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## LG POLL:

# APC MAY RECONDUCT PRIMARIES IN SOME COUNCILS AS APPEAL COMMITTEE SUBMITS REPORT



Pg.  
2&4

## Sanwo-Olu Launches N10bn Matched Funding With BOI

P.8



Lagos To Drive  
Year-Round  
Tourism Agenda  
Beyond "Detty  
December"

P.10

Y2025 MPB: Lagos  
Records 45% Revenue  
Increase, Generates  
N1.3Trn In 2024

P.10

## Agege APC Members Protest Primaries Results

P.20

## Court Orders Arrest Of Fleeing Suspect For Impersonating US citizen

P.15

# LG Poll: APC May Reconduct Primaries In Some Councils As Appeal Committee Submits Report

By Kunle Awosiyan

The All Progressives Party, APC, Lagos chapter may consider reconducting another primary election in some local government and local council development areas going by the recommendation of its appeal committee.

The committee, led by the state Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro (SAN) was inaugurated following the complaints by some aspirants that the primary election was rigged to favour some people. Echonews gathered that the committee received over 100 petitions from various LGA, LCDA and groups and had since recommended to the party to reconduct the primary election in some areas.

According to findings, the manner with which the primary was conducted failed the required electoral standard. Contrary to the claim of the chairman of the primary election committee, Mr. Babatunde Ogala (SAN) that the poll was credible, half of the petitions received showed that it fell short of the required standard in a democracy.

A prominent



Lawal Pedro

member of the party (Names withheld) alleged that the ballot boxes were hidden from the delegates. "They hid the ballot boxes in a room and asked each delegate to vote and leave immediately. They only brought out the

boxes outside after the election. They did not count the votes for delegates to see, they only announced results. This is improper. There is no transparency," he said. One of the petitions by Habeeb Anibaba

Support Group from Ejigbo LCDA alleged that votes and voices of the delegates were silenced. The petition titled "The Uncounted Voices of Ejigbo: A Tale of Democratic Betrayal" by fourteen delegates

from the LCDA challenged the results that announced Taoheed Taiwo of polling 16 delegate votes'; Olasunmade O, five delegate votes, Anibaba, four delegate votes and one invalid vote.

It reads, "Fourteen delegates from Ejigbo LCDA stood strong, casting their votes for Habeeb Anibaba in the APC Lagos LG/LCDA primary election held last Saturday at the APC Lagos secretariat. However, our voices were silenced as our votes didn't reflect in the total number of delegate votes counted for Habeeb Anibaba.

**Their Demand:** Justice, transparency, and accountability. The votes of these 14 delegates who voted for Habeeb Anibaba must be respected,

counted and reflected in the final outcome of the primary election result for Ejigbo LCDA.

**The Call:**

Stand with Ejigbo, stand for democracy. Let us unite for the truth and ensure the mandate reflects the people's choice. We are not asking for too much, we just want the votes of the delegates who voted for Habeeb Anibaba to have its locus standi.

Another petition by Agege group of the All Progressives Congress (APC) rejected the primary election results, citing imposition of candidates by the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Mudashiru Obasa where they presented a copy of their petition to Echonews.



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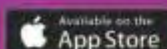
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# LG Poll: APC May Reconduct Primaries In Some Councils As Appeal Committee Submits Report

*Continued from page*

## Their Key Concerns:

- **Imposition of Candidates:** The group alleges that Obasa imposed Babatunde Azeez and Abiodun Akinola as chairmanship candidates for Agege Local Government Area and Orile-Agege Local Council Development Area, respectively.

- **Manipulation:** They claim the primary election process was manipulated, and the results do not reflect the will of APC members in the area.

- **Call to Action:** Party leaders, including Mr. Akeem Ashiru, are urging the state council of APC and national working committee to intervene and check what they call a "hijack of the party"

## Reactions:

- **Protest:** Aggrieved members staged a protest at the Blue Roof event centre in the Sofunde area of Agege, denouncing the results and alleged imposition of candidates.

- **Warning:** The group warned that continued suppression would prompt them to demand Obasa's removal as a member of the House.

Another petition, according to a source revealed that some delegates were not even allowed to enter the party secretariat where the poll was conducted.

"We were not given the delegate tags, even though we were officially delegated to vote at the primaries from our various local government areas," one of the petitions made available to Echonews read.

The party had on Monday set up the

appeal committee led by the Attorney General of Lagos State and Commissioner for Justice, Lawal Pedro (SAN), to look into the concerns of the aggrieved members.

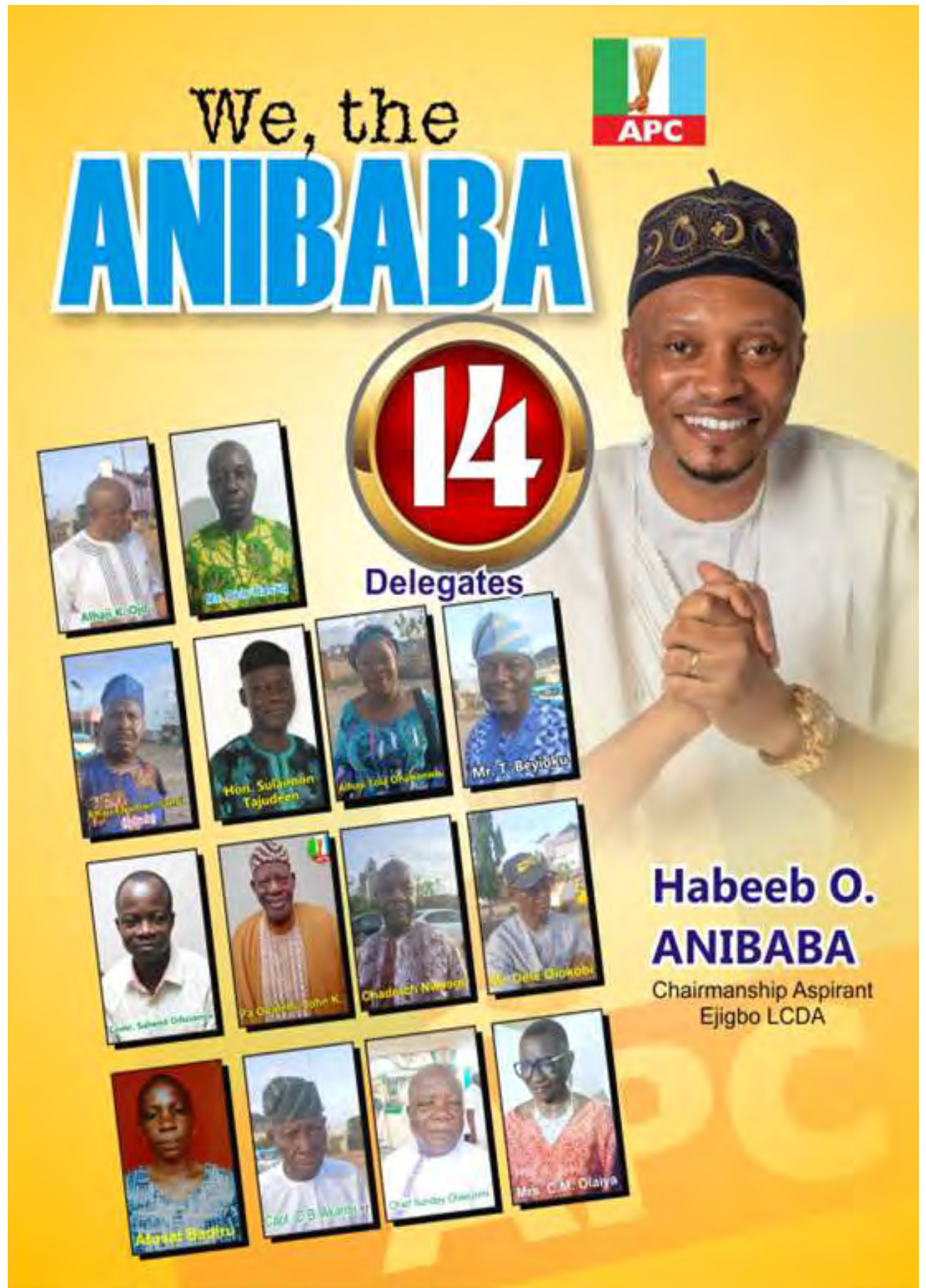
The panel, according to investigations received petitions from 45 chairmanship aspirants and 59 councillorship aspirants spread across the various local council areas.

