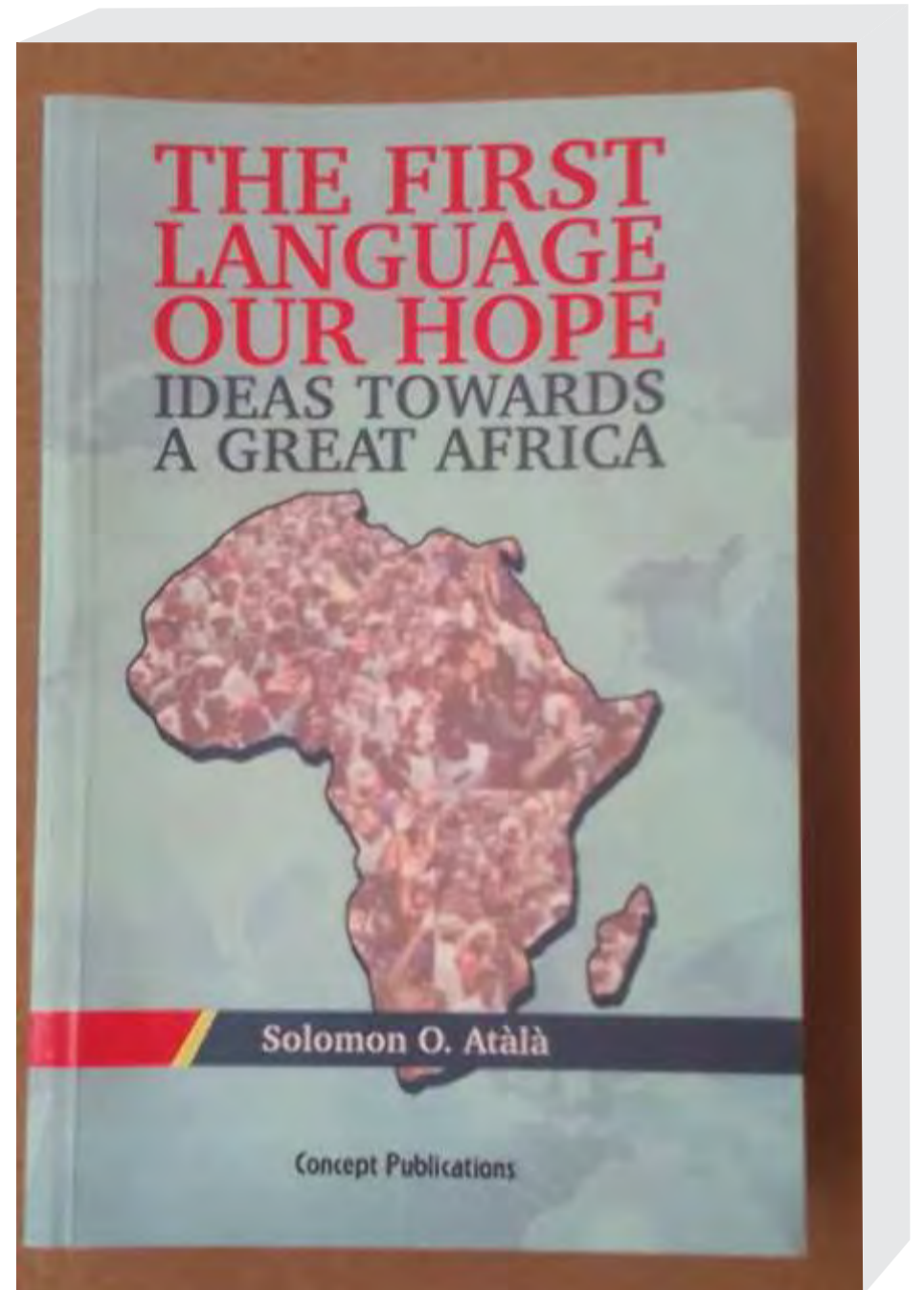
"Africa consumes what other nations produce, and it is not ashamed. Africa begs for loans and aids and other help matters in spite of its own abundant resources," he writes.

The book has 22 chapters and details events in politics, religion and economy, comparing Nigeria of the old to the present one and also speaking about the developed economy as a control to the present situation Africa and Nigeria in particular had found itself.

The author is a vast reader as his knowledge of dates of events reflects vividly in his writings, using biblical, traditional and social languages and Yoruba to drive home his points.

