



Lagos Deports  
Chadians Nationals  
Over Armed  
Robbery **P.11**



'Bronze That Feels Like  
Gold': President Tinubu  
Hails Super Eagles'  
Resilience After  
AFCON Victory **P.37**

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LAGOS COMMUNITIES EDITION

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Chinamanda:

## PETITION MEDICAL AND DENTAL COUNCIL, MEDICS ADVISE **P.2,4**

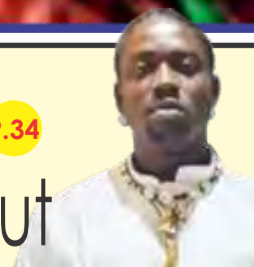
Lagos Plans  
To Address  
Menace Of  
Abandoned  
Buildings **Pg.6**



**Three-Month Amnesty:** Lagos Cuts Cost  
of Replacing Faded Number Plate **Pg.10**

Wealth Creation Ministry **Pg.14**  
Empowers 171, 000 Lagosians

VDM Denies Blame in **P.34**  
Phyna-Iyabo Ojo Fallout



**16-Year-Old Student Donates To Tinubu Health Centre **Pg.6****

# Chinamanda: Petition Medical and Dental Council, medics advise

By Kunle Awosiyon

**A** Professor of Pathology and former President of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Dr Francis Faduyile, has advised renowned author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie to formally petition the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) over the death of her son, Nkanu. Dr Faduyile made the call while reacting to media reports surrounding the child's death, stressing that the MDCN is statutorily empowered to investigate allegations of medical negligence involving licensed practitioners. Adichie had accused a Lagos-based hospital, Euracare, of negligence, alleging in a leaked private message that the hospital's anaesthesiologist acted "criminally negligently" in the care of her 21-month-old son. The hospital has denied the allegations in a public statement. The author has since initiated legal action, while the Lagos State Government has ordered an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death. While sympathising with the family, Dr Faduyile



Chimamanda Adichie

cautioned against drawing conclusions before a comprehensive investigation is concluded. "I am not sure Mrs Adichie has formally approached the MDCN, which is in the best position to handle allegations of professional misconduct," he said. "There are established rules, procedures and penalties for erring medical personnel. A panel of experts will investigate the matter and interact with all parties involved." According to him, where negligence is established such as inappropriate drug dosage or professional misconduct, the MDCN has the authority to impose sanctions, including suspension or removal of a practitioner's name from the medical register. "We must be careful about media trials. Scientists do not rely on isolated incidents without proper investigation. The process is clearly laid out, and Nigerians should allow it to run its course," he added. Faduyile explained that adverse drug reactions do not always result from overdose or expired medication, noting that hypersensitivity reactions can occur even when correct dosages are administered. "Many drugs react differently in different bodies. Dosage is calculated on a patient-by-patient basis, and sometimes it is the body's reaction not necessarily



Roberts

negligence that leads to complications," he said. He stressed that the MDCN exists primarily to protect the public, not medical practitioners, and urged that all negligence. This does not mean allegations be formally reported. Nigerian doctors are bad. Many are doing excellent work under very difficult conditions," he said. "I have served on disciplinary committees. Doctors have been suspended and struck off the register for

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# Chinamanda: Petition Medical and Dental Council, medics advise

Continued from page 2

On Adichie's legal action, Faduyile affirmed her right to seek justice but advised restraint.

"There are two levels: the professional disciplinary process through the MDCN and the criminal process through the courts. Ideally, the MDCN process should come first. If the complainant is dissatisfied, the courts remain open."

He noted that proceedings of the Medical and Dental Disciplinary Committee are accessible, and that doctors under investigation may be suspended pending the outcome.

Also speaking, a public health expert, Professor Alero Roberts, described the death as tragic and deeply painful.

"As a grandmother, the pain is double. I feel the grief of a mother. It is mournful," she said.

Roberts, who oversees paediatric care at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), said deaths of young children often reflect systemic failures in Nigeria's health sector.

"There are gaps in



Faduyile



Oyesola

personnel, infrastructure and response time. There should be an independent investigation into the death of this child," she said. She expressed concern over delays in the health system, warning that seemingly minor illnesses can escalate rapidly. "The systemic failures are many and grievous. The pain is unimaginable," she added, describing the incident as an indictment of broader healthcare challenges.

While calling for stronger medical ethics training

nationwide, Roberts also advised Adichie to formally approach the MDCN.

"The council can only act when a report is officially submitted by the affected party," she said.

Speaking on allegations surrounding the administration of Propofol, an anaesthetist, Dr Seyi Oyesola, cautioned against premature conclusions.

"It would be unfair to conclude that the anaesthetist acted improperly. Such direct condemnation

could compromise the integrity of the investigation," he said.

"A great deal is missing because the public does not fully understand anaesthesia, yet there is extensive commentary about it. Anaesthesia is not just about putting patients to sleep; its success underpins modern surgery." According to him, anaesthesia spans virtually all aspects of medicine, noting that informed consent is mandatory before administering it.

"Before

engaging a patient, an anaesthetist must obtain informed consent from the patient or the family, because known complications, though rare may include death," he said.

He added that risks associated with anaesthesia have been significantly mitigated in Nigeria due to improved monitoring and safety standards. Dr Oyesola also advised Adichie to consider lodging a complaint with the Nigerian Society of Anaesthetists as part of the review

process.

Meanwhile, Euracare Hospital has confirmed that its legal representatives have issued a formal notice in response to the allegations.

A constitutional lawyer and former President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Olisa Agbakoba (SAN), has previously disclosed that he has handled numerous medical negligence cases in Nigeria, highlighting growing public concern over accountability in healthcare delivery.

# LASEPA Reviews 2025 Milestones, Unveils Strategic Priorities for 2026

The Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) has held its Annual Performance Appraisal and Media Parley, with the General Manager, Dr. Babatunde Ajayi, engaging media representatives and key stakeholders on the Agency's achievements in 2025 and its strategic direction for 2026. Speaking at the session, Dr. Ajayi described 2025 as a landmark year for LASEPA, noting that virtually all departments recorded significant milestones. He said it would be impossible to tell the environmental story of Lagos State without acknowledging the Agency's central role in driving environmental advocacy, regulation, and enforcement across the state. According to him, effective communication remains essential not only for institutional visibility but also for ensuring that critical information reaches the public and stimulates positive behavioural change. He explained that the parley was designed to provide a comprehensive review of LASEPA's 2025 activities, while clearly outlining expectations and operational goals for 2026. "Setting clear goals makes it easier to measure performance at the end of the year," Dr. Ajayi said, while underscoring the

pivotal role of the media in environmental governance. He identified enforcement as a core pillar of LASEPA's mandate, disclosing that the Agency carried out 244 enforcement actions across Lagos State in 2025. These covered religious centres, hospitality establishments, warehouses, markets, hotels, and residential households. He noted that while environmental compliance is often associated with corporate entities, households also bear environmental responsibilities which LASEPA enforces where violations are identified. On industrial monitoring, Dr. Ajayi revealed that LASEPA intensified oversight of critical sectors, with particular focus on the Ojota Chemical Market, one of the largest chemical hubs in Lagos. He explained that regulating chemical handling is a strategic step toward curbing food fraud and mitigating environmental and public health risks. Working in collaboration with the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), LASEPA ensured that chemical handlers were properly registered and compliant with safety standards, preventing illegal access to hazardous substances. "Protecting public health remains our top

priority," he stated. Addressing electronic waste and lead-acid battery management, the General Manager recalled the widely reported lead poisoning incident in Ogijo earlier in the year. He noted that Lagos State had proactively mitigated similar risks by relocating improperly operated lead-acid recycling facilities, adding that only licensed collectors are now permitted to operate under strict regulatory control. Dr. Ajayi disclosed that in 2025, LASEPA received a total of 8,437 environmental complaints, with noise pollution accounting for approximately 3,300 cases, representing about one-third of all reports. He explained that the Agency adopts a graduated enforcement approach, often issuing first and second warnings before sealing facilities, noting that many violators comply after initial engagement. Highlighting community-based interventions, he cited the introduction of smokeless fish kilns in the Ago-Egun, Ilaje-Bariga fishing community as a major success. He said prolonged fish smoking had previously degraded air quality and affected the health and productivity of women and children. The modern smokeless kilns, he noted, improved efficiency, reduced emissions, enhanced food safety, and increased income by boosting

production capacity. Two kilns were deployed in 2025, with plans to introduce four or five additional units in 2026, subject to community assessments and private sector partnerships. On public health support, Dr. Ajayi explained that LASEPA collaborated with the Lagos State Ministry of Health and other stakeholders to collect and analyse water samples, interpret findings, and treat water sources, supporting early detection and prevention of cholera outbreaks. He further disclosed that under the LASEPA-UNIDO cholera prevention initiative, funded by a \$225,000 grant from the Government of Japan through UNIDO, the Agency distributed 223 food and water vendor kits across 12 markets, benefiting 770 participants in targeted local government areas, including Ikorodu, Lagos Island, Lagos Mainland, Alimosho, Ojo, and Kosofe. Dr. Ajayi also highlighted major strides in air quality management, citing collaborations with the Air Quality Monitoring Research Group (AQMRG), the University of Lagos, AirQo of Makerere University, and C40 African Cities under the AC4A Initiative. These partnerships enabled the deployment of low-cost air quality sensors across Lagos, development of a greenhouse gas and air quality emissions

inventory, health impact assessments, and continuous environmental monitoring. He disclosed that LASEPA completed 114 sensor installations in 2025, comprising 32 AirQo units, 18 Airly units, 55 MIRI sensors, two AQMesh sensors, one Kunak sensor, and six Clarity sensors. Dr. Ajayi concluded by reaffirming the Agency's

commitment to prioritising public health, environmental sustainability, and the protection of lives and livelihoods of Lagos residents. He also emphasized the importance of strengthening collaboration with the media and stakeholders to build a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient Lagos in 2026.



## LASPARK Announces Temporary Closure of Public Parks

The Lagos State Parks and Gardens Agency (LASPARK) has announced the temporary closure of all public parks under its management across the state to enable routine maintenance and upgrade works. In a statement, LASPARK disclosed that the affected parks will be closed to the public from January 12 to January 31, 2026, following increased usage during the recent festive season. The closure affects popular recreational centres such as Ndubisi Kanu Park, Alausa JJT Park, Dr. Finliah Abayomi Park,

Oregun, and all other LASPARK-managed parks across Lagos State. According to the Agency, the temporary shutdown is necessary to carry out essential landscaping, facility repairs, and general upgrades to ensure the parks remain safe, clean and enjoyable for residents and visitors. LASPARK assured Lagosians that the maintenance exercise is part of its commitment to providing well-maintained green spaces that promote relaxation, wellness and environmental sustainability.

# 16-Year-Old Student Donates To Tinubu Health Centre

A 16-year-old student, Oluwatariresi mi Agbeyangi, has donated essential baby items, including diapers and baby wipes, to Senator Oluremi Tinubu Primary Healthcare Centre in Ikoyi-Obalende Local Council Development Area (LCDA), in Lagos State, under her initiative, "The Cradle Project."

The donation, presented over the weekend, was aimed at supporting newborn babies, young mothers, and vulnerable families undergoing difficult circumstances, particularly during hospital stays.

Miss Agbeyangi, a student at The Hockaday School in Dallas, Texas, described The Cradle Project as a student-led humanitarian initiative committed to supporting new mothers and families in hospitals and care homes across Nigeria. She explained that the initiative was inspired by her growing awareness of the everyday challenges faced by mothers, especially single mothers, teenage mothers, and women who enter motherhood under difficult or unsafe conditions.

According to her, many families struggle to access necessities such as diapers, baby wipes, and other essential baby items, particularly during stressful periods of hospitalisation.

"The Cradle Project is rooted in the belief that small acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference," Agbeyangi said. "Providing simple essentials may appear



minor, but for families in need, it offers real relief, comfort, and reassurance during vulnerable moments." She noted that the project focuses on direct donations to hospitals and care homes, ensuring that assistance reaches beneficiaries promptly while maintaining efficiency, transparency, and dignity.

Beyond addressing immediate physical needs, Agbeyangi noted that the initiative aims to restore dignity and provide emotional reassurance to mothers navigating challenging circumstances, while also raising awareness about maternal and child welfare and the role of community-driven support in alleviating everyday burdens.

To fund the donations, the young change maker operates a small

baking business known as Cradle Crumbs, where she produces and sells homemade baked goods through her school's bookstore and personal orders. All proceeds from the venture are dedicated to purchasing baby essentials for donation. In addition to her humanitarian efforts, Agbeyangi remains actively engaged in school life. She is a member of several clubs, including the Wharton Investment Club, Investment Club, HockaStep, and Girls Global Connect, and currently serves on her school's Activities Board.

The donor extended appreciation to the Chairman of Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Bola Oladunjoye for his warm reception, support, and commitment to the welfare of mothers and children within the

community.