Confirming the number of petitions, the spokesperson for the Lagos APC, Oluseye Oladejo, said that the committee was expected to conclude its job last week and would be due for presentation and consideration of its recommendations. The appeal panel had set 12 pm last Tuesday as the deadline for the submission of petitions by aggrieved aspirants.

Meanwhile, a civil society organisation, the United Action for Democracy, had demanded an investigation into the controversies trailing the conduct of the APC primaries.

The group warned that the 2027 general election was at stake given the developments stemming from the party's recently conducted primaries in Lagos.

The UAD's General Secretary, Kunle Ajayi, while addressing a press conference at Abule Egba, Lagos, on Wednesday, said the APC primary election was "an example of how the local government autonomy and democracy are being rubbished by the powers that be, denying the working people ample chances to participate in true governance."



The group alleged a "subversion of democratic norms during the recently conducted APC local government primary elections in Lagos State."

"In Agege, there have been massive protests over impositions. These actions not only threaten the sanctity of the democratic process but also set a dangerous precedent for future elections, including the 2027 general election."

Ajayi warned that if investigations were not done, the development could affect the 2027 elections "and further alienate Nigerians from democratic participation."

He added, "We stand firm in our resolve to expose, challenge, and resist all forms of anti-democratic manipulation. We call on all lovers of democracy, within and outside Nigeria, to join us in the struggle."

The appeal committee is made up of Mr. Lawal Pedro, SAN, who is also the Attorney-General and Honorable Commissioner for Justice in Lagos State, and Otunba Abiodun Olufofobi as Secretary.

"Other members are Rt. Hon. Jokotola Pelumi, a former Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, a former member of the House and state secretary of

the party, Hon. Lanre Oggunyemi, and Chief Chukwudi Adiukwu." Meanwhile, the chairman of the party LGA/LCDA primaries, Ogala has said after the election that aggrieved aspirants should approach the appeal committee, adding that his own committee would not hesitate to comply with the recommendations of the appeal committee where necessary.



# LASEPA, UNIDO, Japan Launch Emergency Cholera Prevention Training

LASEPA Set To Regulate Valet Parking



Adebisi Adelabu

The Lagos State Parking Authority (LASPA) has concluded plans to regulate Valet Parking Services across the State in order to guarantee a smoother and safer Lagos environment and eliminate all forms of indiscriminate parking. This new initiative aims to standardise Valet Parking Services operating within Lagos State, including operations conducted on public roads, curbside spaces, and private spaces. According to the General Manager, Lagos State Parking Authority, Mrs. Adebisi Adelabu, under the new regulation, all Valet Parking Service providers in Lagos are expected to be duly registered with LASPA.

She highlighted some of the registration requirements for interested companies eligibility as Valet Service Provider to include submission of a valid Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), registration documents, proof of insurance coverage for customer vehicles, a list of employees with valid driver's licenses, as well as police background checks for all valet drivers.

Speaking further, Adelabu stated that intending Valet Service Providers must present approved operating site plans and comprehensive safety and traffic management plans.

She noted that all Valet Service Operators will be mandated to follow a standardised operational procedure, which includes issuing receipts containing essential service details to customers, ensuring their attendants wear identifiable uniforms, and restricting parking only to legally approved locations.

While stressing that all Valet staff are expected to have their LASPA permit and certification from the Lagos State Drivers Institute (LASDRI), Mrs. Adelabu assured that LASPA will conduct regular inspections to monitor compliance.



The Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA), in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Government of Japan, today commenced a two-day Training of Trainers workshop focused on emergency capacity building to combat cholera outbreaks in flood-affected areas of Lagos State. The event, held at NECA House, Hakeem Balogun Street, Alausa, Ikeja, is part of project 240236: Emergency capacity building of informal food and water vendors and waste workers in flood-affected Lagos, sponsored by the Japanese Government to combat cholera outbreaks in the State. In his opening remarks, Dr. Babatunde Ajayi, General Manager of LASEPA, emphasised

the urgency of the initiative. He said, "This is not just training - it is an emergency response and intervention. We are already deploying what we are learning here. The areas affected lack basic sanitary infrastructure, and this outbreak highlights the importance of our proactive measures. Prevention, indeed, is not only better but also cheaper than cure". He noted that the workshop is timely, following a fresh cholera outbreak primarily in Badagry and Ikorodu. These areas are characterised by poor sanitation and high population, subjecting their residents to high vulnerability in the ongoing public health emergency. Dr. Ajayi commended the Government of Japan for its timely intervention and thanked UNIDO for

facilitating the initiative. He urged participants to fully engage, emphasising that the knowledge gained would be directly applied in communities currently facing the outbreak. The National Programme Coordinator, UNIDO Sub-Regional Office Nigeria, Mr. Oluyomi Banjo, reinforced the global and local significance of the project. He noted, "This project is not only about preventing cholera; it's about restoring dignity and building resilience among some of the most vulnerable groups in our society. Informal food and water vendors and waste workers play critical roles in our urban ecosystems, but often lack the training and support needed to ensure public safety." Mr. Banjo stressed the need for accurate, gender-responsive, and practical knowledge of

dissemination, with trainers serving as key change agents in reaching at-risk populations. Speaking on the training, LASEPA's Director of Environmental Sustainability, Mrs. Adebayo Adedayo noted that the Tot is designed to equip LASEPA experts with the necessary tools to deliver effective, inclusive, and sustainable cholera prevention education. She added that the expected outcome is not just training the trainers but catalysing a behaviour change among vendors to reduce transmission risks. The training featured expert-led sessions. Ms. Su Zar Chi Lwin of the Food Hygiene Chemistry Laboratory, Kyushu University of Japan, delivered a session on global best practices and scientific

knowledge on cholera disease and prevention. Dr. Adebayo Aderibigbe, Consultant Public Health Physician and Specialist, spoke on the local context of cholera in Lagos and conducted a practical training on safe food and water handling and personal hygiene. Additionally, LASEPA participants engaged in role play and scenario-based learning to test their understanding of how best to educate vendors effectively in the field. The initiative underscores a collective commitment to strengthen public health preparedness in the face of climate-induced risks and urban sanitation challenges. The trained LASEPA experts will cascade this knowledge to frontline vendors and waste handlers across flood-prone communities in Lagos.



# LASODA Partners LASPPPA To Promote Inclusivity For PWDs

The General Manager of Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs, Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal recently paid an official visit to Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Agency headquarters in Ikeja to facilitate strategic discussions on how policies related to accessibility can be implemented successfully and to ensure that they are translated into practical knowledge on ground. According to her, the collaboration with LASPPPA is underscored by the need to ensure disability inclusion in new developments and infrastructure specifically designed and built with accessibility in mind to enhance their quality of life. While promoting equitable access to services and facilities for all residents, she said it will also ensure that buildings have designated routes, ramps and other features that make them usable by individuals with disabilities. Oyetunde-Lawal emphasised that the collaboration with

LASPPPA would ensure that its planning and permit processes are compliant with the legal and regulatory frameworks related to other forms of accessibility and inclusion. The General Manager of LASPPPA, Tpl. Kehinde Osinaike expressed optimism about the potential collaboration, noting that the strategic partnership with LASODA will incorporate PWDS accessibility standards and guidelines for all planning processes. He promised that LASPPPA will monitor compliance with accessibility regulations for non-compliance to create a more inclusive and accessible Lagos for all citizens.