"Concerning the construction of the Tower of Babel to reach heaven, my own Bible says: When their language was one, nothing shall be impossible for them. Notwithstanding, their language that got scattered to many languages, "language" remains "language" with its precepts," he writes.

Quoting him, "In 1997, as a student of the Bible, I read within "The Origin and Growth of the English Bible" in the "Addendum" to my Favorite Bible-- Thompson Chain Reference Bible that: the word of Olodumare was locked up in Latin up till 14th century when John Wycliffe saw the rationale, the benefit, in translating the Bible to common English vernacular so that everybody in his country could read and understand deeply the word of God. The Bible was the central text book as of that time. Some of us know the 14th century as the



century renaissance era—modernity era – started in Florence, Italy. Renaissance was the birth of the best of earlier civilizations, especially the Greco-Roman ideals. Translations of other books in Greek and Hebrew and Latin were also done to European vernaculars during renaissance. (The Book)

Other eras that followed Renaissance include: Reformation, Scientific Revolution, the First Industrial Revolution, Agric Revolution, the American and French Revolutions and a General Enlightenment period.

The Second Industrial Revolution (the attainment of Modernity) capped these earlier eras as the Western European countries and America could now produce machines, including automobiles, electricity and steel in place of iron.

Precisely in 1884/ 1885, at the realization of the Second Industrial Revolution, seven European nations sat in Berlin, Germany to impose their languages and cultures on Africa. Their languages have locked up education from majority of our people. That singular act sent Africa back to the Dark Ages

which ended in the 15th century. Educate everybody in Africa in the first languages: That means there will no longer be an illiterate person in Africa. And that will impact governance in the communities positively.

Providence has a role to play in Atala's venture in 2019, when he took his manuscript to the English Language Department, UNILAG for assessment. To assess the manuscript, Dr Ayodeji Adedara was recommended by Prof Hope Eghagha, then Head of English Language Department.

They both concluded that Africa is not modern because the continent has not used its first languages in the education of its people as done by others since renaissance. Other people dropped foreign Latin for their own vernaculars since the 14th century.

He said, "As I continued to research on earlier efforts to validate my advocacy, I read about the experiment that Professor Babs Fafunwadid from 1970 to 1978, with some students in now Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. His experiment affirmed that students will do better when educated in the mother tongues.

The First Language Our Hope

-Solomon Atala



(The Author, Solomon Olubunmi Atala)

The last two chapters 20 and 21 of the book, "Language and Culture 1 and Language and Culture 2, according to, Tayo Ogunlewe, a Professor of English, Literature in English and Cultural Studies of the Lagos State University, is a timely and seemingly significant contribution towards the debate and advocacy for mother tongue education.

To him Language is one of human kind's greatest achievements and one of the most important resources. It is a subject that is endlessly fascinating in itself. Within the range of human experience, the acquisition of language is one of the most conspicuous sensibilities, uniquely characteristic of the species. An awareness of history, the passage of time and experience, becomes the for the human community the mechanism where we define ourselves, looking to our past for a self authenticating sense of purpose and direction and then, in turn, looking to our future with resolve and determination.

More properly put, it is a call, loud and emphatic for a recognition of, not just the mother tongue but for a re-appraisal of the value and the need for better recognition and valuation of indigenous African and valuation of indigenous African knowledge systems. The term indigenous may appear problematic because it appears to collectivize many district populations whose experiences under colonialism have been somewhat different, probably vastly so. Other collective terms akin to or synonymous to it include "Native",

"First people", "Aboriginals and quite a few others. While not denying the very powerful worldviews embedded in such terms, within my own intellectual framework in this review I intend to implicate or privilege the term "Mother Tongue". And "Indigenous".

A book like this is long overdue, it is entitled: The first Language, Our Hope: Ideas towards a Great Africa It will be most useful for mother-tongue or first language activists, indigenous knowledge systems advocates, linguistics scholars, educational policy planners and the general public.

The author is oddly enough an architect rather than (as one would ordinarily presume) a linguist, a literary theorist or an educationist or probably a social activist.

The basic or fundamental position and advocacy in this book is that Africa and Africans, the continent and its peoples, must endeavour to return their first languages, native languages and mother tongues to its place of honour in their societies. Indigenous languages should be not only be given pride of place, but elevated to prominence across all levels of our education structure/systems and even governances. What does this mean? It simply means that society, our society should belong to us. Yorubas should be taught in Yoruba. Children in Yorubaland ought to be able to learn arithmetic, physics, chemistry, Shakespeare etc in Yoruba. Ditto for Ibo Children, Ewe children, Ashanti, Zulu, Masai etc in their respective homelands and societies. Despite the imposition of English, French, Portuguese and Arabic by

Imperialists and Colonizers and the subsequent unthinking adoption and celebration of these foreign tongues on the indigenous populations in Africa, or maybe in spite of it, African governments and social/educational policy makers should strive to become more historically aware and politically conscious to the nuances of intellectual slavery in the 21st century and in this increasingly multicultural world.