She also expressed gratitude to the Medical Officer of Health, MOH of the council, Dr. Tayo Akintoye, the doctors, matrons and nurses of Senator Oluremi Tinubu Primary Health Centre, Dolphin, Ikoyi, for creating an enabling environment that allows meaningful collaborations with young advocates and humanitarian initiatives aimed at strengthening maternal and child healthcare delivery.

Receiving the donated items on behalf of the LCDA and the health facility, the Chairman of Ikoyi-Obalende LCDA, Hon. Bola Oladunjoye commended the young donor for her compassion and sense of responsibility.

Oladunjoye commended the management of the donor's school, The Hockaday School,

Dallas, for supporting the vision of Miss Agbeyangi by letting her sell her cookies at the school store, from where she was able to gather resources for the donated items.

"We are deeply impressed by the vision, empathy, and leadership demonstrated by Miss Agbeyangi at such a young age. This initiative clearly shows that age is not a barrier to making a meaningful impact in society," the Chairman said.

He described the donation as timely and impactful, noting that essential baby items remain critical to maternal and child care, particularly for indigent mothers accessing public health services.

"These items will go a long way in supporting our mothers and newborns, especially those who may not

have the means to provide these necessities during hospital care. On behalf of Ikoyi-Obalende Local Government, we sincerely appreciate this thoughtful gesture," he added.

The Chairman further encouraged other young people and private individuals to emulate the initiative, stressing the importance of community participation in healthcare support and social welfare.

Though modest in scale, The Cradle Project reflects a deep commitment to empathy, responsibility, and service. Through sustained effort and community collaboration, Agbeyangi hopes to continue making a positive impact in the lives of mothers and children who need support the most.

# LASRRA To Leverage APC E-Registration To Expand Its Data

The General Manager of the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA), Mrs Bilikiss Adebiyi-Abiola has met with the Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Lagos State, Mr. Cornelius Ojelabi, to discuss a strategic partnership aimed at expanding the scope of residents' registration across the state.

The meeting, which was held at the Party Secretariat, Acme Road, Ogba, focused on leveraging the ongoing APC e-registration exercise,



which was recently flagged off for card-carrying party members, as an avenue to also capture eligible Lagos residents who are yet to be

registered or validated on the LASRRA platform.

During the engagement, both parties emphasised the importance of inclusive data

capture in strengthening governance, planning, and service delivery in the state. The proposed collaboration aimed at creating

additional touchpoints for residents to key into the state's official identity database. Speaking at the meeting, Bilikiss Adebiyi-Abiola noted that the partnership aligns with the Agency's mandate to ensure that every resident of Lagos State is properly identified and captured in the State's database, regardless of political affiliation.

"This collaboration presents an opportunity to deepen residents' participation in the LASRRA initiative by

taking registration closer to the people through existing, structured platforms," the General Managersaid.

In his remarks, APC Chairman Mr. Cornelius Ojelabi reaffirmed the party's commitment to supporting initiatives that promote good governance and inclusive development. He stated that the APC's e-registration exercise provides a credible platform that can be utilised to support state-wide data gathering efforts for the benefit of Lagos residents.

## Chess Day: LASODA, Others Promote Equal Opportunities For Every Child

Whitesands School, Lekki, came alive as children gathered for the Inclusive Chess Day, themed: "Every Child Deserves a Move."

The event showcased the power of collaboration in advancing disability inclusion through sports and intellectual engagement.

The programme was made possible through a strong partnership between Vulpes Inclusive Engagement, the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA), and Chess in the Slum Africa, all working together to promote awareness, inclusion, and equal opportunities for children with disabilities.

In her remarks, the General Manager of LASODA, Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal reaffirmed that the agency's paramount focus is to partner with

individuals and organisations with impactful initiatives that drive conversations and action around disability inclusion in Lagos State.

The organiser of the

event, Onyinye Atunaya, described the Inclusive Chess Day as a platform to celebrate children with disabilities while raising awareness for inclusion through the game of chess. She noted that

chess provides an avenue where every child can think, participate, and thrive, regardless of ability.

The highlight of the day was the interactive chess sessions led by Tunde Onakoya and

his team from Chess in the Slum Africa, who engaged the children in inspiring and skill-building activities that reinforced confidence, critical thinking, and inclusion. The Inclusive Chess

Day created a welcoming space where children with disabilities felt seen, valued, and included. Powerfully affirming that indeed, every child deserves a move.



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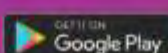
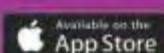
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# Lagos Plans To Address Menace Of Abandoned Buildings

The Lagos State Ministry of Housing has reaffirmed its commitment to providing more shelters for Lagosians and positively addressing the housing needs of residents across the state. The Ministry also assured residents that the completion of all ongoing housing projects at various stages of construction across the State remains a key priority in Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's vision, which must be achieved

by 2026.

The Commissioner for Housing, Hon. Moruf Akinderu-Fatai, gave the assurance while reviewing the progress the Ministry made in 2025, especially with the successful delivery and commissioning of the Akinsanya Sunny Ajose and Abraham Adesanya Parcels A and B projects. Hon Akinderu-Fatai charged all heads of departments to ensure tasks and progress of work at all the project sites reflect quality planning and excellent delivery.

"We must all work assiduously to ensure Sangotedo Phase II, Egan-Igando Cluster II and III, Ibeshe Phase II, as well as all joint venture projects are delivered for Mr Governor's commissioning," he said.

The Honourable Commissioner further added that the Ministry will continue to collaborate with relevant stakeholders, private developers and financial institutions to ensure the successful implementation

of its housing programmes, in alignment with the State Government's THEMES Plus Agenda.

In the same vein, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Housing, Engr. Abdulhafis Toriola has emphasised the importance of universal ethos such as hard work, justice, integrity and the need to seek blessings of Almighty God in official dealings. He also reminded the staff that "Effort is the key to success, while our work should also be done to the best of our ability

as a form of devotion.

Engr Toriola stated this during a New Year prayer session with management and staff of the Ministry. According to him, the Ministry remains fully committed to delivering on its mandate of ensuring that more Lagosians have access to decent, safe, sustainable and affordable homes.

The Permanent Secretary further disclosed that, in line with the Ministry's mandate and the

Lagos State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (LASRERA) Law, the Government is intensifying efforts to address the increasing number of abandoned buildings across the state.

He explained that the State will seek to use the existing law to intervene for the completion of these abandoned properties and consequently increase the Lagos State housing stock, improve the urban landscape, and enhance public safety.



# Three-Month Amnesty: Lagos Cuts Cost of Replacing Faded Number Plate

The Lagos State Government has approved a temporary reduction in the cost of replacing faded and damaged vehicle number plates from 30,000 to 20,000, as part of a three-month amnesty and rebate window running from January to March 2026.

The initiative, approved by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, applies to both private and commercial vehicle owners across the State and is aimed at improving vehicle identification, strengthening security architecture and enhancing overall roadsafety.

The Permanent Secretary, Motor Vehicle Administration Agency (MVAA), Mr. Rasheed Muri-Okunola, disclosed that the rebate is a deliberate and citizen-focused intervention designed to encourage motorists to voluntarily replace faded, worn or illegible number plates at a significantly reduced cost.

According to him, the condition of vehicle number plates has direct implications for security, traffic enforcement and crime prevention, as faded or damaged plates hinder effective monitoring, investigation and identification of vehicles.

"Clear and readable number plates are fundamental to public safety and security. This amnesty period allows motorists to replace faded plates at 20,000 instead of 30,000, reducing the financial burden while supporting collective efforts to make Lagos safer," Muri-Okunola stated.

He explained that the rebate applies strictly within the January to March 2026 window, urging motorists with faded or damaged number plates to take immediate advantage by visiting the Pilot Centre at Oshodi One Stop Centre, Oshodi or any of the agency's 140 stations across the state for the replacement process.

The Permanent Secretary emphasised that the initiative responds to rising security concerns linked to unreadable plate numbers, noting that legible and standardised plates are critical to crime detection, traffic management, digital vehicle tracking and emergency response systems.

Muri-Okunola warned that upon the expiration of the three-month amnesty period in March 2026, the replacement fee will revert to the original 30,000, and enforcement measures will be fully applied to ensure compliance.



Mr. Rasheed Muri-Okunola,

## Lagos Listed Among Top Seven Art Destinations

Lagos has been named as one of the seven art destinations to visit in 2026 by Artsy, the leading global online Art Marketplace.

The city was described as "a banner biennale in West Africa's preeminent art capital." According to an article titled "7 Art Destinations to Visit in 2026" published in artsy.net by Maxwell Rabb on January 8, Lagos is one of the "seven spots—from marquee art events to rising scenes—that are worth adding to an art-inspired travel itinerary in 2026."

The seven destinations picked by the leading global online Art Marketplace are Venice, Italy; Doha, Qatar; Sydney, Australia; Bangkok, Thailand; Lagos, Nigeria; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Malta.

Artsy disclosed that "Lagos is rapidly becoming the commercial and creative engine of African contemporary art, and this momentum will continue in 2026."

Stating why Lagos is among the seven art destinations to visit in 2026, the leading global online Art Marketplace, noted that the city's momentum is sustained year-round by a fast-evolving arts community.

The article reads in part: "The fifth edition of the Lagos Biennial returns to the city from October 17th to December 18th. Its main exhibition—curated this year by Folakunle Oshun—is distinguished for its thematic urgency and use of non-traditional sites, mirroring the city's density and political charge. This year, the theme is 'The Museum of Things Unseen', a reflection of ancestry and cultural history through the lens of museology.

"Amid the biennial, The Àkété Collection – Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art will officially launch its permanent home in the city in October, aiming to become a 'living archive' for the African continent.

"Also taking place is the 11th edition of the ART X Lagos art fair from November 5th to 8th. 'Many of the young artists in Nigeria believed they had to leave the country to establish themselves globally. I wanted to change that. I wanted to bring the world to us,' the fair's founder, Tokini Peterside-Schwegig, told Artsy in December 2025.

"The city's momentum is further sustained year-round by a fast-evolving arts community. Galleries such as Rele, kó, Ogirikan Art Gallery, and Nike Art Gallery support artists shaping contemporary African discourse, while institutions like the John Randle Centre for Yoruba Culture and History ground new work in deeper historical narratives."

Welcoming the report, which mentioned the State's monumental J. Randle Centre for Yoruba Arts and Culture, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, said the listing of Lagos among other top cities in the world is a reflection of the State Government's commitment to the development of the creative sector.

The Governor, restated the incumbent administration's vision to make Lagos the number one destination for arts, culture and tourism in a few years to come.

"We will continue to invest in the sector in which our youths have exhibited remarkable talents," the Governor said.

# Lagos Deports Chadians Nationals Over Armed Robbery

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State government has ordered the deportation of two Chadians, who were also released from custody following their remand in prison over offence of drug peddling. The Chadians, Musa Abubakar and Yusuf Aliu, were released to decongest the state's

correctional centres as revealed by the chief judge, Kazeem Alogba. Alogba informed that Abubakar and Aliu were handed over to the Lagos State Controller of the Nigerian Immigration Service for immediate deportation to Chad, citing the nature of their offences. Alogba gave the

order at the Ogb a Magistrates' Court shortly after approving their release from the

Nigerian Correctional Service under a special session organized for the release of eligible

inmates. The two men were among 18 inmates released during the exercise, which

drew beneficiaries from the Borstal Home, Adigbe; the female correctional centre; and medium- and maximum-security custodial centres across the state. While addressing the inmates who had regained their freedom, Alogba advised them to seize the opportunity to reform and be fully reintegrated into society.



The Federal High Court in Lagos has dismissed a suit by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, to stop the reopening of Proxy Night Club, owned by Lagos socialite Mike Nwogu, popularly known as Pretty Mike. Justice Lewis-Allagoo fused the NDLEA's application seeking a stay of execution of the court's December 5, 2025 ruling which ordered the unsealing of the Victoria Island nightclub pending appeal. Allagoo ruled that the anti-drug agency failed to show the special and exceptional circumstances required by law to justify a stay of execution and sealing of the facility. He further held that the NDLEA made a fatal error by seeking to stay the

## Court Re-opens Pretty Mike's Nightclub

By Felix Kuyinu

December 5 ruling without applying to stay the earlier November 28 decision upon which it was based, describing the omission as a crucial lapse. Tgejuge also faulted the agency for abuse of court process and forum shopping, noting

that the prosecution had previously admitted to such conduct, as reflected in the court's records. "In the final analysis, the application is brought in bad faith, lacks substance and is devoid of merit," the judge ruled,

dismissing the motion. The case stems from a midnight raid carried out by NDLEA operatives on October 26, 2025, at Proxy Night Club, during which Pretty Mike and over 100 guests were arrested over alleged drug-related offences. The suspects were

later arraigned, pleaded not guilty and were granted bail on November 7, 2025. Following the raid, the NDLEA sought an interim forfeiture of the nightclub, claiming it was used for drug activities. The court rejected the request, citing the

constitutional presumption of innocence, and ordered the premises unsealed. In a fresh twist, the court also ordered that contempt proceedings be served on the NDLEA Chairman through substituted means for allegedly disobeying court orders. The case was adjourned to February 9 and 10 for continuation of trial.