# Lagos Commends ECOWAS External Court's Session Initiative

The Lagos State Government on Thursday, proudly participated in the commencement of the External Court Sessions of the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice at the Osborne Foreshore High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos. Delivering his address at the opening ceremony, the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, commended the Court's initiative and efforts to decentralise the administration of justice and make legal proceedings more accessible and transparent to the ordinary citizen. Sanwo-Olu, represented by the Hon. Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro, SAN, emphasised that the adjudication of cases and administration of justice are the pillars of a stable and progressive society.

Echoing the words of Hon. Justice Ricardo Cláudio Monteiro Gonçalves, "Justice hidden is justice denied", he noted that these external sessions are not merely procedural, they are also educational, enlightening, and essential for empowering the public with the knowledge of their legal rights. The Governor described the external court sessions as a milestone and a vital move toward ensuring that every West African citizen is informed about their right to a fair hearing and access to justice, as well as how to effectively engage with the judicial system. The sessions will be seen as a platform for fostering stronger collaboration among West African nations and their legal institutions. Mr. Governor emphasised that "The current administration is deeply committed to enhancing

judicial systems and aligning them with international best practices. This initiative reaffirms our commitment to justice that transcends borders and serves all people, regardless of creed, status, or affiliation." He, however, concluded with an appeal to the public and legal professionals in attendance to observe proceedings with decorum and to take full advantage of the insights offered through the sessions. In his remarks, Mr. Lawal Pedro, SAN, extended the gratitude of the Lagos State Government to all dignitaries, justices, and stakeholders whose support and participation have made the important judicial outreach possible.



Justice Ricardo Cláudio Monteiro Gonçalves



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# Sanwo-Olu Launches N10bn Matched Funding With BOI

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has launched a 10 billion naira matched funding jointly provided by the State Government and the Bank of Industry (BOI), to empower MSMEs and enable them expand their businesses.

At the formal signing of the MOU and launch of LASG - BOI MSME Access to Finance Scheme, (LASMECO), Governor Sanwo-Olu described the launch as a fulfillment of dreams for many MSMEs who has skills but lack the capital to run or scale their businesses, saying the fund will bring a turnaround in their fortune and expand the State's economy. His words: "The launch of the joint initiative between the Lagos State Government, Bank of Industry, and Sterling Bank MSME Fund, is not just a formal unveiling of a financing programme, it is the unveiling of dreams, the lighting of thousands of small candles that together illuminates the path to a more prosperous and inclusive Lagos.

"Today, we proudly unveil a tri-partite partnership called "LASMECO," a first-of-its-kind public-private financing platform deliberately designed to break the barriers that have long stifled our small businesses. It offers an affordable credit of up to 10 million naira at a low interest rate of 9 percent per annum single-digit

interest to lift huge weight off the shoulders of our business owners, giving them room to breathe, grow, and thrive.

The loan is guaranteed by Sterling Bank Plc, the State Government and the Cooperative Societies, it is non-collateralised and focus on strategic sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, creative industries, manufacturing, and the circular economy – areas that align with our developmental priorities.

"By empowering these specific sectors, we are hitting multiple targets – jobs, innovation, food security, better healthcare, environmental

sustainability – all at once. This is aligned with our vision of inclusive and sustainable development. It is also based on cooperative model, leveraging the power of cooperative societies."

Sanwo-Olu further called on Lagosians to patronise locally made goods as it is the sure path to economic growth and prosperity.

Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment, Folashade Ambrose, described the event as a new chapter and a landmark moment in the administration's drive to build a 21st-century economy that not only empowers businesses to thrive, but places our home-

grown enterprises at the centre of prosperity, innovation, and resilience.

"The financing scheme will empower thousands of MSMEs with structured, low-interest, and accessible credit facilities, tailored to the unique realities of doing business in Lagos. Each of the sectors was chosen deliberately, they all represent areas where Lagos has both a competitive advantage and an urgent development need.

"The vision of the administration, as captured in the T.H.E.M.E.S + Development Agenda, is to transform Lagos into a modern megacity where innovation,

productivity, and opportunity are accessible to all. This event is, therefore, more than unveiling of a finance scheme, it is a declaration that Lagos State believes in the power of small businesses to transform the economy. It is a message that access to finance should be a right and support system for every bold dreamer and hard-working entrepreneur willing to take a risk and create value," she said.

Managing Director/CEO, Bank of Industry, Olasupo Olusi, described the programme as not just a signing ceremony, but the beginning of a new chapter for MSMEs in Lagos, defined by access, opportunity,

and inclusion. He declared it a strategic effort that will unlock the creativity, resilience, and potential of Lagos' MSMEs by dismantling the structural barriers that have long constrained access to opportunity.

"Today, we take a bold step in that direction, together as the programme aims to create 10,000 jobs through enterprise development, unlock wealth in Lagos, expand MSME support, and reduce poverty. The 10 billion naira fund is the first part of a scalable, performance-based agreement. As goals are met, the fund can grow, fostering continuous growth and empowerment.





# Lagos Lady Driver Gets Justice

## ... As Perpetrator Gets Three-Month Jail Term, Fines

The Lagos State Government, through its Office of the Public Defender (OPD), Ministry of Justice, has been commended for its swift and decisive action in ensuring justice for Mrs. Yetunde Amole, the lady driver who was violently assaulted on the Lekki-Epe Expressway on Monday, April 7, 2025. The harrowing incident, captured in a viral video, sparked public outrage and prompted immediate intervention from the state authorities. Mrs. Amole, visibly moved, expressed her profound gratitude to the Lagos State Government and the OPD for their unwavering support. Speaking after the sentencing of her assailant, Mr. Friday Frank Onu, in a reputable court of law, she stated, "The officials of the Office of the Public Defenders, Lagos State Ministry of Justice, Ajah Zone, led by Mrs. G.U. Osilama-Otu, demonstrated remarkable dedication from the moment this incident occurred. They took up my case with utmost seriousness, ensuring the accused was promptly arrested and diligently

prosecuted by the State Police Command." The assault on Mrs. Amole occurred near the Oriental Hotel on the Lekki-Epe Expressway after she offered Mr. Onu a ride. Suspicion arose when she noticed him tampering with her car battery, leading to a confrontation that escalated into a brutal attack, leaving her battered and her clothing torn. The viral video of the assault triggered widespread condemnation, prompting Mrs. Amole to appeal to the government,

human rights organisations, and transport unions for intervention. The Lagos State Police Command responded swiftly, confirming the arrest of the suspect, Friday Frank Onu, on Wednesday, April 10th, by officers from the Maroko Division. According to the Command's Spokesperson, Benjamin Hundeyin, preliminary investigations revealed that Onu was apprehended while attempting to steal Mrs. Amole's car battery. He further stated that

the suspect turned violent when confronted. Onu was subsequently taken to the Falomo Police Hospital for treatment after falling ill in detention, where he remained under police supervision. Following a thorough investigation and the diligent efforts of the Office of the Public Defender, Mr. Friday Frank Onu was arraigned before the Ebute Metta Magistrate Court 5 on Thursday, April 10, 2025, facing a three-count charge of conduct likely to cause a breach of peace, attempted

theft, and assault. In a significant step towards justice, the defendant, Friday Frank Onu, pleaded guilty to all charges. Consequently, the Court delivered its judgment. The accused was fined N10,000 payable to the Lagos State Government for the first count of conduct likely to cause a breach of peace. For the second count of attempted theft, he received a three-month imprisonment sentence, and for the third count of assault, he was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment. The

court ordered that the sentences run concurrently from the date of his release. This decisive outcome underscores the Lagos State Government's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of all its residents and its unwavering stance against acts of violence and criminality. The swift action of the Office of the Public Defender in this case serves as a clear message that such acts will not be tolerated and that justice will be served in Lagos State.