The book in its 22 chapters gives a sweeping overview of stories, values, practices/struggles, examples and ways of knowing which continue to inform indigenous pedagogies and experiences. The opening, from the prologue to chapter 7 gives the author's perspectives on the Nigerian and American Constitutions, leadership styles in comparison, interrogating the merits and demerits of each approach.

Chapters 8-15 explores societal consciousness, values, faith and liberty using biographical commentaries on notable African patriots like Nelson Mandela, Wole Soyinka, Fela Kuti and Tai Solarin as icons of the struggle to emancipate and decolonize the African consciousness for a repossession of Africa by Africans. Chapters 16 and 17 calls for the political will by African governments and its elites, using the Nigerian context as example, for a return to regionalism as opposed to the present unitary arrangement that blatantly refuses to acknowledge the peculiarities and differences of the various and different ethnolinguistic groups. Personally, I am of the opinion that moving a contraption in which over 400 diverse linguistic ethnicities and

cultures who do not share the same vision and thus cannot have the same mission is an exercise in futility.

A major reason why the country with all its vaunted resources is in a state of stagnation since independence. Productivity and ingenuity are two sides of the same coin. As the old saying avers "Necessity is the mother of invention". For productivity, enthusiasm is key.

Nigeria has been stagnant in very many key areas and talk has been long while action has been short.

Chapters 18-21 examine the roles of education, language and culture in an increasingly competitive world. In the 19th Chapter, the author took time out to note the place of utilization and maximization of resources including business ideas and practices viz a viz the quality of education in any given society. The USA was the preferred example, and finally, the Epilogue where the author's advocacy of the mother tongue or native language is further emphasized in rounding off his philosophical odyssey on the best way by which Africa may achieve greatness and Africans achieve respectability among other achievers on the universal stage.

To further affirm his passion for his agenda of promoting mother tongue education, indigenous knowledge systems and unity, Solomon Atala has gone on to "put his money where his mouth is by translating his effort into Yoruba, his first language, complete with a bibliography and a glossary to probably to satisfy academic nitpicks and establish his scholarship.

Ikorodu Division peace initiative (IDPIL), NDLEA, NYCN Ikorodu Branch and some other organizations, campaigned against drug abuse and crime in the area. The campaign train visited various areas including Ayangburen palace, Ebute Iga, Ipakodo, Ibeshe, under Igbogbo-Baiyeku LCDA, Ikorodu West, and Igbogbo palace. During their visit to Kabiyesi, Oba Kabir Adewale Shotobi, the Ayangburen of Ikorodu Kingdom expressed his appreciation to Ikorodu Division peace initiative. Addressing the NDLEA he emphasized the importance of tackling the issue of drug abuse among the youth, acknowledging that while they may not be able to correct everyone, even small efforts can make a significant impact.

The Ayangburen shared a particular incident where a community reported drug sales at an event center, leading to the arrest of the center's owner and subsequent closure. He commended IDPIL for taking the "Say No to Drugs" campaign to every nook and cranny of Ikorodu, emphasizing their efforts in Ikorodu Division have not gone unnoticed. He concluded by expressing his gratitude and praying for divine rewards for everyone involved in the initiative.

Mr. Adebimpe Akinshola mentioned that they have toured in Ibeshe, under Igbogbo Baiyeku LCDA, after going through Ikorodu West, Ebute Iga, Ipakodo, and

Peace Initiative, NDLEA, Others Campaign Against Drug Abuse



Igbogbo palace. Their main focus is to raise awareness about the dangers of drug use, especially among young people. They have observed cases of young individuals experiencing unexplainable influences and even going mad due to drug use.

As part of their initiative, Mr. Adebimpe Akinshola mentioned the "share agenda," which includes key areas such as Security, Education, Health, Environment, and road infrastructure under IDPIL. They are working closely with the Lagos State Police Command in Ikeja, as it is a recognized private institution where

training and operations are conducted. Their ultimate goal is to ensure peace in Ikorodu, and they have seen positive results, with a noticeable reduction in the issue of Baddoo since their efforts began, she thanked Odofin Adewunmi Ogusanya for his continuous support towards IDPIL.