## Lagos Police arraign four suspects for stealing N5m raw materials



The police in Lagos have held four suspects for trial over accusations of stealing raw materials worth N5

million. The accused, consisting of two males and females each, identified as Mohammed Ibrahim, 34, Taiwo

Ogunsanya, 40, Abiola Adebayo, 37 and Blessing Chukwu, 40, were said to have stolen the items and are facing a four-count charge of conspiracy and conduct likely to cause breach of peace as disclosed by a police prosecutor, Aminu Isaac, during the suspect's trial at the court. Isaac held that the alleged

lawbreakers contravened the stipulated laws of the state after stealing petroleum jelly belonging to PZ Cussons alongside receiving stolen products and promo items, all allegations pleaded not guilty to by the litigants. During their arraignment at the Ikoroodu Magistrates' Court on Thursday, the policeman added

that the offences which he said were committed on December 25, 2025, violated Sections 168(d), 287, 328 and 411 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. The defendants were granted bail of N500,000 with two sureties in like sum by the Presiding Magistrate, Bola Osinuga, who fixed February 5 for their next re-arraignment.



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# AFRIMA 2026: Lagos Positions Music As Cultural Power, Economic Force

Lagos State has once again asserted its leadership in Africa's creative and cultural space, using the 9th All Africa Music Awards (AFRIMA) 2026 as a platform to project African music not merely as entertainment, but as a powerful tool for cultural diplomacy, youth empowerment and economic growth.

Speaking at the grand finale of the awards ceremony held recently at Eko Hotels and Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka described African music as the heartbeat of the continent's identity and a unifying language that continues to shape global culture. Addressing an audience of international artistes, industry leaders and policymakers, the Commissioner noted that Lagos' role as the official Host City reflects deliberate investment in the creative economy, positioning music as a strategic sector capable of generating jobs, innovation and



global relevance for Africa's largest city. She highlighted that AFRIMA 2026 was not confined to an awards night, but designed as an ecosystem of engagement, referencing the AFRIMA Press Conference, African Music Business Summit and AFRIMA Music Village, which created platforms for industry dialogue, capacity building and cross-border collaboration. Tracing the evolution of African music, Mrs. Benson-Awoyinka paid tribute to legendary icons such as Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, Bobby Benson,

Victor Uwaifo, Victor Olaiya, Dan Maraya Jos, King Sunny Ade and Chief Ebenezer Obey, whose legacies laid the foundation for today's Afrobeats movement, now dominating global charts. According to her, the contemporary success of Afrobeats is evidence that Africa's cultural products, when properly structured and supported, can compete, influence, and lead on the world stage. The Commissioner also underscored the importance of nurturing young talents, stressing that purpose, discipline, and institutional support

must complement talent to transform creativity into sustainable careers and enduring legacies. She called for stronger collaboration among government, industry stakeholders, and creative institutions, noting that early talent development and community-based engagement remain critical to securing a resilient and inclusive future for Africa's entertainment industry. Mrs. Benson-Awoyinka urged stakeholders to continue projecting African music with confidence and authenticity, adding that Lagos

remains committed to policies and partnerships that elevate culture as both heritage and economic capital. Also, speaking at the event, the founder of AFRIMA, Mr. Mike Dada expressed appreciation to the Lagos State Government for hosting AFRIMA 2026 and for its consistent support of the entertainment and creative industries. He acknowledged AFRIMA's strategic partners and sponsors, including First Bank Plc, Guinness Nigeria, the United Kingdom Government in Nigeria, the Swedish Government in

Nigeria, Utilita, GovenTurk, Union Service Agency, as well as numerous media organisations across Nigeria, Africa, and beyond. The AFRIMA 2026 awards ceremony featured electrifying live musical performances by various African artistes, delivering unforgettable moments that celebrated the diversity, rhythm, and soul of African music. Also in attendance were the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Bopo Oyekan-Ismaila, Directors, and members of staff of the Ministry, as well as top government officials, industry stakeholders, and other distinguished guests. Awards were presented across multiple categories, recognising outstanding talents in Inspirational Music, Jazz, Reggae and Dancehall, Pop, Traditional and Contemporary African Music, R&B, Dance Choreography, Music Video of the Year, Soundtrack in Film, Series and Documentary, Songwriting, Hip-Hop, Collaboration, and African Lyrics and Rap, among others.

# Wealth Creation Ministry Empowers 171,000 Lagosians

Between 2023 and 2025, the Lagos State Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment recorded remarkable milestones, positively impacting over 171,000 Lagosians through targeted and transformative interventions. Guided by the T.H.E.M.E.S+ Agenda of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, the Ministry has remained steadfast in its commitment to inclusive growth, skills development, and sustainable economic empowerment through people-centred, results-driven programmes across the State. With the unwavering support of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu and the Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, the Ministry has successfully translated policy priorities into measurable outcomes. Its initiatives have expanded access to relevant and future-ready skills, strengthened livelihoods, and created viable pathways for wealth generation and employment reinforcing Lagos State's economic resilience and promoting effective community development. Under the purposeful leadership of the Honourable Commissioner, Hon. Akinyemi Bankole Ajigbotafe, the Ministry has embraced strategic innovation, institutional efficiency, and effective execution. His focus on scaling high-impact initiatives continues to unlock economic opportunities for residents across Lagos State, reaffirming the administration's resolve to build a productive, self-reliant, and prosperous society.

## Medical Guild Visits Establishments Ministry



The Executives of the Medical Guild on Wednesday paid a courtesy visit to the Ministry of Establishments and Training as part of ongoing engagements with the State Government on issues affecting medical professionals. Welcoming the delegation, the Honourable Commissioner for Establishments and Training, Mr. Afolabi Ayantayo commended doctors in the state for their dedication and invaluable contributions to healthcare delivery. He described medical practitioners as critical stakeholders in the state's development, particularly within the healthcare value chain. Mr. Ayantayo assured the delegation that the State Government, under the leadership of the Governor, places a high priority on issues relating to the welfare and professional interests of medical doctors. According to him, the government has continued to demonstrate its commitment by addressing several requests and demands of doctors in recognition of the strategic role they play in safeguarding the health and well-being of citizens. In her remarks, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mrs. Olubusola Abidakun advised the Medical Guild to formally forward its requests and proposals to the Ministry through official channels to enable proper documentation and prompt consideration. Earlier, the Chairman of the Medical Guild, Dr. Oluwole Olusanya expressed appreciation to the Honourable Commissioner and management of the Ministry for the warm reception and the opportunity to engage directly with government officials. He highlighted several concerns requiring government attention, including the sustainable elongation of the retirement age of doctors from 60 to 65 years, improved effectiveness of advancement and promotion benefits and delays in salary payments for newly employed medical officers, among others. Dr. Olusanya noted that addressing these issues would not only boost the morale of the doctors but also enhance service delivery within the state's healthcare system. The visit ended with assurances of continued dialogue and collaboration between the Medical Guild and the Ministry of Establishments and Training in the interest of sustainable healthcare development in the State.

The Lagos State Government has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the entertainment, creative economy, and hospitality sectors, declaring its readiness to deepen investments that will further position the State as Africa's leading creative powerhouse. This assurance was given recently at the African Music Business Summit held at Eko Hotel and Suites, Victoria Island, as part of activities marking the 9th edition of the All Africa Music Awards (AFRIMA).

The summit convened top stakeholders from the African and global music industry, policymakers, institutions, and creatives to deliberate on strategies for strengthening Africa's music business ecosystem and expanding its global competitiveness. Speaking on behalf of the Lagos State Government and representing Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the Honourable Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka outlined the State's deliberate policy

# Lagos Reaffirms Commitment To Entertainment

... As Commissioner Unveils Plans For Investments, Talent Hunt, Music Infrastructure



direction and growing financial commitment to the creative economy.

According to the Commissioner, Lagos State expended 8.4 billion in the last financial year to support the creative sector through concerts, capacity-building programmes, training initiatives, and production support across music, film and related creative industries.

She further disclosed that government funding for the sector has witnessed significant growth, rising from 3.8 billion before 2023 to 18 billion, with

projections now approaching 40 billion, reflecting the sector's increasing economic relevance and demand for structured support. Mrs. Benson-Awoyinka also announced the forthcoming Lagos Talent Hunt, an initiative aimed at discovering, nurturing, and empowering emerging artists across the State. She revealed that, under the programme, government-owned theatres would be repurposed into cinemas and music studios, allowing young creatives access to professional

recording and production facilities at no cost.

Reiterating the State Government's commitment to collaboration and transparency, the Commissioner emphasised that Lagos operates an open-door policy, encouraging creatives to submit proposals, partner with the Ministry, and actively participate in policy conversations shaping the industry.

She noted that Lagos State has supported over 140 creative projects and organisations, hosted large-scale free public events attended by more than 100,000 Lagosians, and continues to deploy

the creative economy as a tool for youth empowerment, social inclusion and economic growth.

In her vote of thanks, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Bopo Oyekan-Ismaila, commended the leadership and accessibility of the Honourable Commissioner and reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to producing globally competitive creative talent from Lagos.

She encouraged practitioners in the creative sector to engage the

Ministry through its official platforms, submit viable proposals, and take advantage of opportunities created through public investment.

"We want to create more Burna Boys and more Davidos, global icons trained with taxpayers' money and celebrated on the world stage," she said.

Mrs. Oyekan-Ismaila also urged creatives to follow and engage with official Lagos State tourism and creative economy social media platforms to remain informed about funding windows, programmes, and emerging opportunities.

# Rising Interest Rates Trigger Corporate Pivot from Debt to Equity

Atume Terfa



Nigeria's prolonged high-interest-rate regime is triggering a quiet but decisive shift in corporate financing, with more companies turning their backs on expensive bank loans and opting instead to raise money through the equity market. As borrowing costs climb to multi-year highs, businesses are increasingly finding debt unattractive. The Central Bank of Nigeria's benchmark policy rate stands at 27 per cent, while

commercial lending rates in some cases hover around 36 per cent—levels that have made traditional loans a heavy burden on balance sheets. In response, firms are seeking relief in the capital market, where equity offers funding without the pressure of recurring interest payments.

This trend has become evident on the Nigerian Exchange (NGX), which has recorded a surge in equity fundraising

activity in recent months. Since mid-2024, non-bank corporates have raised an estimated N1.72 trillion through rights issues and public offers, with major players such as International Breweries and Nigerian Breweries leading the charge. Rather than accumulating fresh debt, these companies are tapping shareholders to finance expansion plans, acquisitions and operational restructuring.

Analysts say the

shift is a rational response to rising financing risks. High interest rates significantly increase the cost of servicing debt, compressing profit margins and reducing financial flexibility—especially in an environment of uneven revenue growth. Equity funding, by contrast, allows companies to preserve cash flow and lower the risk of default, even though it comes at the cost of ownership dilution. From a corporate finance perspective, the

logic is clear. When interest rates rise sharply, debt loses its appeal as firms are forced to commit a larger share of earnings to interest payments. Equity, while more complex from a governance standpoint, provides breathing space and strengthens balance sheets, making companies better positioned to withstand economic volatility.

Beyond short-term survival, equity

financing is also helping firms refocus on long-term strategy. Freed from the pressure of meeting frequent loan obligations, management teams can channel resources toward growth initiatives, innovation and market expansion rather than debt servicing.

Still, the approach is not without its drawbacks. Issuing new shares dilutes existing investors' stakes and can complicate decision-making. Yet for many companies navigating today's high-rate environment, the trade-off is increasingly seen as worthwhile.

With interest rates expected to remain elevated in the near term, analysts believe more Nigerian firms will continue to rebalance their capital structures—leaning toward equity as a safer and more sustainable path to funding growth while safeguarding liquidity.



# Nigeria Advances Mining Drive with Lagos Gold Refinery

Atume Terfa

Nigeria is accelerating its push to reposition the mining sector as a key pillar of economic diversification, with a new gold refinery commencing operations in Lagos and a \$600 million lithium processing facility in Nasarawa State nearing official launch. The start of gold refining in Lagos marks a significant departure from Nigeria's long-standing role as an exporter of unprocessed mineral resources. Instead of shipping raw gold abroad for refining, the country is now retaining more

value locally—a core objective of the Federal Government's solid minerals reform agenda. Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Dr. Dele Alake, has described the refinery as a flagship project under the value-addition drive, noting that it is the first in a planned network of four gold refineries nationwide. The Lagos refinery is designed to produce high-purity gold that meets international standards, a move expected to boost export earnings, improve traceability across the gold supply

chain and curb illegal mining and smuggling. Industry experts say local refining will also stimulate job creation, enhance regulatory oversight and improve transparency in a sector long plagued by informal operations. Beyond Lagos, additional gold refineries are under development in other parts of the country, signalling a coordinated effort to expand domestic processing capacity and deepen Nigeria's participation across the precious metals value chain. While gold anchors

Nigeria's traditional mineral wealth, lithium represents its future-facing ambitions. In Nasarawa State, a \$600 million lithium processing plant is at an advanced stage and awaiting commissioning. Once operational, the facility is expected to position Nigeria as a supplier of processed lithium for global markets, particularly for electric vehicle batteries and renewable energy storage systems. With demand for lithium surging worldwide amid the energy transition, the project places Nigeria on the radar of critical minerals producers and clean-energy

investors. Officials say the lithium plant reflects the government's intention to move beyond extraction into processing and industrial use, creating higher-value outputs and long-term economic benefits. Nigeria's solid minerals push has also been backed by increased international engagement. Government officials unveiled details of the gold and lithium projects around the Future Minerals Forum in Riyadh, where mineral-rich countries and global investors converge to explore

partnerships, technology transfer and financing opportunities. At the forum, Nigeria highlighted its reform efforts, including improved licensing processes, updated geological data and incentives aimed at attracting credible investors. Authorities stressed the importance of collaboration with countries that possess advanced mining and processing expertise to accelerate sector development. With gold refining already underway and lithium processing set to follow, Nigeria is steadily reshaping its mining narrative—from a source of raw materials to a hub for mineral processing and value creation. Analysts believe these projects could significantly raise the sector's contribution to GDP, generate skilled employment and strengthen Nigeria's competitiveness in both traditional commodities and critical minerals. As more processing facilities come on stream, Nigeria's solid minerals sector appears poised to play a larger role in supporting industrial growth, export diversification and participation in the global clean-energy economy.