# Lagos To Drive Year-Round Tourism Agenda Beyond “Detty December”

Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, has reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to building a sustainable, all-year-round tourism ecosystem that transcends the popular “Detty December” festivities. She made this known on Thursday at the First National Tourism Summit, convened by the Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Creative Economy, in partnership with Koko Beach Hotels and Resorts and supported by the Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts and

Culture. Speaking at the summit held at Koko Beach Hotels and Resorts in the Ibeshe/Ikaare Beach Area of Lagos, Mrs. Benson-Awoyinka stated that the Ministry is actively raising awareness of Lagos' vast tourism potential both locally and internationally. She commended attendees for overcoming their initial fears of water travel to explore the Lagos coastline, adding that the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has deliberately positioned tourism as a key pillar of the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus development agenda. “Tourism is no longer a seasonal affair in Lagos. We are

building a city-state that welcomes visitors all year round. From the Fanti Carnival to the Boat Regatta, The Headies, AMVCA, and our December entertainment season capped by the Greater Lagos Countdown, Lagos is fast becoming a global destination,” she remarked. The Commissioner also mentioned upcoming activities, including the E1 Speedboat Racing event on the Five Cowries Creek in October and a series of Art, Fashion, Film, Theatre Festivals and Tech exhibitions starting from September, as part of efforts to transform Lagos into a “City of Festivals.” She further

acknowledged the groundwork laid by past administrations, particularly the development of the Badagry slave and heritage routes under former Governor Babatunde Fashola, SAN. “We are committed to transforming our historic sites into thriving tourism destinations and welcome partnerships with private investors to drive this vision,” she said. Benson-Awoyinka assured stakeholders of the government's continued support through improved security, infrastructure, and traffic management, particularly during peak tourism periods. “We want tourism to become what oil is to

Nigeria - a major source of revenue and job creation,” she emphasised. She also pledged the State Government's full support for ongoing collaborations with beach investors and tourism enterprises aimed at driving innovation, investment, and employment within the sector. Delivering the keynote address, former Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN, emphasised the critical role of infrastructure in driving tourism development. Fashola also highlighted the untapped economic potential within

Lagos tourism, stressing that tourists could comfortably stay at the beach if essential amenities are made available. He applauded young Nigerians for championing cultural heritage and commended the summit's organisers for fostering national dialogue around tourism transformation. In her goodwill message delivered through a representative, the Federal Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr. Jumoke Oduwole, reinforced the crucial role of tourism in driving economic growth. Similarly, representing the Minister of Interior, Dr. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, the Assistant Comptroller General of Immigration (Zone A) highlighted key immigration reforms, including the rollout of an e-visa system, enhanced documentation procedures, and updated security protocols to make Nigeria more accessible to global tourists. The Chairman and CEO of Koko Beach Hotels and Resorts, Mr. Richard Shittu, was commended for his organisation's role in co-hosting the summit and contributing to the growth of Nigeria's eco-tourism and hospitality sectors.





The Lagos State Law Reform Commission (LAWRECOM) has reaffirmed its commitment to transformative legal reform and institutional innovation with the successful hosting of a one-day Workshop titled: "Mindset for Transformational Changes: Fulfilling the Mission of the Lagos State Law Reform Commission."

The workshop, which was held recently in Ikeja, brought together all staff of the Commission to explore new approaches to fulfilling its mandate under the Lagos State Government's T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda, particularly the pillar on Security and Governance.

# LAWRECOM Repositions For Greater Impact

The Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Mr. Hammud Olanrewaju, in his opening remarks, emphasised that the success of any reform effort begins with the mindset of public officers.

"Reform is not just about policies and statutes; it's about people - our mindset, our readiness to innovate, and our collective will to deliver lasting impact," he said.

Mr. Oyenuga also urged the Commission to stay proactive in reviewing obsolete laws and drafting new legislation to reflect structural

changes within state institutions.

Citing the evolution of agencies like the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) into the Bureau of Public Defender (BPD) and the Citizens Mediation Centre (CMC) into the Citizens' Mediation Bureau (CMB), he called for immediate legislative updates to reflect these new mandates and identities while driving reform through vision, accountability, and innovation.

On her part, Executive Secretary of LAWRECOM, Mrs. Oluyemisi Ogunlola described the workshop as a defining moment in the Commission's

journey towards delivering 21st-century legal reform.

"We stand on the shoulders of visionary leaders who built a strong foundation. Now, it's our turn to elevate this legacy by being strategic, innovative, and deeply aligned with our mandate", she stated.

She charged the staff to align their day-to-day work with the Commission's broader vision, emphasising personal responsibility, institutional pride, and a performance-driven culture. "Our goal is to make LAWRECOM a model of legal

reform not just in Nigeria, but across Africa. Our work must naturally attract partnerships, technical support, and international collaboration," she added.

Mrs. Ogunlola announced the rollout of a robust performance management system, including structured reward mechanisms and targeted training programmes designed to support staff capacity and motivation.

Empowering the Workforce for Legal Transformation The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Kolawole Christian of Livingstone Research and

Ideals, who engaged staff in practical sessions on topics including visionary leadership, change management, and goal-oriented service delivery.

"Transformational reform happens when personal purpose aligns with institutional mission. That alignment is what will drive the next phase of legal development in Lagos State," he noted.

Mr. Christian praised the Lagos State Government for its commitment to staff development and challenged participants to serve as catalysts for reform across their respective roles.





# Y2025 MPB: Lagos Records 45% Revenue Increase, Generates N1.3Trn In 2024



Lagos State has demonstrated robust economic growth, generating a record-breaking 1.3 trillion in revenue in 2024, marking a significant 45% increase from the 895 billion recorded in 2023. This impressive financial performance was revealed by the Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Abayomi Oluoyomi, during the 2025 Ministerial Press Briefing, held today at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre in Alausa, as part of

the activities commemorating the second year of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's second term in office. Commissioner Oluoyomi also highlighted the state's success in property tax collection, revealing that over 14 billion was generated through the Land Use Charge, representing a substantial 37% rise in property tax revenue compared to the previous year. Mr. Oluoyomi emphasised the pivotal role of the

Ministry of Finance in driving the economic growth and development of Lagos State, underscoring its alignment with all pillars of the THEMES Agenda. "The Ministry of Finance serves as the crucial financial backbone that empowers the government to deliver the dividends of democracy to the people of Lagos State," he stated. He further noted the significant transformation, innovative introductions, and process reviews

undertaken by the Ministry of Finance under his leadership, despite prevailing economic challenges over the past two years. The Commissioner also commended the Lagos Internal Revenue Service (LIRS) for its ongoing efforts to expand the tax net, curb leakages, and ensure sustainable revenue growth. He highlighted the optimisation and expansion of the LIRS E-Tax Platform to encompass stamp duties, capital gains tax, filing integration, Geo-Tagging,

Report Builder, CAC Integration, and expatriate tracking. In a move to enhance user experience and data security, Mr. Oluoyomi announced the upgrade and cloud migration of the E-Tax mobile application, providing more robust and safer access for users. "Driven by these strategic initiatives, tax revenue generated in the first quarter of 2025 reached 333 billion, a significant increase from the 232 billion recorded in the first quarter of

2024. This enhanced revenue generation will further fuel the developmental agenda of the Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration," Commissioner Oluoyomi affirmed.

The Ministerial Press Briefing is an annual forum where members of the Lagos State Cabinet provide an account of their respective Ministries, Departments, and Agencies' performance, offering insights into the government's scorecard.



# Court Sentences Socialites TDollar, TobiNation To Jail For Naira Abuse

By Felix Kuyinu

The Federal High Court in Ikoyi, Lagos, has jailed social media influencers; Tobilola Olamide popularly known as TobiNation alongside Babatunde Olaitan, otherwise

known as TDollar over offences of Naira abuse. During the trial of the convicts after being arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Justice Alexander Owoeye ruled that the Commission proved that the internet

personalities committed the offence. In Owoeye's ruling, TobiNation and TDollar were sentenced to six months imprisonment. They were however granted an option of fine in the sum of N200,000. The EFCC Investigative

Officer, Ibrahim Bukar, who disclosed that the jailers were arraigned separately on one-count bordering on tampering with Naira notes in violation of Section 21(1) of the Central Bank Act, 2007. Both pleaded guilty to the

charge disclosed that the unlawful incident occurred on April 8, at a social event held at 23 Macdonald Road, Ikoyi. Bukar submitted that the convicts were captured in viral TikTok videos spraying N200 notes while dancing, an act considered a criminal

offense under Commission's law. The Commission's officer told the court that the agency initiated a TikTok-based intelligence probe on April 10, leading to the identification and invitation of the suspects.