Mr. Adebimpe Akinshola highlighted their collaboration with the Nigeria National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to address the drug issue further.

Mr. Salami Awolaru, the director of finance and administration, Ikorodu division. He

said the awareness is to sensitize the whole of Ikorodu that the effect of drugs is not something to write out. "When you see people on drugs, it has affected their life style, put them in lots of trouble and if they can't get another drugs, they won't be okay". He said they want the community to be aware that taking drugs will make the society useless.

The renowned Nollywood actor, Adewale Elesho, expressed his appreciation to IDPIL for organizing a meaningful initiative like this. Elesho emphasized the negative impact of drug abuse on the lives of young people. He also criticized youths who complain

about unemployment after dropping out of school. Elesho advised individuals to be mindful of the company they keep and to start making positive choices from a young age.

Mr. Stephen Ogunsuwa Outgoing Commander NDLEA Ikorodu Command he said "Drug is snatching our youths. I appreciate the IDPIL and I tagged them one of the best organization in Ikorodu. I appreciate Ikorodu Division peace initiative for always giving the NDLEA support. We will move around the different wards to sensitize them about the harmful effects of hard drugs."

In rounding up the campaign for the Day

1, the campaign train visit the Adeboruwa of Igbogbo Kingdom, High Chief Tajudeen Onasanya the Odofin of Igbogbo Kingdom received the team on behalf of Adeboruwa of Igbogbo Kingdom, Oba Abdulsemiu Orimadegun Kasali, he said "I appreciate this great step taken by IDPIL, what the drugs are doing to our youths of today is not a good one at all, yet they are not stopping, I hope this campaign against drugs abuse will touch the heart of most of them, to the NDLEA, the sellers of these hard drugs are the major issue of these young people misfortune, and I Implore you to do the needful if such acts persist."

LASUSTECH Welcomes New Mass Communication Students

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH) recently hosted an engaging orientation programme for its newly admitted Mass Communication students.

The event took place at the Department of Mass Communication, providing essential insights and guidance for the incoming students. Dr. Zannu Prosper, Head of Department, set the tone with a congratulatory message, commending the students on their admission to the university. He encouraged them to strive for excellence and set high academic goals.

Addressing the practical aspect of their studies, Mr. Ade-Inasa Thomas, a lecturer in the Mass Communication department, urged students to celebrate their luck and emphasized the importance of practical skills in the professional course. "None is Superior nor Inferior," he conveyed, assuring that assessments would be based on practical applications.



Dr. Taiwo Okeowo shed light on internships, highlighting that students would undergo Student Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) twice during their four-year tenure, gaining practical experience in various media houses. Mrs. Olayinka Idowu and Mr. Abiodun Olajire guided students on calculating their CGPA to prevent confusion when viewing their results.

Mr. Ibrahim Fatoyinbo, the program's anchor, elucidated on the sequences within Mass Communication. In the second year, students would choose between Journalism, Broadcast/Film, and PR/Advert. Mr. Gbenga Akanmu

delved into journalism, discussing notable figures like Nnamdi Azikwe and Olusegun Oshoffa, elucidating the responsibilities of print journalists and the associated benefits. Mrs. Olayinka Idowu encouraged students to explore broadcasting, emphasizing the thrill of hearing their voices on radio and seeing themselves on television. Mr. Bidemi Balogun covered PR/Advert, focusing on appearance presentation, relationship management, and organization. Additionally, representatives from Wema Bank introduced the bank to students, urging them to open accounts and highlighting an ongoing giveaway. In an interview with Ogbonnaya Favor Chibuikem from the

Mass Communication department, he expressed gratitude for a successful orientation, stating, "I really learned a lot from the orientation, down to how to calculate the grade point. I think I really achieved a lot being a part of the orientation." Sunny Daniel from the Mass Communication department found the orientation helpful, appreciating the insights shared by lecturers and guest speakers. "The orientation was really helpful to me," he noted.

Al-Ameen Tiamiyu Olanrewaju, HOC of Mass Communication 100lvl, expressed appreciation for the orientation, saying, "I am happy to be one of the students in this school. I enjoyed the giveaway part from Wema Bank because I don't have a bank yet, and I'm happy the school is aware of it to avoid any issues."