# CBN Steps Up Cash Mop-Up Amid Cooling Inflation

Atume Terfa

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has significantly stepped up its campaign to drain excess liquidity from the financial system, recording a dramatic 182 per cent increase in cash mop-ups over the past year as inflationary pressures begin to show signs of relief. Fresh data from the apex bank indicate that liquidity absorbed through Open Market Operations (OMO) surged to about 33.12 trillion in 2025, compared with roughly 11.75 trillion in the previous year. The sharp rise highlights the CBN's more aggressive deployment of market-based monetary tools to rein in excess money supply, widely viewed as a key contributor to inflation and exchange-rate instability. OMO transactions allow the central bank to pull cash out of the banking system by selling

government securities to banks and qualified investors. By tightening liquidity, the CBN aims to cool price pressures, stabilise the naira and restore confidence in macroeconomic management. Analysts note that the approach mirrors strategies adopted by central banks globally during periods of elevated inflation, where tighter monetary conditions are used to anchor

expectations and curb speculative activity. The intensified liquidity tightening has also been designed to improve the attractiveness of naira-denominated assets, encouraging foreign portfolio inflows seeking higher yields and helping to support the foreign exchange market. This has become increasingly important amid efforts to stabilise the currency and rebuild external

confidence. Notably, the aggressive mop-up has coincided with a gradual easing of inflation. Nigeria's headline inflation rate moderated to 14.45 per cent in November 2025, down from 16.05 per cent in October, suggesting that tighter monetary conditions are beginning to filter through to prices. Even so, the CBN has remained cautious, holding major policy parameters steady for much of the year and opting for

measured adjustments to balance inflation control with the need to avoid choking economic growth. Despite the scale of liquidity withdrawals, overall money supply in the economy continues to rise. Broad money (M3) crossed the 120 trillion mark by late 2025, though the pace of growth has slowed, reinforcing expectations that monetary tightening is gradually gaining traction. Previous episodes have

shown that large OMO and Treasury bill sales can coexist with ample liquidity, particularly when fiscal spending and foreign inflows remain strong. With inflation easing but liquidity conditions still delicate, the CBN's expanded mop-up operations underline its determination to contain price pressures, stabilise the naira and steer the economy toward a more sustainable balance between monetary restraint and growth.



# Lagos Land Dispute Pits Cleric Against Longtime Resident Amid Alleged Intimidation

Kehinde Adeleye and Emmanuel Daniji



A long-running land dispute along the Lagos–Abeokuta Expressway in the Ojokoro axis of Lagos has escalated into a bitter confrontation

marked by allegations of land grabbing, intimidation and the controversial involvement of security personnel. At the centre of the dispute is Mr Olalekan Ashamu, a

resident of Shorunke Street near Adura Bus Stop, and Venerable Sunday Sowerun, a cleric who runs a Celestial Church of Christ cathedral in the same area.

What had for years been a quiet, uncontested parcel of land has now become the subject of competing claims and mounting tension. Mr Ashamu told our correspondents that he purchased the land in question in 1998 from Mr Abiodun Joseph Olufemi, popularly known as Cosmos, the owner of Cosmos Hotel located around

kilometre 30 of the Lagos–Abeokuta Expressway. He said the transaction, which cost 500,000 at the time, was properly concluded and that he has exercised control over the land ever since. For decades, he said, the property was used only for auto mechanic activities without challenge or interference. That relative calm, according to Mr Ashamu, ended last year when Venerable Sowerun allegedly began making moves that suggested an attempt to take over the land. He claimed that officials of the Lagos State Land Authority were brought to the site to inspect and

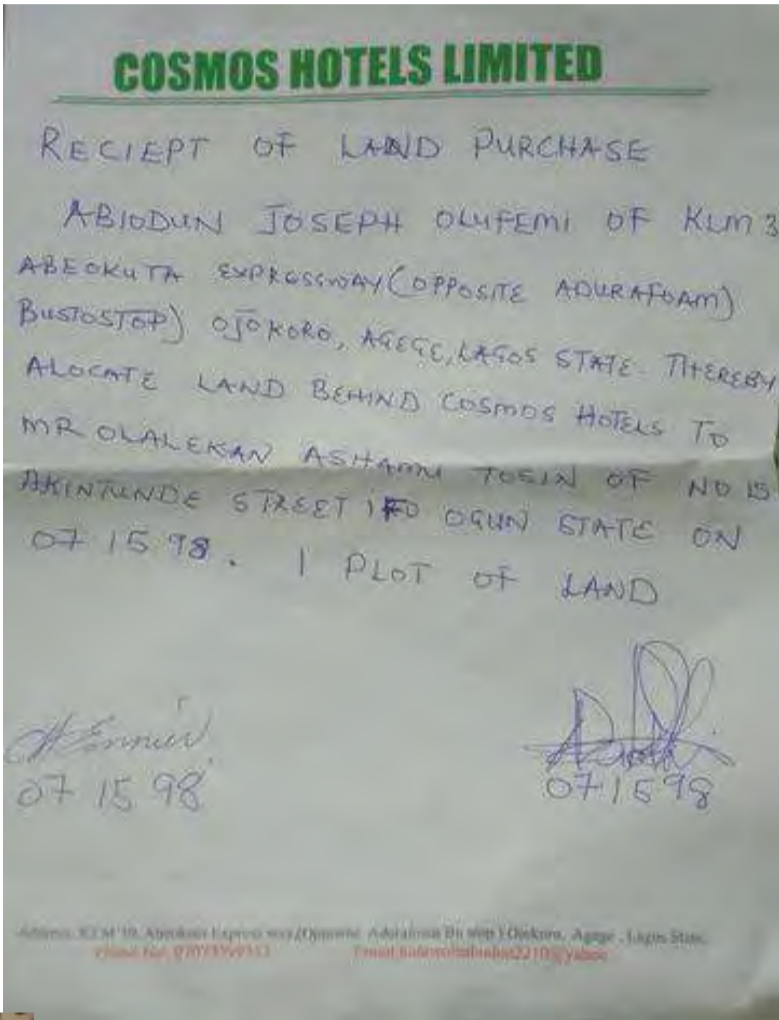
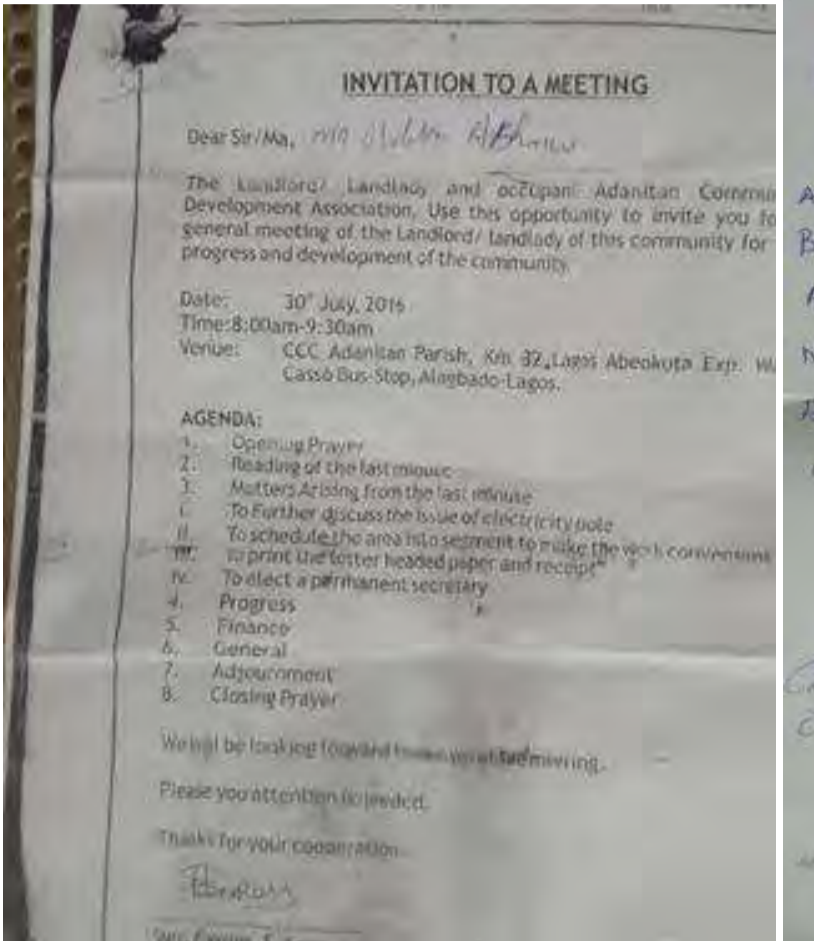
measure the property, an action he found puzzling and alarming in what he insists is a purely civil ownership matter. While acknowledging that Venerable Sowerun has been in the area longer and commands influence through his church, Mr Ashamu maintained that longevity and prominence cannot replace valid ownership documents. He alleged that many residents are reluctant to challenge the cleric because of his standing in the community, describing him as someone widely feared by landowners in the area, an allegation that remains unverified. According to Mr Ashamu, Venerable Sowerun later contacted him and asked that he present documents proving ownership of the



(The disputed land)

# Lagos Land Dispute Pits Cleric Against Longtime Resident Amid Alleged Intimidation

CONTINUE FROM PAGE 7



land. He said he requested time, explaining that he was indisposed and would make himself available the following week. He further alleged that during this exchange, the cleric demanded that he pay money in order to "reclaim" the land. Mr Ashamu said he flatly refused, insisting that he would not pay for property he bought nearly three decades ago. Efforts at dialogue, he claimed, were unsuccessful. He

said that he and his brother visited Venerable Sowerun's church residence on three occasions, only to be told that he was not around. He further alleged that although the cleric later said he was ill and staying in

Abule Egba, he declined their suggestion to meet him there to resolve the dispute. The dispute took a more disturbing turn when Mr Ashamu said he received a letter of eviction. He alleged that shortly

afterwards, Venerable Sowerun arrived at the land accompanied by soldiers who sealed the property with aluminium sheets, locked it up and ordered that all mechanic

activities on the site be halted. If accurate, the reported involvement of military personnel in a civil land dispute raises serious legal and ethical concerns. Now in his late 60s, Mr Ashamu said he fears losing the land he has lawfully owned for almost 30 years. Visibly distressed, he appealed to the authorities and the wider public for intervention, saying he only wants the law to take its course.