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# Police Arraign Candidates Over Malpractices in 2025 UTME

By Felix Kuyinu

The Police in Lagos has arrested four suspects over accusations of exam irregularities in form of impersonation and malpractices during the just held Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME). The security agency disclosed that the defendants, who committed the offences in the examination hall conducted themselves in a manner liable to disrupt the fairness and integrity of the examination regulations alongside hampering the accuracy of the results. The litigants who are facing charges of



impersonation, examination malpractices and felony were said to have committed the offences at different centres on

the exam day.

The Police Prosecutor, A S P Adegoke Ademigbuji, relayed to the sitting at Ikeja Magistrates' Court that

one Damilola Rufai made way to an examination centre to impersonate for an absentee, an act against the regulations laid by

the exam controlling body, Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, JAMB. Ademigbuji said that three other defendants: Tella Oriyomi, 19,

Temidayo Williams, 20 and Ibraheem Akindele if age 23, were said to have been caught indulging in malpractices in different manner.

"The offences were committed on April 16 at different exam centres in the state." said the Police.

"I pray the court to sentence the suspects accordingly to serve as a deterrent to others willing to indulge in the act".

The Magistrate, Olabisi Kusanu, granted the quartet bail in the sum of N500,000 with two sureties in like sum.

Kusanu remanded the defendants in prison pending the actualization of the bail terms. She thereafter adjourned the matter till June 16.

## Court Orders Arrest Of Fleeing Suspect For Impersonating US citizen

By Felix Kuyinu

An absconded suspect identified in court as Peter Ekweonzor has been declared wanted following an alleged cyber impersonation alongside failing to appear in court after being granted bail. Peter was initially arraigned in court by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a two-count-charge of Impersonation and cybercrime which he pleaded not guilty to. Sequel to his non guilty plea at the The Special Offences Court in Ikeja Lagos, Peter was handed over to the Lagos Zonal Directorate



01 on bail with two sureties and told to appear in court on subsequent trials. However, the suspect, who was said that have opened a Facebook account

claiming to be a female American citizen with the intent to defraud unsuspecting netizens fled the scene alongside the sureties, causing a stall for his

re-arraignment.

EFCC Prosecutor, Ayanfe Ogunsina, said, "all efforts to get him nabbed had been unsuccessful, which has prevented his

further arraignment since 13th May 2024, when he initially was brought before court.

"The suspect was arrested during an enforcement raid

which was carried out at a facility identified as Indy-Pool Hotel situated at Idowu Street in Olodi Apapa following an intelligence received.

"Efforts to reach his sureties have also been futile as they also absconded."

Ogunsina consequently filed in a motion ex parte seeking an order of the court to issue a search warrant of arrest against the defendant for necessary prosecution and sanctions over his absence in court.

Justice Fadipe granted the warrant of request as prayed by the prosecutor and adjourned the matter till June 18.



# Oshodi-Isolo LG Launches Phase 2 of Road Rehabilitation Project

Kehinde Adeleye

Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Chairman, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, has initiated the second phase of rehabilitation work on Oshodi Road, following the successful completion of the first phase from the bus terminal to the post office. In line with his commitment to timely and high-quality road rehabilitation, Oloyede has pledged to complete the second phase, which will span from the post office to the T-junction at Church Street, in a timely manner. In addition to easing traffic congestion and improving access for local residents and businesses, the council chairman aims to

enhance safety and security by installing solar-powered streetlights along the newly rehabilitated

sections of the road. The first phase of the project has already seen significant improvements, with the addition of

solar-powered lighting facilitating business activities and discouraging criminal activities during off-peak hours. The ongoing road

rehabilitation in Oshodi-Isolo reflects the local government's dedication to promoting socio-economic

development and enhancing the quality of life for its constituents through sustainable infrastructure improvements.





# Lagos LG Poll: Adebayo Seeks Cooperation from Co-contestants

Kehinde Adeleye

**O**lasoju Adebayo, the All Progressives Congress (APC) standard-bearer for Isolo LCDA in the upcoming July 12 Lagos council elections, has called for cooperation from his co-contestants in Saturday's primary elections.

Adebayo, who currently serves as the council chairman, addressed his supporters and well-wishers at his campaign office in LSDPC Estate, Ile-Iwe Metta.

He described his candidacy as a testament to APC's commitment to internal democracy and a victory for both party members and Isolo LCDA residents.

Acknowledging the contributions of party delegates and officials, Adebayo



emphasized the importance of unity in achieving success in the upcoming polls.

He expressed his readiness to collaborate with other aspirants and stakeholders, asserting that there is "no victor nor vanquished" in the party's internal elections.

"The party primary has come and gone, it's time for us all to close ranks and work together on, first,

how to triumph in the July 12 elections and, of course, move Isolo LCDA to greater heights in the next four years. One of the ideals of my administration is all-inclusiveness and we will build on that in the next four years. I'm open to working with everyone to actualize our collective goal of cementing Isolo's status as a model council area and a

pride of Lagos State," the council boss said.

Olasoju went on to reaffirm his commitment to consolidating his developmental strides in infrastructure, health, security, youth and women empowerment, cultural promotion and social integration in the next four years assuring that no facet of governance or subsisting

community will be left untouched.

As an act of appreciation, the council boss gifted some of his supporters with brand new smartphones in acknowledgment of their tireless promotion of his developmental strides on social media.

Eminently present at the gathering was the council vice chairman and Olasoju's agent

during the primaries, Hon.

Shakir Adeola Sadiq, party faithful, executive members led by the SLG, Hon. Sikiru Adeshina Salisu, Management Staff of the council ably led by the Council Manager and Treasurer, Mrs Mojisola Ogabi and Mr. Moruf Ajiga, Councillorship candidates of the party and numerous well-wishers.





# APC Primary: Badagry Leaders Commend Party Excels

By Saheed Afolabi

Following the emergence of Mr Rauf Ibrahim Kayode (RIKAY) as the All Progressives Congress (APC) chairmanship candidate for Badagry West LCDA ahead of the Lagos State local government election, key party leaders have expressed profound appreciation to the Local Government Area (LGA) executives for their pivotal role in the successful primaries. The Apex Leader of Badagry West, Bamgbose Joseph and Lagos West II Coordinator for the Grassroots Movement for Tinubu (GMT), lauded the LGA executives for their unwavering commitment to

democratic principles and party unity.

"The dedication and integrity demonstrated by our LGA executives during the primaries are commendable."

"Their actions have reinforced the trust our members place in the APC's internal processes." Chairman of Badagry West LCDA, Mr Gbenu

Joseph emphasized the significance of collective effort in achieving party objectives.

"The unity and diligence exhibited by our party executives have been instrumental in this victory. It's a testament to what we can achieve when we work together towards a common goal."

Mr Peter Metome,

the APC LGA general Chairman for elections."

Badagry West, also The leaders expressed gratitude collectively called to the party for continued members and unity and support executives for their for RIKAY as the active participation party prepares for and support during the forthcoming the primaries. local government

"Our collective elections, efforts have paved emphasizing that the way for a such solidarity is promising future. I crucial for urge all members to sustained continue this progress and momentum as we development in approach the Badagry West.

## MUSHIN

# Ajala Charges Aspirants To Support Jakande

By Saheed Afolabi

Following the conclusion of the All Progressives Congress (APC) primaries, the incumbent Council Chairman of Odilowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Mr Rasak Ajala, offered his perspective of the election while believing there are no losers in the primary election. Ajala explained that the party had the necessary task of nominating its representatives for the upcoming

general elections.

"As our party determines who become their standard bearers in the next local council election, to me there is no victor, no vanquish, everyone that contested is a winner which my vice chairman, Hon. Seyi Jakande became the party standard bearer for the chairmanship election and I expect him to use his platform to

galvanize all the faithful and committed loyal party members so that come July 12 election, the party emerge victorious.