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The Commissioner III of the Lagos Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM), Hon. Segun Agbaje, has restated his commitment towards empowering young people with careers in educational and vocational training. The commissioner spoke in Lagos with the leadership of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Epe branch, during a productive dialogue session. The meeting focused on key issues such as employment, vocational skill acquisition, and community services, aiming to bolster

Lagos TESCOM Pledges Support for Youth Empowerment In Epe

opportunities for the youth in Epe Division. During the dialogue, Commissioner Agbaje emphasized the commission's commitment to empowering young people by providing modern vocational training skills and exploring opportunities in the vibrant teaching service sector. "We are dedicated to creating an enabling environment for the youth of Epe to thrive in various fields," stated Commissioner

Agbaje.

Coordinator Comrade Moibi Ibrahim of the NYCN emphasized the need for the youth to consider teaching as a viable profession and to explore the opportunities available in vocational education. "Our goal is to champion the cause of young people by pursuing careers in teaching and acquiring valuable vocational skills," commented Comrade Ibrahim. The leadership of the youth council



expressed gratitude by presenting gifts to Commissioner Agbaje and the Permanent Secretary for their unwavering dedication to the development of

Epe Division and Lagos State. As the dialogue concluded, both parties affirmed their commitment to collaboration and

mutual support in advancing youth empowerment and education in Epe, reflecting a promising future for the region's youth.

50 Agege Residents Empowered With #100,000 Each

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Agege Local Government, Mr. Ganiyu Kola Egunjobi, has once again given financial assistance to 50 residents by providing them with N100,000.00 each, totalling N5,000,000.00. This initiative aims to empower the beneficiaries by helping them start new businesses or boost existing ones. The cheque presentation ceremony took place at the council secretariat on Wednesday, 14 February, 2024, with Alhaja Aramide Abdulsalam, the

Supervisor for Women Affairs & Poverty Alleviation (WAPA), representing the council chairman.

During the event, Abdulsalam advised the beneficiaries to use the money wisely and urged other residents who have not yet benefited to participate in future programs.

It is worth noting that the Egunjo bi-led administration has been providing this monthly financial support since 2017.

The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the council chairman and prayed for his and Agege's continuous growth and development.



The lawmaker representing Kosofe Constituency I and Chairman House Committee on Local Government Administration, Chieftaincy Affairs And Rural Development in the Lagos State House of Assembly Mr. Sanni Ganiyu Okanlawon, personally oversaw the distribution of Food Palliatives to residents of Kosofe in his Constituency Office at Mende Maryland. The recipients of the palliatives included vulnerable households in Kosofe I, such as the elderly, youth, market traders, artisans, widows, CDA/CDC members, non-Indigenes, people with disabilities, and mechanic associations. According to the esteemed lawmaker,

Lagos Lawmaker Distributes Food Palliatives

the distribution of these food palliatives aimed to reduce the impact of the current

economic situation, alleviate the suffering of the people, and address the issue of

hunger.

Mr. Segun Babatunde, the Chairman of Kosofe

Community Development Committee (CDC), expressed gratitude

to the Lawmaker for his generous act and remarked that the food palliatives would greatly benefit families.

He prayed for God's guidance and strength for the lawmaker to continue serving Kosofe I selflessly.

Furthermore the Lawmaker also gave a resident of resident of Ogudu and winner of the OKLA AFCON Predict and win competition final match between Nigeria and Ivory Coast, has received her cash prize of #25,000.

Ms Pedro Muibat who won the predict and win competition had predicted that Cote D'Voire will defeat Nigeria 2-1 in the finals of the AFCON 2023



Mushin 9th Legislative Arm Reassigns Portfolio to Principal Officers

Kehinde Adeleye

After the former House Leader, Mr. Olamide Williams, left his position to become the new Oba of Odi Olowo Kingdom, there was a change in leadership within the 9th Legislative Arm of Mushin Local Government.

The new House Leader, Hon. Olawale Ayegbayo, made some adjustments to the leadership of different committees in the chamber to accommodate the vacancies left by recent developments.

During the house chamber plenary held on Wednesday 14th February, 2024, Principal Officers and House Committee Chairmen were elected, along with their respective members, to serve in the various committees.