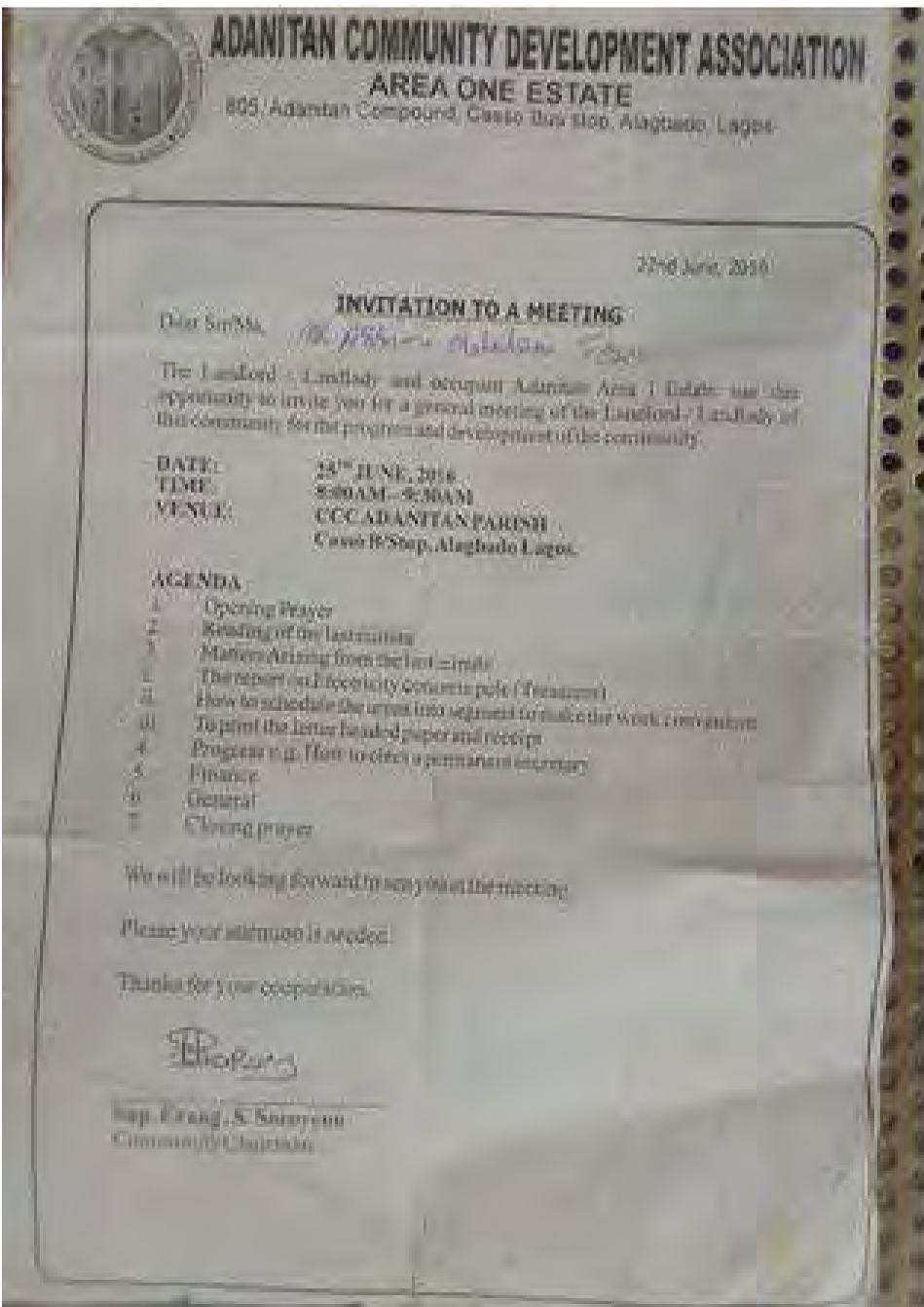
Our correspondent also visited Venerable Sunday Sowerun at his Celestial Church of Christ residence. When our reporters got to the church, Sowerun threatened to seize their electronic devices. He declined to provide a detailed explanation about the ongoing dispute, but presented a survey plan dated 2022 and 2023 relating to a different streets in the area, asserting that it reflected official measurements relevant to his claims. Venerable Sowerun told the reporters that he had repeatedly invited Mr Ashamu

CONTINUE ON PAGE 21

# Lagos Land Dispute Pits Cleric Against Longtime Resident Amid Alleged Intimidation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

to his residence to negotiate a settlement over the land, claiming that the matter could have been resolved amicably if the meetings had occurred. He described Mr Ashamu as avoiding these engagements. The cleric insisted that Mr Ashamu has no formal ownership documents for the property, and argued that the land was never legally transferred to him. Instead, he claimed that a person he identified as “Concord” had allowed Mr Ashamu to use the land, implying that his current occupation was without proper title. He also highlighted his connections within the community and broader networks, suggesting that his influence should not be underestimated. While some might see this as an assertion of authority, it



underscores the play in disputes where wealth, power over land in religious dynamics at Lagos outskirts, leadership, and

social influence often intersect with legal ambiguities. In contrast, High Chief Julius Aderemi Adeniyi, the Baale of the area, offered what he described as historical clarity. He confirmed that the land originally belonged to Mr Abiodun Joseph Olufemi, also known as Cosmos, and was legitimately sold to Mr Ashamu with proper receipts. He explained that the Oyero family, who owned significant portions of land in Ojokoro decades ago, had sold multiple parcels, and that the Cosmos sale to Ashamu was consistent with these transactions. The Baale emphasized that Mr Ashamu still possesses the original receipts, which serve as legal evidence of ownership. He further cautioned that the figure referred to as “Concord” by Venerable Sowerun is known locally as a land grabber, a claim that casts doubt on the cleric's version of events. By providing historical context, the Baale positioned himself as a neutral arbiter, underscoring the importance of documented transactions and long-standing community knowledge in resolving disputes. Ashamu later confirmed to our correspondent that he has reported the matter to the police. According to him, the police have asked Venerable Sowerun to present his own ownership documents if he claims title to the land. Last Thursday, both parties showed up at the police station where Sowerun was represented by his lawyer. As of the time of this report, the dispute remains unresolved, as the police had asked the them to go to court.

# Agege Business Mogul Rewards Best Performing Staff

Kehinde Adeleye

**A**gege-born entrepreneur and business mogul, Hon. Sola Osolana, celebrated the top-performing staff of his companies over the weekend, recognising their dedication and hard work with cash prizes. Osolana, the founder and chairman of Image Plastic Industries, Image Drycleaners,

Image Villa Hotels & Apartments, and Image Global Limited, awarded N200,000 each to his best staff across the different sectors. Salaudeen Suliat of Image Plastic Industries was named Best Staff of the Year, Jonny Moses of Image Hotels received the Hospitality Sector Award, and Atande Taiwo emerged as Best Staff of Image

Drycleaners. Second and third place performers were also rewarded accordingly. The ceremony opened with a prayer, praise and worship, and thanksgiving songs, led by both Muslim and Christian clerics in attendance. Speaking at the event, Osolana said: "Firstly, I thank God Almighty for His mercy over us, and

I cannot thank the staff enough for their commitment and collaboration. They are wonderful. I chose to celebrate them to show appreciation for their activities and dedication throughout the year."

The event also highlighted the economic impact of Osolana's ventures in Itele Ota, Ogun State. H R M O b a A b d u l a t e e f

Kolawole, the Kabiesi of Otun Ikotun Itele, commended Osolana for creating jobs and boosting the community's development. "This community has long lacked industries that employ large numbers of people. Thanks to Osolana's intervention, many of our people are now gainfully

employed, improving their living standards. As the host community, we are very grateful," he said. The celebration concluded with cake-cutting, sumptuous delicacies, drinks, and non-stop entertainment from a live band and DJ, bringing staff, guests, and community members together in a festive atmosphere.



# 041 Communication Depot Seeks Partnership With Alimosho LG

Kehinde Adeleye



**T**he Commander of 041 Communication Information Systems Depot, Air Commodore HC Usman (DSS, mni), led senior officers on a courtesy visit to the Alimosho Local Government Executive Chairman, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, on Monday to explore areas of collaboration and partnership. The visit follows a

familiarisation tour earlier this month by the Chairman and his team to the Depot. Air Commodore Usman expressed appreciation for the prompt visit and highlighted opportunities for cooperation, including the annual end-of-year social and cultural event, BAZA, which unites officers, families, and stakeholders through music, dance, and

cultural displays across Nigeria. During the meeting, Usman commended the Chairman for follow-up feasibility studies on initiatives such as a cassava processing plant and support for farmers within the base. He also requested intervention on the poor condition of access roads to the Depot, inclusion of base

community members in monthly small-scale business programmes, and consideration of qualified relations for employment opportunities. In response, Chairman Johnson reaffirmed his administration's commitment to partnership and assured the officers that the Council's WISE Agenda—Welfare, Infrastructure,

Security, and Education—remains inclusive and people-focused. He confirmed that spaces would be allocated to the Depot during social intervention programmes for small-scale business owners and that engineers would assess and address the access road issue promptly. Members of the visiting delegation included Flight

Lieutenant KE Obasi, Depot Communication Officer; Flight Lieutenant SL Shettima, Commanding Officer, Base Services Wing; Flying Officer S. Abdulkashim, Second-in-Command, Provost Squadron; Pilot Officer CZ, Second-in-Command, Works Squadron; and Flying Officer HA Badmus, Depot Public Relations Officer.

# Ibeju Lekki Rulers Urge Patience in Akodo Land Case

Atume Terfa

Traditional rulers in Ibeju Lekki, Lagos State have called on residents, prospective land buyers, and the wider community to exercise patience and allow the judicial system to settle the ongoing Akodo land dispute, warning against taking matters into their own hands. Led by HRM Oba Abdul Hakeem Olokodano, Alakodo of Ibeju Land, the Ibeju Lekki Traditional Council stressed that ownership of large portions of Akodo land remains tied up in multiple legal battles. The council cautioned that anyone purchasing property in the contested area without waiting for court rulings could face significant financial losses. The dispute involves at least 16 prominent families, including the Oba Olumoye Oniwonlu Abejoye, Kejibo Elejide, Ogunlaja, Ogbeni, and Abdullahi Baba Egbe families, all asserting claims to different parcels of the land. The complexity has been compounded by the involvement of several real estate companies. Historical judgments, including Supreme Court decisions dating back to the 1920s, cover parts of the land but do not resolve all current cases still before the Lagos State High Court, such as Suit No. EPD/8283/LMW/2019, brought by descendants of the Oba Olumoye Oniwonlu family. The council emphasized that while customary institutions remain respected, ultimate clarity on ownership can only come through the courts. Rushing into sales or ignoring ongoing litigation could result in eviction, legal battles, and wasted investments. The traditional council's message echoes similar calls from other royal figures across Nigeria, who have urged disputing parties to abide by judicial outcomes. For instance, in Delta State, a monarch recently reminded communities to respect court rulings in land disputes, highlighting the importance of legal processes over self-help solutions. For the Ibeju Lekki Traditional Council, the priority remains peace, stability, and clarity. The leadership urged all stakeholders to let "justice take its course through the legal system," reaffirming that courts are the proper authority to determine rightful ownership in the Akodo land saga.



# Oshodi-Isolo LG Pledges Support to NIMC

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Otunba Kehinde Oloyede-Almaroof, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to supporting the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) in its efforts to ensure comprehensive

registration of residents for the National Identification Number (NIN).

The assurance came during a visit by Mrs. Morayo Cadmus, Supervisor and Head of the NIMC Oshodi-Isolo Office, who met with the Chairman on Wednesday. Oloyede-Almaroof

commended the NIMC team for their dedication, highlighting reports of excellent cooperation with residents, particularly students requiring NINs for external examinations.

He urged the agency to bring any operational challenges to his attention promptly, assuring that his

administration would provide necessary interventions to facilitate efficient data capture. "We are partners in progress, and that is why your visit at this time is highly appreciated," he said, adding that the council would continue to support the commission to ensure all residents are issued their

national identity numbers.

In her remarks, Mrs. Cadmus expressed gratitude for the council's ongoing support and requested additional assistance to improve resident registration efforts. She reaffirmed NIMC's commitment to its

mandate of capturing every resident in Oshodi-Isolo for effective planning and governance.

The Chairman was joined at the meeting by the Local Government Party Chairman, Alhaji Saheed Kolawole Animashaun, and Hon. Azeez Onibiyo.

# Empowerment Programme: Ogbara Targets 1,000 Constituents

**H**on. Kafilat Adetola Ogbara, Member of the House of Representatives representing Kosofe Federal Constituency, has announced the forthcoming Kosofe Federal Constituency Mega Empowerment Programme, a large-scale intervention designed to improve livelihoods and strengthen communities across Kosofe in Lagos State. The lawmaker made the announcement during a press briefing attended

By Emmanuel Daniji  
by party leaders, committee members, and community representatives. She said the engagement was convened to clearly outline the objectives and scope of the initiative, stressing that it was important for constituents to hear directly from her to avoid misinterpretation of the programme's intent and implementation. Addressing residents of Agboyi-Ketu LCDA, Ikosi-Isheri LCDA, and Kosofe Local

Government, Hon. Ogbara extended New Year greetings and reaffirmed her commitment to their welfare. She described the people of Kosofe as hardworking, resilient, and enterprising, noting that 2026 would be a year of deliberate action rather than mere rhetoric. According to her, the Kosofe Mega Empowerment Programme is scheduled to hold on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at the CMD Funplex Centre, CMD Road, within the constituency. The initiative is targeted at youths, women, artisans,

traders, and small business owners, and is aimed at providing tools, opportunities, and resources to boost income generation and drive sustainable economic growth. Hon. Ogbara explained that the empowerment exercise builds on several skills-development initiatives she has sponsored over the past year. These include the training of mechanics and artisans under the National Automotive Technicians Association (NATA) in Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) conversion in Abeokuta, in preparation for emerging trends in automotive technology. Beneficiaries of the training, she said, will now be empowered with the tools required to independently carry out vehicle conversions. She also recalled the professional makeup training organised for young women at a reputable makeup studio in Victoria Island, as well as specialised technical training conducted by

Bosch, one of the world's leading tool manufacturers, for artisans in the constituency. Many of the participants, she disclosed, will receive Bosch tools as part of the empowerment package. The lawmaker emphasised that the programme is not a routine distribution of items, but a deliberate, data-driven intervention aimed at achieving long-term impact. She explained that beneficiaries were profiled through physical and online forms to assess their skills, age, economic status, and experience, in order to match them with empowerment support best suited to their needs. "This programme focuses on people who have already acquired skills and those who truly deserve support, including low-income earners and vulnerable constituents," she said. "By equipping trained beneficiaries with

the right tools and support, we are ensuring that skills translate into income, prosperity, and shared growth." Hon. Ogbara noted that the initiative aligns with the Federal Government's 2026 budget vision on shared prosperity, as articulated by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, adding that her empowerment drive reflects the broader national agenda of inclusive economic growth. She announced that close to 1,000 constituents will benefit in the current phase of the programme, assuring those not selected that the exercise would be continuous throughout her tenure. "We have comprehensive data, and empowerment will rotate. Everyone will be reached in due course," she said. The selection process, she added, adopts a bottom-up approach cutting across wards in Kosofe Local Government, Ikosi-Isheri LCDA, and Agboyi-Ketu LCDA, with...