"I will also advise all the aspirants who contested to shield their swords and support the party candidates so that our party can continue to be the destination of choice for respective voters."

He emphasized that in such a contest, every participant emerges as a

winner, with no losers in the process.

Furthermore, Ajala urged all the aspirants who competed in the primaries to set aside any differences and lend their full support to the party's nominated candidates.

He stressed that such solidarity is essential for the party to maintain its position as the preferred choice for discerning voters.





# Chairmanship Aspirants Finally Declare Support For Ajose

By Saheed Afolabi



**S**ix chairmanship aspirants of the APC in Olorunda LCDA have thrown their weight behind Ajose Kumayon as the APC flagbearer for the council. The aspirants, who contested against Kumayon, have pledged their support and commitment to work together for the success of the party.

"We all accept the party leader's decision to give us a credible candidate, Ajose Kumayon," said Hon. Olonde Sunday Jonathan, one of the aspirants.

"We respect our leaders, and we have taken orders

from our leaders. We have collapsed our structure for Kumayon. No riot in Olorunda, no worries in Olorunda, we are going to support our candidate, Ajose Kumayon." Olonde expressed gratitude to the aspirants and the party leaders for their support.

"I wish to appreciate all the aspirants and those who came to show their support," he said.

"What we are witnessing here today is a fact that Olorunda is one. People might be fanning the embers of disunity, but we are here today to showcase to the world that Olorunda is one."

Akinyele Cornelius Olabisi calls on party faithfuls to support Ajose in the forthcoming Lagos LG election.

"Indeed, an election was conducted and Ajose emerged. We only have one sit, and Ajose Kumayon has emerged. I, as a person and some of my colleagues, have joined hands with him to move the Olorunda local government forward."

Ashade Wahab Aiyeleru added, their support to Ajose have come at the right time and he will ensure he emerges winner at the LG polls.

"We are all happy and today we are congratulating our man, Ajose. Our Chairman, Ajose

has emerged and we are happy about his choice. No one should threaten that Asiwaju will not win 2027, it's a lie. We are giving all our support with the huge back-up support at home for President Tinubu."

An aspirant during the primary, Bankole Afeez, a not aspirant conceded victory to Ajose, while pledging to give the chairmanship candidate the support to emerge winner at the poll.

"I also contested, the vote was counted in our presence and Kumayon emerged. This is the reason why we are here today to congratulate him and let him understand that our supporters

have endorsed him and would work hard for him."

Agemo Daniel Idowu, former leader of the house, Olorunda LCDA, and aspirant for the position of Chairman urges party faithfuls to unite and support Ajose as chairman of Olorunda LCDA.

"We have accepted faith, it pleases God to have chosen Ajose Kumayon. I urge us to unite and work for the success of Kumayon's victory in the coming LG Elections on July 12. Olorunda is ready to work for President Bola Tinubu."

Mrs. Sunny Adebola Oladipo believes Ajose is the right choice to lead Olorunda LCDA due to his wealth of

experience.

"Whatever God has predestined, no man can change. I eulogize the candidature of Ajose Kumayon. We are here in love. God has ordained Ajose Kumayon to be there. He will not be one-sided; he was used to balance the political equation. He is a humble and easy-going person who is ready and will take the council to the next level."

The united front presented by the aspirants and Kumayon is seen as a significant boost to the party's chances in the upcoming local government elections.



# Agege APC Members Protest Primaries Results

Kehinde Adeleye

**A**ggrieved secretariat on member Acme Road, Ikeja. As of the Members of the All Progressives Agege/Orile-Agege Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council Government and (PCC) have Orile-Agege Local Council rejected the Development announced Area (LCDA) results, citing have taken to the streets to protest manipulation, the results of the exclusion, and party's recent abuse of party local government processes by primary influential elections. individuals.

The demonstration the results was not a reflection of due process but a response to the culmination of chairmanship manipulation and primaries held at imposition by the APC state entrenched forces

who have hijacked the political structure in Agege," a spokesperson for the PCC stated. Several aspirants and party members specifically accused the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, of orchestrating the imposition of candidates. Some allege that Obasa attempted to position his son as a candidate in Agege, and after failing, facilitated the emergence of

loyalists—Azeez Akinola—through undemocratic means. On Tuesday, the protesters, including aspirants and grassroots supporters, gathered in large numbers, carrying placards and wearing branded T-shirts with slogans such as "OBASA O TO GE" (Obasa, It is Enough!). They described the primaries as a "flawed process" that "does not reflect the will of the people." They criticized what they called

the "Obasa Winner-Takes-All Doctrine," which they claim has deeply polarized the APC leaders at the in Agege over the state and national years. The group called for the immediate cancellation of the respected Agege election results and urged intervention from senior party stakeholders, including the state Oluyinka party chairman, Ogundimu, Hon. National Working Dr. Kayode Opeifa and Prince Sunday Ajayi as true sons of the soil who continue to live and maintain active political offices in the community.

This is Lagos. This is Agege. It is not a political estate to be inherited or transferred at will," the group declared. The protesters

The protesters





# Airtel Unveils Integrated eShop in My Airtel App

Kehinde Adeleye



platform,” he said.

The update enhances the app's functionality by allowing customers to access the eShop directly from the home screen, eliminating the need for external redirection to web browsers or third-party platforms.

“We're moving beyond basic connectivity towards building a digital ecosystem that supports the lifestyle needs of our customers. Whether it's purchasing a device, recharging, or shopping for everyday items, we're putting more power and choice in the hands of our users,” Adeshina added.

**A**irtel Nigeria has recently upgraded its My Airtel App with the addition of an integrated eShop feature, providing users with a comprehensive digital shopping experience.

The newly introduced eShop offers a diverse range of products, including Airtel-branded items such as Home Broadband (HBB) devices and everyday retail items like electronics, home appliances,

fashion, and beauty products. Ismail Adeshina, Director of Marketing at Airtel Nigeria, highlighted the brand's continued commitment to innovation and customer-centricity, emphasizing that

the eShop upgrade aims to enhance user experience by providing a full retail experience within the existing subscriber app.

“At Airtel, we understand that today's customers value convenience above all else. This update is part of

our broader mission to simplify digital experiences and make everyday transactions easier and faster. By integrating the eShop directly into the My Airtel App, we're eliminating unnecessary steps and giving users the freedom to do more within a single

The My Airtel App continues to serve as a key platform for Airtel subscribers, offering self-service options, quick access to bundles, account management tools, and now, a more robust digital shopping channel.



# Wizkid becomes first African artist to surpass 20 billion streams

By Nurudeen Adebayo

**G**rammy-winning Nigerian superstar, Wizkid has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first African artist to surpass an estimated 20 billion global audio-on-demand streams.

The remarkable feat was confirmed by

global music data platform, Chart Masters, which reported that the combined tally of Wizkid's lead and featured songs has now exceeded 20 billion streams across platforms worldwide.

Wizkid's most-streamed contribution remains his feature on Canadian artist Drake's chart-

topping hit "One Dance," which also features British singer Kyla.

The global smash hit has amassed over 3.6 billion streams on Spotify alone and holds a Guinness

World Record as the first song to reach 1 billion streams on the platform.

In addition to this new global streaming record, Wizkid previously made history as the

first African artist to receive the Brit Billion Award for crossing one billion audio-on-demand streams in the UK.

With over 65 million units sold worldwide, Wizkid

remains the best-selling Afrobeats artist of all time, further solidifying his position as a leading force in global music and on the international stage.



# Veteran Actress Tina Mba Urges Young Talents to Prioritise Career

**V**eteran Nollywood actress, Tina Mba, has advised younger generations, particularly those in the entertainment industry, to prioritise their careers over marriages that may hinder their professional growth.

Speaking on the YouTube talk show Lights, Camera – It's My Turn, Mba shared insights

from her personal experiences, stressing the need to make informed choices when balancing career ambitions with marital relationships.

The mother of two warned against ignoring early warning signs in relationships, especially when they could negatively impact one's professional path.