The Principal officers are:

Leader - Mr. Olawale Ayegbayo

Deputy Leader - Mr. Rilwan Amoo

Majority Leader - Mr. Mustapha A. Hakeem

Deputy Majority Leader- Mr. Abioye Oladele

Chief Whip - Mr. Ademola Dauda

The Legislative Arm House Committees:

Environment Committee

Chairman - Mr. Vincent Adedeji

Member - Mr. Adeshile Hakeem

Mr. Adisa Azeez

Works & Infrastructure Committee:

Chairman - Mr. Adeshile Hakeem

Member - Mr. Amoo Rilwan

Member - Mr. Adisa



Azeez

Agric. Rural & Social Development Committee:

Chairman -Mr. Amoo Rilwan

Member - Mr. Vincent Adedeji

Member - Mr. Yekini Jamiu

Health Committee:

Chairman - Mr. Yekini Jamiu

Member - Mr. Ademola Dauda

Mr. Adisa Azeez

Education Committee:

Chairman - Mr. Vincent Adedeji

Member -Mr.. Amoo Rilwan

Member - Mr . Adisa Azeez

Information, Strategy & Council Services Committee:

Chairman - Mr. Ademola Dauda

Member - Mr . Abioye Oladele

Member - Mr. Adeshile Hakeem

Women Affairs & Poverty Alleviation Committee:

Chairman - Mr . Adisa Azeez

Member - Mr. Ademola Dauda

Member - Mr. Yekini Jamiu

Chieftaincy, Culture, Boundary Adjustment, Petition & Public Complaint Committee:

Chairman - Mr. Abioye Oladele

Member - Mr. Vincent Adedeji

Member - Mr. Dauda Ademola

Selection, Ethics, Privileged & Protocol:

Chairman - Mr. Amoo Rilwan

Member - Mr. Adeshile Hakeem

Member - Mr. Yekini Jamiu

Finance, Revenue,

Budget, Planning & Appropriation:

Chairman - Mr. Olawale Ayegbayo

Member - Mr. Adisa Azeez

Member - Mr. Abioye Oladele

Under the new leadership, the house is prepared to continue its duties and enhance its collaboration with the Executive Cabinet, headed by Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye, to bring the benefits of democracy and effective governance to the people of Mushing Local Government.

Barr. Femi Martins, the former Special Adviser to Governor Olushola Sanwo - Olu on Tourism, Arts and Culture, also attended the plenary session and spoke to the lawmakers. He encouraged them to represent Mushin and its residents well and act as outstanding ambassadors. He expressed gratitude to the legislative chamber's leadership for the opportunity to observe the plenary session and deliver a speech.



MILO Nigeria, Real Warri Pkin, Aproko Doctor Partner To Empower Children

Kehinde Adeleye

Nestlé MILO recognizes the importance of sports in developing essential life skills that cannot be fully taught in traditional classrooms.

To encourage parents to prioritize their children's participation in physical activities, the brand has partnered with two Nigerian social media influencers, Anita Asuoha (Real Warri Pkin) and Egemba Chinonso Fidelis (Aproko Doctor).

This collaboration highlights MILO's commitment to shaping children's character and values, in addition to providing them with nutritious energy through their beverages.

The partnership was announced at Nestlé Nigeria PLC's headquarters in Lagos, with Ifeanyi Orabuche, Category Manager for Beverages, expressing the brand's dedication to empowering children through sports and promoting healthy lifestyles from

an early age.

We recognize the immense value that these personalities bring to our shared passion for promoting healthy lifestyles."

Anita Asuoha said, "This partnership is a homecoming for me as MILO has been a brand in my everyday life. Working with a brand I grew up with adds a warm touch, making this not just business, but also a personal journey, a blend that is a true blessing not only for me, but also for those I care about."

On his part, Egemba Fidelis said, "On the path to a healthier Africa, the importance of health education and positive behavioral change cannot be overemphasized. I am excited about the cooperation with Nestlé MILO as we join hands with parents across Nigeria to raise healthier and happier children. Equipping them to win daily will help to make the world a better place."

For over seventy years, MILO® has been

instrumental in fostering champions worldwide, making it a vital component of approximately 8 million children's breakfasts each day. In 2023 alone, the MILO® School Sports Development program reached roughly 4 million children in Nigeria.

According to the brand, sports builds crucial values such as perseverance, determination, and teamwork, contributing to the acquisition of life skills necessary for success

in all aspects of life.

MILO is prioritizing efforts to promote greater involvement in sports for girls and children with special abilities, ensuring equal opportunities for everyone.

Furthermore, MILO firmly believes that these partnerships will serve as a viable platform to inspire millions of parents in Nigeria to nourish their children's journey to success with the nutritious energy of MILO and the motivation to grow through sports.

JIMI SOLANKE

THE INDESTRUCTIBLE



Oluwatoyin Sutton

Jimi Solanke: The Indestructible <https://amzn.eu/d/f67m3e1>



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