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# Isale Eko Descendants Union Congratulates Newly Installed White Cap Chiefs

The Isale Eko Descendants Union (IEDU) has congratulated the newly installed White Cap Chiefs of Lagos, describing their elevation as well deserved and in line with tradition. In a congratulatory flyer made available to Echoneews, the

union praised the newly installed chiefs, noting that they are men "for whom the caps truly fit," and commended the ancient institution for sustaining the cultural heritage of Lagos.

Among those installed at the weekend was Arc. Gbolahan

Owodunni Oki, who was capped as the Ogboni Iduntafa of Lagos (Onilegbale), while Engr. Ismael Ajibade (Nasiru-Ayeni) was installed as the Eletu Odibo of Lagos.

Others include Chief Adebola Olalekan (Alabi Dosunmi) as

Olorogun Adodo of Lagos; Chief Yusuf Jinadu as Bajulu of Lagos; Chief Rasaq Abolaji as Onimole of Lagos; and Chief Lookman Bolaji Oluwa as Onisemo of Lagos.

There was jubilation and cultural fanfare across Isale Eko as Lagos witnessed

the formal capping of the new White Cap Chiefs—an historic ceremony that once again reinforced the city's rich traditional heritage.

The ceremony, held in the ancient heart of Lagos, was presided over by His Royal Majesty, Oba Rilwan Babatunde Osulale Aremu Akiolu I, who led

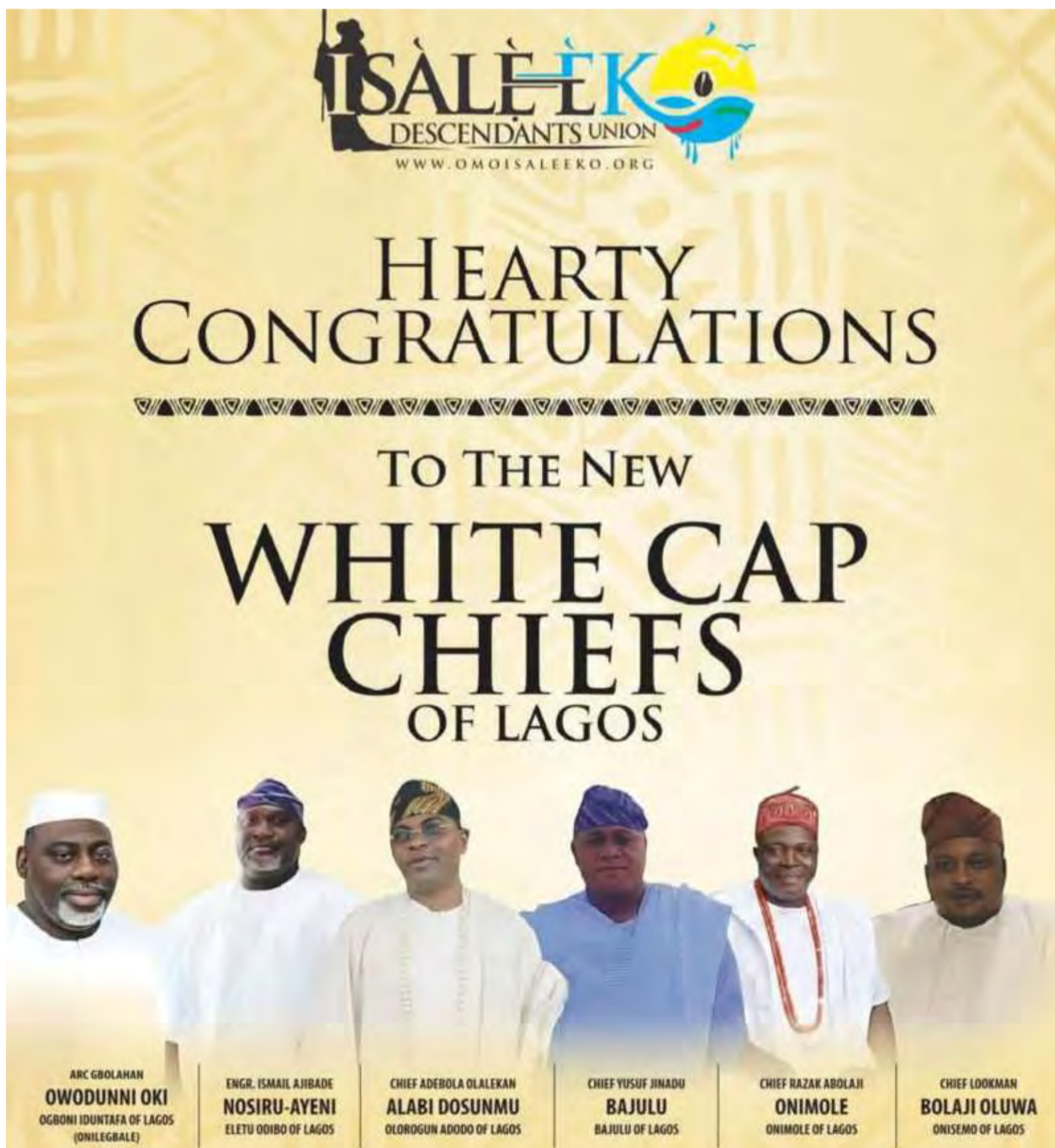
the age-long traditional rites marking the elevation of the distinguished indigenes into the revered White Cap Chieftaincy institution.

The colourful event attracted traditional chiefs, members of royal families, community leaders, cultural enthusiasts and residents of Isale Eko, who turned out in large numbers to celebrate the momentous occasion.

The White Cap Chiefs institution remains one of the most respected traditional hierarchies in Lagos, with its members serving as key custodians of customs, culture and traditional governance in the ancient kingdom.

Speaking during the ceremony, the Oba of Lagos charged the newly installed chiefs to uphold the traditions of Lagos, serve their communities with integrity, and remain committed to the preservation of Yoruba cultural values.

The event was marked by traditional music, chants, prayers and colourful displays of cultural splendour, as residents described the occasion as a proud moment for Isale Eko and Lagos State at large.



# New Hospital Beds, Diagnostic Tools Presented to Ifako-Ijaiye PHCs

Kehinde Adeleye

The Vice Chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government, Mrs. Oluwatoyin Akerele, representing Chairman Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat (UAH), has commissioned new medical equipment at local Primary Health Centres, marking a significant step in improving healthcare delivery at the grassroots level. Speaking at the

ceremony, the Vice Chairman said the provision of modern medical tools reflects the administration's commitment to strengthening the primary healthcare system and ensuring residents have access to quality medical services. She noted that the first phase of the equipment rollout includes hospital beds, diagnostic tools, and essential medical devices, which are expected to



enhance patient care and overall service delivery across the community. Acting Council Manager Mr. Osodipe Oladapo

urged health workers to make proper use of the equipment while reassuring residents of the council's ongoing support for the health sector. Health workers at

the facility expressed gratitude to the Chairman, describing the intervention as both timely and impactful.

The commissioning event was attended by the Vice Chairman, the acting Council Manager, and management staff of the local government.

## IKORODU

# Ijede LCDA Chairman Welcomes Pupils Back for Second Term

By Emmanuel Daniji

The Chairman of Ijede Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Motunrayo Gbadebo-Alogba, has officially welcomed pupils and students back to schools across Ijede for the second term of the 2025/26 academic session following the long holiday. Schools in Lagos State resumed on Monday, January 12, 2026, marking the start of the new term. In a statement, the

chairman reaffirmed her administration's commitment to providing good learning conditions and support for students, while emphasising the critical role of education in community development. "As the second term begins, I warmly welcome all our pupils back to their classrooms,



knowing that education is the foundation for building a brighter future for every child in our community," she said. Gbadebo-Alogba encouraged pupils

to remain disciplined, focused, and resilient, urging them to cultivate a positive mindset, believe in themselves, and strive for academic

excellence. She also highlighted her administration's ongoing efforts to upgrade school infrastructure, provide essential learning materials, and maintain safe and conducive learning environments. "I sincerely commend our dedicated

teachers for their tireless service, and urge parents and guardians to remain actively involved in supporting their children's educational journey. Together, let us make this academic year a successful and fulfilling one," she added. The chairman's statement underscores Ijede LCDA's continued focus on education as a key driver for growth and development within the community.

# Landmark CDA Honours Dr. Nurudeen Agbaje

By Emmanuel Daniji

**T**he Landmark Community Development Association (CDA), Igbodu, in the Agura axis of Ikorodu Local Government Area, Lagos State, has conferred the prestigious Rural Development Vanguard Award on Dr. Nurudeen Yekinni Agbaje, Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Rural Development, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to grassroots development across the state.

The award was presented on Saturday, January 10, 2026, during the association's 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM), which drew community leaders, residents, and development stakeholders committed to advancing rural growth.

According to the citation read at the ceremony, Dr. Agbaje was honoured for his exceptional dedication to the advancement of

rural communities, particularly through initiatives that have improved livelihoods and strengthened sustainable development in Lagos State, in line with broader national development objectives.

Since assuming office, Dr. Agbaje has overseen several targeted interventions across rural communities in Lagos, spanning infrastructure

development, electrification, provision of social amenities, and community empowerment programmes. These efforts, stakeholders say, have reinforced the state government's resolve to ensure that no community is left behind.

Speaking at the event, Chairman of Landmark CDA, Mr. Kunle Oshifuwa, described the award as a reflection of the association's

appreciation for public office holders who demonstrate genuine commitment to rural transformation.

"This recognition is our modest way of appreciating Dr. Nurudeen Yekinni Agbaje for his visible impact on rural communities. His efforts have translated into real development at the grassroots, and our people can truly feel the difference," Oshifuwa said.

He added that Landmark CDA remains committed to collaborating with government agencies and development-oriented individuals to accelerate progress within Igbodu and neighbouring communities.

The presentation of the award formed a major highlight of the AGM, underscoring the role of community development associations as

critical partners in driving sustainable development and strengthening accountability at the grassroots level. Dr. Agbaje, who has consistently championed inclusive rural policies under the administration of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, continues to receive commendation from communities across Lagos State for his hands-on approach to rural development and community engagement.



# Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA Deploys NIMC Officials to Ease APC E-Registration

By Emmanuel Daniji

Residents of Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA participating in the ongoing All Progressives Congress (APC) nationwide e-registration exercise can now obtain their National Identification Number (NIN) and complete party registration at the same time, following the deployment of National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) officials to the area.

The APC e-registration exercise commenced in the council area on January 5, with steady participation recorded. However, feedback from the grassroots revealed a major challenge, as many willing residents were unable to proceed due to the requirement of a NIN, which a significant number had yet to secure.

In response, the Chairman of Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA, Omo'ba Hammed Olalekan Aroyewun, facilitated the deployment of NIMC officials to strategic locations within the council to ensure that no resident is excluded from the process. With this intervention, residents can now enroll for their NIN and complete APC registration in one visit. For Igbogbo

Central and surrounding communities, NIMC officials are stationed at the Ayegbami area of Igbogbo, while residents of Ibeshe Kingdom can access the service at the APC Party Secretariat in Ibeshe. The move effectively removes a major barrier to participation, simplifying the registration

process and making civic engagement more accessible to residents. Speaking on the initiative, Chairman Aroyewun said the intervention was aimed at ensuring that every interested resident can register without unnecessary difficulty. He also expressed appreciation to key stakeholders who supported the effort. He commended Hon. Babajimi Benson (JB), Member of the

House of Representatives for Ikorodu Federal Constituency, for facilitating the digital registration machines, and Hon. Aro Moshood Abiodun (AMA), Member of the Lagos State House of Assembly, for coordinating with NIMC and ensuring the timely deployment of personnel to the LCDA.

The APC nationwide e-registration window is expected to close later this month. Party officials have therefore urged residents who are yet to register to take advantage of the new arrangement by visiting any of the designated centres to enroll for their NIN and complete their registration. The initiative underscores the council administration's commitment to inclusive participation and responsive grassroots governance, ensuring that the voices of residents of Igbogbo/Baiyeku are fully represented.