"He met you as an actor, married you as an actor, and

there was no talk of leaving your job. Then suddenly, after marriage, he tells you to quit," she said, highlighting how subtle changes in a partner's stance can emerge post-marriage.

Mba urged young professionals not to overlook red flags. "The signs are always there. Don't ignore them. Watch him, watch her. You need to discuss with the person," she advised.

To safeguard their



Tina Mba

careers, the actress also recommended having legal documentation to solidify mutual understanding between partners.

"If need be, you need to sign an undertaking that you would not make me leave my career. Did he leave his job?" she questioned.

Mba concluded by encouraging those in unsupportive relationships not to settle for less. "There are so many people in this world. If this didn't work, another may work. You will meet a soulmate, someone who will be supportive. Just be true to yourself," she said.



# Akinloye Unveils Modern Nurse Quarters

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Chairman of Eredo LCDA, Hon. Ismail Akinloye, inaugurates a newly refurbished nine-room nurse quarters. The ceremony held at the council premises saw heartfelt applause from medical staff and community leaders, who laud the council's commitment to healthcare advancements. Key government officials, including Hon. Lateef Adesanya, Eredo LCDA Vice-Chairman, Hon. Tunde Bakare, Leader of the House, Dr. Fehintola Bolaji, Medical Officer of Health (MOH), and Princess Felicia Ogunsanwo, Supervisor for Health were presents. The dignitaries were welcomed with a warm reception as they acknowledged the Chairman's achievement in bringing such an essential project to life. Akinloye

described the renovated quarters as a "symbol of renewed dedication to the well-being of our healthcare heroes." He continued, "This is more than a building, it's a pledge that we care about our nurses' welfare. I am confident that this will not only boost their morale but enhance their productivity and service delivery to our community." Dr. Bolaji, visibly excited by the event, emphasized the impact of the renovated quarters. "This facility is a multiplier effect in action," she noted. "Nurses are often the backbone of our healthcare system. Providing them with a safe, conducive place to rest and recharge means they can offer even better care to our people. It's a positive cycle that starts here and will ripple through our entire health system." Princess Ogunsanwo echoed Dr. Bolaji's sentiments, applauding the



council's leadership that "This quarters project demonstrates a clear understanding of the needs of our healthcare staff. With initiatives like this, we're laying a strong foundation for a healthier, happier community," she added. Nurses serving in the LCDA said, "The new quarters bring immense relief". Many expressed their joy, citing a renewed sense of support and appreciation. This is a dream come true, one nurse shared, visibly happy. "For the first time, we have a space that truly feels like home." Vice-Chairman Adesanya stated that the commissioning stands as a clarion call to prioritize the welfare of medical staff, emphasizing that with dedication and a people-first approach, meaningful improvements are possible in healthcare delivery.



# Ayobo-Ipaja LCDA Strengthens Community Development with 2.5m

Kehinde Adeleye

**O**tunba Ladi Oluwaloni (OLO1), the Chairman of Ayobo-Ipaja Local Council Development Area (LCDA), has underscored his administration's dedication to grassroots development by presenting a financial support package of 250,000 to ten Community Development Associations (CDAs) within the LCDA.

The cheques were distributed at the monthly Community

Development Committee (CDC) meeting, receiving praise from community leaders and stakeholders in attendance.

Speaking at the event, Otunba Oluwaloni highlighted that this intervention forms part of a larger strategy aimed at strengthening the capacity of CDAs to implement community-based projects and improve the living conditions of residents.

"This gesture is not just about the funds being presented today,"

the Chairman noted. "It is a reaffirmation of our belief that sustainable development must be rooted in the active participation of our local communities. I am urging all CDA leaders here today to use these funds judiciously and channel them into impactful projects that directly benefit your people."

Since assuming office in April 2025 following the passing of his predecessor, Chief Mrs. Bolatito Sobowale, Otunba Oluwaloni has hit the ground running with a string of

people-centered initiatives aimed at promoting inclusive development and social welfare. His swift response to pressing infrastructural needs, community engagement efforts, and strategic collaborations with stakeholders have earned him praise across Ayobo-Ipaja. Speaking further, he emphasized the importance of unity and collective responsibility in advancing the LCDA's development agenda.

"To whom much is given, much is expected. The leadership and

people of Ayobo-Ipaja have entrusted us with their mandate, and we must not let them down. Let us join hands, put politics aside, and work together to transform our communities. This administration remains committed to partnering with community leaders to deliver the dividends of democracy directly to the doorsteps of our people."

The CDC Chairman, community leaders, and representatives of the benefiting CDAs commended the Chairman for his visionary leadership and

unprecedented grassroots outreach within his first few weeks in office.

Speaking on behalf of the CDAs, Elder Joseph Olojede, who is also the chairman of the CDC, described the initiative as a "lifeline" for several stalled community projects and praised Otunba Oluwaloni's proactive approach.

"We have never seen this level of responsiveness and support so early into an administration. This is truly commendable," she said.

The event concluded with a renewed pledge of cooperation between the council administration and community structures, as Otunba Oluwaloni promised that similar empowerment programs would continue in phases to ensure no community is left behind.





House of representative member representing Epe Federal Constituency, Hon. Wale Raji welcomed student leaders from the Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH) under the banner of the Federation of Epe Division Students Association (FEDSA - LASUSTECH) to his constituency office during their Epe Tour.

Students, accompanied by Raji's Senior Legislative Aide on Media and Youth Affairs, Mr. Kaka Babatunde, toured key infrastructural projects facilitated by the lawmaker.

The visits to Temu Community Secondary School, Ayetoro Market, Oluwo Market, and the remodeled Epe Grammar School drew admiration from the delegation, who praised the transformational efforts.

Raji made time to meet with the students, expressing gratitude for their visit and commending their organization. "It is important that

# Raji Hosts LASUSTECH (FEDSA) Students

By Mohammed Adekola



you also get involved. I'm not asking you to dabble into partisan politics, contesting elections, but get involved," he advised.

Raji recounts his early days in student leadership as the PRO of NULASS at UNILAG, later becoming departmental president and hall secretary. "At UNILAG, I was a student member of UPN in 1979. Ever since graduation, we've been actively involved. Though I decided that politics would

never be my source of livelihood. It is important to have a career, equip yourself intellectually and professionally so that when you get involved in partisan politics later in life, you'll be bringing something to the table," he said.

Raji cites example of Mr. Kaka Babatunde as a youth he mentored and appointed as a Senior Legislative Aide due to his consistency and value-driven approach. "All along, I head-hunted for him. I convinced myself that he's somebody that can add

value."

Rep. Raji emphasized that real impact comes from principle-based leadership, backed by competence. "Representation is a common thing, but I decided to do a common thing in an uncommon manner to achieve an uncommon result. That's why legacy is key," he said, noting his focus on education infrastructure and youth empowerment.

He detailed the construction of over 160 classrooms, including in hard-to-reach areas like Ilege, Oko-Abe, and Owu-Ikosi, as

well as Pobuna and the transformation of Epe Grammar School into a model institution with new hostels, a stadium, ICT centers, and renovated staff housing.

"Our focus is to take education to the doorstep of our children so that they wouldn't have to suffer too much to get to their schools," he explained.

The lawmaker addressed the local economy, citing the decision to reclaim Ayetoro Market from private developers and build close to 400 shops, which will be allotted free to local traders. "We're trying to put the control of our local economy in the hands of our people," he said, adding that similar projects are ongoing at Mojoda, Pobo, Ito-Ikin, Mowowale and Aladepekun markets.

In addition to infrastructural achievements, Rep. Raji highlighted the establishment of a welfare scheme for the elderly for over four years and construction of up to 20 roads. He invited the students to suggest areas where he can support youth

development, especially through ICT and mentorship. "I have some ideas and will engage you later. For me, I don't tell people what I want to do. Rather, I report what I have done," he affirmed.

Comrade Edu Shafi applauds the Lawmaker for his giant strides in education, local economy, youth and elderly welfare. He recalled how his open door policy has greatly inspired youth participation in school and mainstream politics, asserting that with their tour of some of his landmark projects, the students have found a worthy political mentor in the Lawmaker.

Rep. Raji concluded on a hopeful note: "We would have more structured meetings. I'll be pleased to work with you for as long as you remain serious. I enjoyed mentorship from people like Prof. Femi Agbalajobi and Dapo Sarumi. I can replicate the same with you."

# Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates Accident and Emergency Centre In Epe

By Mohammed Adekola



**G**overnor Babajide Sanwo-Olu inaugurates the state's newly-constructed Custodian Accident and Emergency Centre at Federal Medical Centre Epe, describing it as a vital step towards expanding access to quality emergency healthcare. The governor applauds Custodian Investments Ltd. for sponsoring establishment of the centre through its Custodian Social Responsibility Foundation. He praised Lagos State Ministry of Health and the project team for delivering what he called a 'world-class facility'. "This centre stands as a symbol of what is possible when vision, planning and execution align, this is a world class facility. "We are not just handing over a project, we are empowering Epe Community with a vital facility that

can make the difference between life and death," he said.

The facility is equipped with triage units, emergency wards, diagnostic centres, staff lounges and waiting areas. It is designed to offer swift and efficient care in critical situations.

The governor emphasised that the facility would not only improve patients' healthcare outcomes but will also boost staff efficiency and strengthen public

trust in the state's healthcare system.

"This project is a clear manifestation of our vision for a progressive Lagos, where health is treated as a priority, and the emergency centre would serve not only Epe but also nearby communities," Sanwo-Olu said.

He added that it would ensure quicker interventions during medical emergencies and reduce preventable deaths.

Sanwo-Olu pledged continued investment in

health infrastructure across the state, especially in emergency response, maternal care and disease prevention.

He acknowledged the essential role of healthcare professionals assigned to the new facility and said "The state government would support their welfare, training and professional growth".

He urged Epe residents to take ownership of the centre, support its staff and safeguard

the facility as a community asset. "As we hand over this facility today, I urge all stakeholders to work together in ensuring that this centre fulfils its purpose and enhances the well-being of our people,".

The state Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, and the Special Adviser to Lagos State Governor on Health, Dr Kemi Ogunyemi, lauds Custodian Investments Ltd. for its partnership with the state.



# Lagos FA Chairman Hails Flying Eagles On World Cup Ticket

By Akeem Busari

The Nigeria football community is agog, following the hard-earned victory of Nigeria's U20 national team in the quarter-finals clash against defending champions, Senegal. With everything to play for, particularly, the world cup ticket. The Flying Eagles, who are the champions of the WAFU U20 tournament, put in the needed grit, resilience and determination to be at the world cup. After playing out 0-0 after extra time the Coach Zubairu led boys defeated Senegal who were the defending champions of the AFCON U20, 3-



1 on penalties. No small thanks to the heroics of tall and lanky goalkeeper Ebenezer Harcourt, who saved two penalty kicks during

the shootout.

Following the expected euphoria, the Chairman of Lagos State Football Association, Hajji Gafar Liameed has released a

statement celebrating the remarkable feats of the team, which he described as a welcome relief and an elixir for better youth football

development.

"I join all football loving Nigerians, as well as, the stakeholders and investors to congratulate our darling Flying Eagles

for qualifying for the U20 world cup.

"It's no mean feat. We're also happy that one of the heroes of the journey so far, is a player of Lagos based NNL side Sporting Lagos. It only speaks for the unrelenting efforts of Lagos State government, the Sports Commission and of course, the LSFA, to continue to empower, develop and promote our youths, through football.

"Muchmore, on behalf of the board of LSFA and all football stakeholders, I want to congratulate the Nigeria Football Federation, led by Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau, for their strong belief in the team, and of course, their tireless commitment towards making Nigeria football better."

# Peace Cup Organizer Shares Vision Behind Tournament

By Saheed Afolabi

The founder of Peace Cup in Lagos, Dr Kolade Kolapo has shared the vision and impacts behind the established grassroots football competition. A medical doctor by trade, Dr. Kolade also wore the hats of a passionate football administrator and a meticulous match commissioner. Through the Peace Cup, he had quietly become a catalyst for positive change in his community. "The Peace Cup is the best grassroots football tournament in Lagos State, thanks to the

quality and standard I have consistently implemented since its inception. It all started out of my passion for youth development and my desire to bring structure to football in our environment because, truthfully, football in this area was nothing to write home about.

"The name Peace Cup came from the need to address misconceptions and divisions among youths in the community. I saw football as a powerful tool to unite people. So, I decided to use my vast experience in the game to foster

unity and initiate the Peace Cup Football Tournament a platform where football becomes a vehicle for peace and social harmony."

Kolade believes Peace Cup have a huge impact in the economy of the host community in Ipaja and it has served as a talent discovery unit for embedding new talents.

"The impact has been massive. Economically, it has boosted local businesses during the tournament period. Socially, it has given



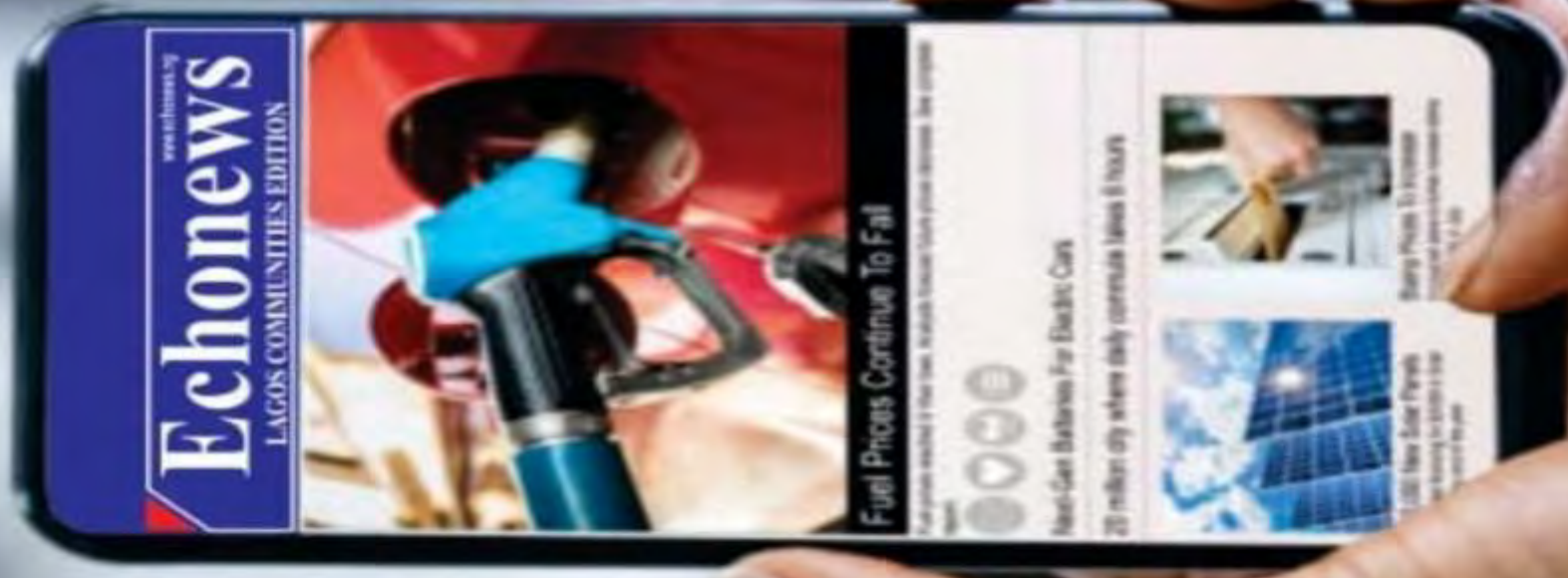
the youth a sense of identity and purpose. Most importantly, it has served as a platform for talent discovery and development. We've seen players use this

stage to get noticed and further their careers.

"So far, we've successfully held four editions. The fourth edition holds a special

place in my heart — it brought the biggest memories. The level of engagement, the quality of play, and the community turnout were phenomenal."





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