# Exclusive Club Ikorodu @ 60: Osinowo Reaffirms Commitment to Grassroots Development

By Emmanuel Daniji

**P**resident of the Exclusive Club Ikorodu, Ogbeni Bolaji Osinowo, has reaffirmed the club's enduring commitment to grassroots development, community impact, and institutional excellence as the foremost socio-cultural club in Ikorodu Division marks its 60th anniversary.

Speaking on the historic relevance of the organisation, Osinowo revealed that the Exclusive Club Ikorodu remains the first club ever established in the entire Ikorodu Division, a status he said comes with both responsibility and pride.

He noted that the club was founded as a platform for progressive engagement and grassroots development, a mandate it has consistently upheld for six decades.

"The Exclusive Club Ikorodu was formed to contribute meaningfully to the development of Ikorodu at the grassroots level. Sixty years later, we are still guided by that same purpose," he said. Osinowo

explained that membership of the club has traditionally been strictly reserved for indigenes of Ikorodu, a policy aimed at preserving cultural identity, accountability, and deep-rooted commitment to the land. However, he disclosed that the club is now exploring ways to admit key stakeholders from across Ikorodu Division who, though not indigenes, have demonstrated exceptional

commitment to the development of the area and facilitated major projects and investments.

According to him, the initiative is intended to strengthen collaboration, recognise genuine contributors to Ikorodu's progress, and broaden the club's developmental reach without compromising its core values.

He further stated that the club's status as the first elite club in

Ikorodu informed the adoption of very high admission standards from inception, noting that these criteria significantly influenced the social evolution of the division.

"Because we were the first, our admission standards were deliberately high. Over time, this gave rise to several other elite clubs across Ikorodu Division, which today also contribute meaningfully to community development,"

Osinowo explained.

On legacy projects, the president announced that the groundbreaking ceremony for the club's new secretariat is scheduled to take place in January 2026. He revealed that the project, to be executed with a state-of-the-art masterplan, is expected to span about two years before completion.

Osinowo described the proposed secretariat as a landmark facility that would serve as a symbol of pride for sons and daughters of Ikorodu, adding that it would stand as an architectural and institutional expression of excellence.

Reflecting on the club's journey, Osinowo traced its evolution from the early chairmanship era to the current presidential system. He paid tribute to pioneer chairmen, including the late Chief T.O.S. Benson and other founding leaders, whom he credited with laying a strong foundation that has distinguished the club over the

decades.

He said the vision, discipline, and foresight of the pioneers established a trajectory that has enabled successive administrations to sustain the club's relevance and uniqueness in Ikorodu's socio-developmental space.

Osinowo also highlighted the collaborative spirit of members, noting that beyond collective corporate interventions, members of the Exclusive Club Ikorodu individually and jointly support Lions Club projects and other humanitarian initiatives to empower residents and impact grassroots communities across the division.

According to him, such partnerships reflect the club's conviction that sustainable development is best achieved through cooperation and shared responsibility.

He assured members and stakeholders that the current leadership remains committed to deepening grassroots engagement, strengthenin...



# At Last, Ijede Gets New Oba After 13 Years

By Emmanuel Daniji

Ijede Kingdom, on Friday, witnessed a historic moment as His Royal Majesty, Oba (Hon.) Saheed Hassan Adefarasin, Ajanaku II, was formally installed as the Alajede of Ijede, bringing to an end a 13-year vacancy on the revered traditional stool.

The installation ceremony, held at the Ijede Local Council Development Area (LCDA) Secretariat, followed years of succession disputes and court cases after the demise of the former monarch, Oba Fatai Adebayo Oresanya, Ladega II.

Oba Adefarasin was presented with the Staff of Office and Certificate of Recognition by Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, represented by the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters, Hon. Bolaji Kayode Robert.

The event attracted royal fathers, government officials, political leaders, community stakeholders, and

residents from across Ijede and Ikorodu Division.

Presenting the instruments of office, Hon. Robert congratulated the new monarch and described the ceremony as a reaffirmation of the importance of traditional institutions in governance and community stability.

"Today affirms that we honour our traditions. I congratulate Kabiyesi on this historic occasion and on the wide acceptance he has received from the people," the commissioner said.

He charged Oba Adefarasin to

uphold the dignity of the throne, promote peace, foster unity, and deliberately pursue reconciliation among all princes and parties involved in the succession process.

"Beyond the crown lies a sacred responsibility. Be a bridge-builder. Extend a hand of reconciliation, because contests for the throne must never outlive the coronation," he advised.

The Chairman of Ijede LCDA, Motunrayo Gbadebo-Alogba, represented by her deputy, Femi Kabir, described the installation as

historic and congratulated the monarch on his ascension.

"Your emergence marks the beginning of a new chapter of unity, peace, and development for Ijede. We are confident your reign will be guided by wisdom, justice, and inclusiveness," she said, assuring the palace of the council's partnership in grassroots development.

In his acceptance speech, Oba Adefarasin expressed gratitude to the Lagos State Government and the people of

Ijede for their support, pledging to reign with fairness, humility, and inclusiveness.

"I accept this Staff of Office with a solemn promise that my reign shall be one of peace, unity, and development. I shall be a father to all, irrespective of differences," the monarch said.

He called on residents to embrace reconciliation and harmony, stressing that unity remains the foundation of sustainable progress in the kingdom.

The Ayangburen of Ikorodu, HRM Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi, while speaking after the ceremony, expressed satisfaction over the installation,

noting that Ikorodu Division had gained another traditional ruler. He urged the people of Ijede to rally round the new Alajede in the interest of peace and development. The ceremony was attended by several traditional rulers from Ikorodu Division, senior government officials, former commissioners, lawmakers, community leaders, and political stakeholders.

With the installation of Oba Saheed Hassan Adefarasin, Ijede Kingdom now begins a new era of traditional leadership after more than a decade of transition, signalling renewed hope for unity, stability, and development.



# Tonto Dikeh Sets Boundaries for Brand Partnerships in 2026

Kehinde Adeleye

**N**ollywood actress and politician Tonto Dikeh has announced that in 2026 she will be more intentional about the brands and organisations she chooses to associate with, emphasising respect and professional boundaries. In an Instagram post shared on Wednesday, Dikeh stressed that she will not collaborate with or promote anyone who is hostile or disrespectful toward her, her faith, or her pastor. She made it clear that she will only support brands that value, honour, and protect her person and work. Dikeh also reminded individuals and organisations to discuss appearance fees with her management before inviting her to events, highlighting that she does not engage in casual appearances and only participates in opportunities with



clear professional terms. "This year, I will be very intentional

about the brands and individuals I choose to support.

Respect is non-negotiable," she wrote. "I will not contribute to the

growth of any brand that doesn't value, honour, or protect me and my work. Unless there is a close personal relationship, please do not extend event invitations without first discussing my appearance fee with my management."

The actress and lawmaker's statement comes as she sets her priorities for the new year, signalling a more selective and strategic approach to endorsements and professional collaborations

## DeeOne Calls for Probe into NGOs Funding Terrorism and Trafficking

Kehinde Adeleye



**P**opular Nigerian reality star and comedian DeeOne has urged the federal government to investigate the financial management of all Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the country. In a video shared

on his Instagram page on Wednesday, DeeOne highlighted concerns about the misuse of NGO funds for unlawful activities, including terrorism, kidnapping, human trafficking, and other criminal enterprises.

"Federal government of Nigeria, please investigate all the NGOs accounts in the country. A lot of them are being used to sponsor

terrorism, kidnappers, child trafficking, and even human harvesting," DeeOne said.

He emphasised that while NGOs play a vital role in humanitarian work, some organisations exploit their status to make vast amounts of money illegitimately, often at the expense of vulnerable people. "We're not saying you should not make money, but it has to be legit, not at the expense of

people's lives," the reality star added, warning that some individuals set up NGOs under the guise of charity after performing a rescue or humanitarian act and quickly become multi-millionaires.

DeeOne's call adds to growing public scrutiny of NGOs in Nigeria and highlights the need for stronger regulatory oversight to ensure transparency and accountability in the sector.

# Regina Daniels' Friend, Ann, Released After Two Nights in Detention

Kehinde Adeleye



separation from the actress, reportedly linked to allegations of domestic violence.

Before Ann's release, Regina Daniels' elder brother, Sammy Daniels, raised concerns on Instagram about the handling of the case, revealing that Ann was taken to court without access to her legal representative. He wrote:

"Similar techniques. Not letting legal

representative or family aware of the whereabouts. Not allowing anyone know the court, final stage prison. Case adjourned until March 5th."

Hours later, he announced her release: "My T.E.D. Ann is out."

The development comes amid ongoing tensions between the actress and her estranged husband, drawing attention to legal procedures and the treatment of individuals involved in high-profile disputes.

Actress Regina Daniels' close friend, Ann, has regained her freedom after spending two

nights in detention following a theft allegation. The case has now been adjourned to March 5, 2026.

Ann was

reportedly arrested in Lagos on Monday and flown to Abuja in a private jet over the allegation, which was reportedly

made by Regina Daniels' estranged husband, Senator Ned Nwoko. The senator made the fresh claim two months after his

## VDM Denies Blame in Phyna-Iyabo Ojo Fallout

Popular social media influencer VeryDarkMan (VDM) has responded to claims made by reality TV star Phyna, who described him as a "Very Dirty Boy" and suggested he contributed to the breakdown of her relationship with actress Iyabo Ojo. In a detailed public statement, VDM expressed disappointment over the accusations, insisting that his support for Phyna was always sincere and

Kehinde Adeleye

unconditional. He highlighted that he consistently assisted her throughout her career, promoting her projects, offering guidance on personal and professional matters, and providing support for family concerns without expecting anything in return. "I always made myself accessible whenever Phyna reached out, whether for advice, paid promotional support, or family matters. My

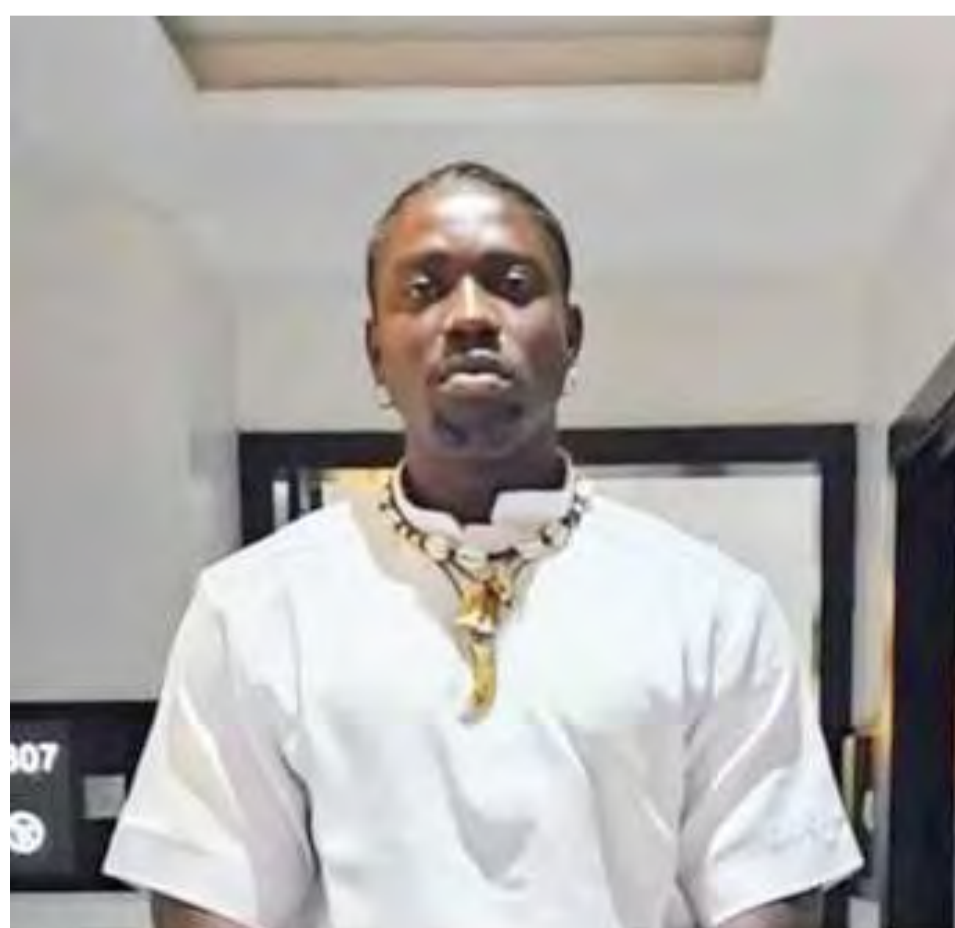
actions were motivated by loyalty and goodwill, not personal gain," he said.

VDM also questioned what benefit he personally derived from the relationship, emphasising that his intentions were always genuine. He reflected on past controversies, noting that greed and certain choices strained relationships, and observed that several former supporters distanced themselves as

public interest in Phyna decreased. Despite the disagreement,

VDM concluded on a positive note, stating that he harbours no

bitterness and wishes Phyna success in all her future endeavours.



# Young Game Wants Recognition of African Artists Abroad

Kehinde Adeleye

**N**igerian Afrobeats singer Young Game has drawn attention to the challenges faced by African diaspora artists striving for recognition within the Afrobeats industry, despite their growing role in the genre's global success.

Born Sunday Paul Bassey in Ndi Okpo Ihechiowa, Arochuku, Abia State, Young Game is now based in Italy and represents a new wave of African creatives abroad

who showcase their culture internationally but struggle for equal visibility compared to artists based in Nigeria.

Speaking on the hurdles, Young Game noted that physical distance from Nigeria's music ecosystem remains a major barrier. "Afrobeats is global now, but access is still very local," he said, pointing out that diaspora artists often lack the industry connections, media exposure, radio support, and live performance opportunities

necessary to break records.

He further explained that, while many diaspora musicians invest heavily in production, promotion, and distribution, their efforts are frequently

overlooked due to industry gatekeeping and location bias. "You can have the sound, the story, and the consistency, but without proximity to the industry, it's easy to be ignored," he

stated.

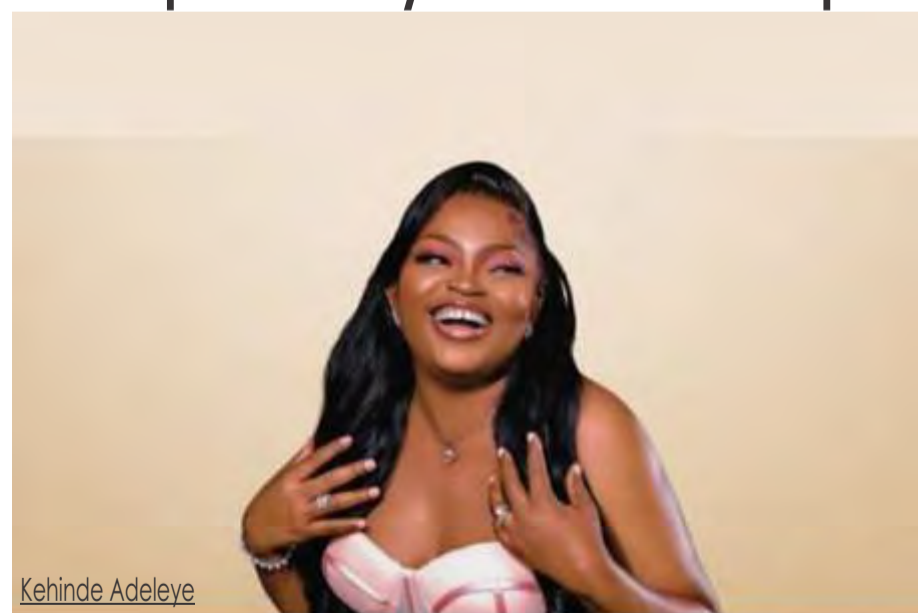
Young Game also highlighted an identity challenge for diaspora artists, who are sometimes considered "too foreign" for the local market and

"not African enough" internationally. Despite this, he stressed their importance to Afrobeats' global expansion, noting that exposure to diverse audiences fuels innovation and introduces the genre to new territories.

Calling for inclusivity, the singer urged the industry to embrace diaspora creatives as essential contributors to Afrobeats culture. "Afrobeats is strongest when it is unified. Diaspora artists should not be treated as outsiders, but as extensions of the culture," he said.



# Funke Akindele Encourages Empathy for People Living with Lupus



Kehinde Adeleye

**N**ollywood actress and filmmaker Funke Akindele has highlighted the

importance of empathy and understanding for individuals living with lupus, following a visit to the community in

Abeokuta.

Akindele, who recently hosted a meet-and-greet event for her movie 'Behind the

Scenes', expressed how deeply moved she was by the opportunity to connect with people affected by the condition. "My trip to Abeokuta for the Behind The Scenes meet-and-greet was so much fun. I was surrounded by hugs, smiles, and gratitude that touched my heart deeply," Akindele shared.

During the event, she stressed that lupus is not contagious and should not be stigmatised, urging the public to offer support and understanding. "Lupus is a medical condition, not a label, and never a reason to hide. To everyone living with it, you are not alone," she added.

Akindele also reaffirmed her commitment to using her platform to raise awareness about important causes and to share impactful stories. The event, organised in collaboration with Lureg Support, offered a space for meaningful interaction and recognition for the lupus community. "Meeting people living with lupus who felt seen through Behind the Scenes reminded me why stories rooted in empathy, self-care, and self-love truly matter," she said, expressing gratitude to the organisers for the opportunity to shine a light on the community.

# 'Bronze That Feels Like Gold': President Tinubu Hails Super Eagles' Resilience After AFCON Victory

President Bola Tinubu has extended his congratulations to the Super Eagles of Nigeria following their third-place finish at the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Morocco. The Nigerian national team secured the bronze medal on Saturday after a grueling encounter with Egypt, a victory the President described as a testament to the "candospirit" of the nation.

### Rising Above Semi-Final Heartbreak

The Super Eagles' journey to the podium was marked by a quick recovery from a painful semi-final exit. Just last Wednesday, the team lost to the host nation, Morocco, in a penalty shootout—a defeat that momentarily dashed



President Bola Ahmed Tinubu

the hopes of millions of Nigerians eyeing a fourth continental title. However, the team bounced back in the third-place playoff, dominating the "Pharaohs" of Egypt throughout regulation time before finally

clinching the win in a clinical penalty shootout. **The Resilience of the Nigerian Spirit** In a statement released by Bayo Onanuga, Special Adviser to the President on Information & Strategy, President

Tinubu praised the players for their mental toughness. "Despite their good run during the tournament, the Eagles lost the semi-final match to Morocco... and our people's hopes of winning the

championship were dashed," the President remarked. "However, our players remained undaunted, and exhibiting the resilience of the Nigerian spirit, their efforts have now paid off." The President

emphasized that while the ultimate prize remained out of reach this time, the manner in which the team secured third place against a seven-time champion like Egypt was a point of national pride.

### A Hero's Welcome in Rabat

The Super Eagles are set to be officially decorated with their medals on Sunday in Rabat. Looking ahead to the ceremony, the President expressed the gratitude of the federation for the team's "gallant" performance. "We will all be proud of them as they receive their hard-earned bronze medal," Tinubu said. "Thank you, our gallant Super Eagles. This bronze medal surely feels good like gold."

## SUPER EAGLES:- NSC CHAIRMAN MEETS CHELLE'S AGENT IN CASABLANCA

As the curtains draw on the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco, Chairman of the National Sports Commission, Shehu Dikko, has met with Abraham Sidibe, the agent of Super Eagles head coach Eric Chelle. The future of Chelle has become a major subject of discussion in recent days, following reports that several countries are showing interest in securing the services of the Malian tactician. Chelle's impressive outing with the Super Eagles at the 2025 AFCON significantly

enhanced his coaching profile, attracting attention

across the continent. Nigeria's strong performances under

his guidance have further underlined his growing reputation.



### AFCON 2025:- NDIDI, ONUACHU, OSIMHEN RETURN TO TURKEY, MISS MEDAL PRESENTATION

Super Eagles stars Victor Osimhen, Paul Onuachu and team captain Wilfred Ndidi have returned to Turkey following Nigeria's AFCON 2025 outing and will miss the official medal presentation. The trio, who are all Super Lig, departed immediately after Saturday night's match on a private jet arranged at the request of their respective clubs. Osimhen is on the books of Galatasaray, Onuachu plays for Trabzonspor, while Ndidi features for Besiktas.

As a result of their early departure, the three players will not be present at the medal ceremony scheduled for Saturday. It is understood that their medals will be presented to them at a later date through the Nigeria Football Federation. Despite their absence at the ceremony, Osimhen, Onuachu and Ndidi all played key roles in Nigeria's AFCON 2025 campaign, contributing significantly to the Super Eagles' overall success at the tournament in Morocco.



Nigeria coach, Eric Chelle has heaped praises on the national team players after an exhausting Africa Cup Of Nations (AFCON) campaign in Morocco. The Super Eagles had to settle for a third place finish after the host, Morocco stoped them from reaching the final. Chelled confessed that he was frustrated the players were exhausted at one point despite giving their all. The gaffer thumbs up the Super Eagles for staying resolute and loyal to his style of play which brought in a dynamic team. "Being a coach is never easy. At one point I felt disappointed, not because the players fell short, but because they gave everything they had until exhaustion. Today, as I stand here, I feel great pride in them. "I am very proud to be the coach of the Nigerian national team. This team gave everything not only in this match, but over the

# Chelle Sees Bright Future For Eagles

past two months and throughout a full year of continuous work. What we achieved did not come by chance." Chelle admitted managing the players took with different personalities took a toll on him but he was able to navigate it to a positive impact. "There was a great deal of work done with the players. Building a strong group is not easy; managing different personalities requires calm and patience, but the players responded in the best possible way. "The players gave everything for me, for the coaching staff, and for the country. I respect them all and am extremely proud of what they delivered.



Eric Chelle

This match is not just a one-night story, it is part of a longer journey that concerns the future of this team." The tactician revealed that he will build on the

experience gained at the AFCON which will serve as the foundation for the next phase of work. "We will build on this experience, and it will

be the foundation for the next phase of work. We tried different ideas, tested multiple approaches, and learned from every situation. Some things

worked, others did not but that is how teams develop. What matters most to me is clear, this team has character, commitment, and a strong future ahead."

## Nwabali Praises Instincts In Penalty Shout-Out Triumph

Nigeria first choice goalkeeper, Stanley Nwabali has praised his instincts for his heroic saves in the third place penalty shout-out triumph against Egypt at the Mohammed V Stadium, Casablanca. The Super Eagles consoled Nigerians with a third place finish at the 2025 AFCON as they

couldn't reach the final of the tournament. Nwabali said he's priority has always been helping the team win either he gets the nod to play or not. He urged Nigerians to keep supporting the team despite not winning the AFCON title in Morocco. "Mine is just on how to help not to play. I just want a lot of support from our people, the

country in general not for me but the team. I might be here today, I might not be here tomorrow but just support the team," Nwabali told the Press at the mixed zone of the Mohammed V Stadium, Casablanca. The shot stopper added, his instincts saved him in the penalty shout-out as it directed him to the right path.

"It was a very difficult match against a great Egyptian team. Both sides were solid and no one wanted to make a mistake.

During the penalty shootout, I stayed calm. I tried to read the takers and trust my instinct. "Thankfully, it worked

for us. This victory is the result of collective effort. The defenders were incredible, and the entire team stayed united until the very end."



Stanley Nwabali



# Adams Excited Over Debut AFCON Performance

Nigeria forward, Akor Adams is fulfilled with his performance at his debut Africa Cup Of Nations (AFCON) in Morocco. Adams have scored two goals and contributed two assists in six matches to wrap up an impressive debut AFCON. The striker describe the Super Eagles as the best team in the tournament despite not reaching the final of continental showpiece. He said, the AFCON has strengthened the players bond and unified the team.

"We are the best team. We came for the gold but we couldn't achieve it but we have a very strong group," Adams told the Press at the mixed zone of the Mohammed V Stadium, Casablanca. "Everyone is going home with a better friendship with the next person and a better person." The Sevilla striker praised Eric Chelle for giving him his first AFCON experience and hopes he stays on as the manager of the Eagles. "We are all grateful to Eric Chelle for what he has done for us as a group in the



Adams (Middle)

last three weeks. Chelle has given me the opportunity to represent Nigeria. "Everything for me is positive, like you said it's my first afcon so everything here is positive for me." Nigeria clinched the third place match by defeating Egypt 4-2 via penalty shoot-out. The Eagles were unbeaten in seven matches, scored 14 goals and conceded four goals with four subsequent clean sheets in the tournament.

Nigeria midfielder, Fisayo Dele-Bashiru believes he can adapt to play any role for the national team following his switch to the right back position in the third place Africa Cup Of Nations (AFCON) game against Egypt at the Mohammed V Stadium, Casablanca. The attacking midfielder was faced with the reality of the fullback position as he had to defend and support the attack of the team against the

# 2025 AFCON: I'm Versatile - Dele-Bashiru Reacts To Right back Role Against Egypt

Pharaohs. Dele-Bashiru admitted it came as a surprise for him to switch to the right back position in the game against Egypt but he was able to put in his best and handled the situation well. He commended Iwobi for his technique in breaking out opposing defense with needle thread passes. "I'm versatile and I'm always ready to play

at the position I'm asked to play. Today came as a surprise but I try to be at my best," Dele-Bashiru told journalists at the mixed zone of the Mohammed V Stadium, Casablanca. "Everyone has their time. Iwobi football IQ is topnotch. He breaks the line with great passes. He's a high level player." The midfield maestro draws positives from the Eagles AFCON run which made

them unbeaten and he's proud of winning a medal at his first continental showpiece tournament. "We won, we didn't lose a game in official time and that shows that we have a very solid team. Of course this is my first AFCON and coming here to win a bronze medal is something. We came here to win the title, that didn't happen but we were able to draw a lot of positives."



Fisayo Dele-Bashiru



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