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Residents Without Mandatory Health Insurance May Lose Govt Patronage

By Kunle Awoshiyan

Lagos residents without health insurance may lose government patronage, this is coming about two years after the policy became effective.

As a matter of fact the enforcement came by executive order in 2024, which according the state commissioner, Professor Akin Abayomi is being strictly enforced now. Reiterating the commitment of the government to the policy, the commissioner said at the annual ministerial press briefing that there is now as stronger public-private partnerships to drive the enforcement.

He describes the policy as one of the central pillars of the healthcare financing reforms, as it moves to bridge an estimated 100 billion gap between current health sector funding and projected healthcare needs.

Abayomi, said the state was intensifying efforts to expand health insurance coverage, strengthen healthcare infrastructure, and position Lagos as a leading medical tourism destination in Africa.

He disclosed that Lagos currently allocates about eight per cent of its budget to health — significantly below the 15 per cent benchmark set under the Abuja Declaration — making alternative financing mechanisms critical for sustainable healthcare delivery. He said dwindling donor support and growing healthcare demands in Africa's



largest megacity had made the state's aggressive push for mandatory health insurance and stronger private sector collaboration unavoidable.

The commissioner revealed that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu had domesticated the National Health Insurance Authority Act through an Executive Order signed on July 16, 2024, making health insurance compulsory for all Lagos residents.

According to him, Ministries, Departments and Agencies have already commenced enforcement, requiring residents seeking government services to present evidence of accredited health insurance coverage. Abayomi said the policy is expected to significantly boost enrollment and create a sustainable healthcare financing



pool capable of improving infrastructure, strengthening healthcare facilities, and supporting vulnerable populations through equity-based funding. He disclosed that over 1.46 million residents have so far enrolled under the Lagos State Health Management Agency's Ilera-Eko health insurance scheme, though he acknowledged that

the state still has considerable ground to cover in achieving universal health coverage. He described Nigeria's healthcare financing structure as unsustainable, noting that approximately 77 per cent of health expenditure is paid directly out-of-pocket by citizens, while only two per cent is financed through insurance. On the state's long-

term healthcare vision, Abayomi said Lagos' 2052 Development Plan aims to transform the state into a model among Africa's top three healthcare destinations within the next decade. "We do not want Lagosians travelling abroad to seek healthcare in Dubai, London, India or South Africa. We want to provide every

specialty and subspecialty needed right here in Lagos," he said.

The commissioner also stressed the need to regulate and integrate the informal healthcare sector — including community pharmacies, patent medicine vendors, and traditional medicine practitioners — into the formal healthcare ecosystem.

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Residents Without Mandatory Health Insurance May Lose Govt Patronage

Continued From Page 2

He noted that healthcare delivery in Lagos extends far beyond government hospitals, with more than 3,500 registered private health facilities operating across the state, alongside numerous informal providers that often serve as first points of care.

Abayomi further disclosed that the state recently convened a strategic retreat involving the Ministry of Health, the Primary Health Care Board, and local government chairmen to develop a performance-based compact aimed at improving coordination across all levels of healthcare delivery.

According to him, the compact will focus on clearer role delineation, coordinated resource allocation, digital health integration, workforce planning, and stronger primary healthcare services.

Addressing concerns over manpower shortages, the commissioner acknowledged the global migration of healthcare professionals but said Lagos was implementing measures to retain talent through improved welfare and expanded training opportunities. He announced that approval has been granted for the establishment of a stand-alone University of Medicine and Health Sciences in Lagos State to increase the production of doctors, nurses,



pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals.

The institution, he explained, will decentralise clinical training across primary, secondary, and private healthcare facilities while leveraging diaspora specialists and existing professionals within the state health system.

Abayomi added that ongoing infrastructure redesign and modernisation projects across state health facilities would improve patient experience, staff welfare, sustainability, and overall healthcare outcomes.

In her remarks, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Health,

Dr Kemi Ogunyemi, highlighted the role of the Health Facility Monitoring and Accreditation Agency (HEFAMAA) in safeguarding patient safety and regulating healthcare standards across Lagos.

She noted that Lagos remains the first state in Nigeria to establish a dedicated agency solely focused on healthcare facility regulation and patient safety, adding that several states and the Federal Government are studying the model.

Ogunyemi said the increasing number of hospitals, cosmetic medical spas, and other healthcare facilities has stretched HEFAMAA's operational

capacity, making collaboration with franchise organisations and trained professionals necessary.

"If you do not see the HEFAMAA accreditation sign in a facility, please do not use that facility. If you see something concerning poor or substandard practice, say something. We rely on the public to help us ensure patient safety," she said.

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and Strategy, commended progress recorded in Lagos' healthcare delivery, particularly in emergency response services, infrastructure expansion, and primary healthcare

strengthening.

He also praised the contributions of women in healthcare and nation-building and urged stakeholders to engage constructively.

In his closing remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr Dayo Lajide, expressed appreciation to Governor Sanwo-Olu for sustained investment in the sector.

He also commended healthcare workers across primary, secondary, and tertiary facilities for their resilience and commitment to quality service delivery despite mounting pressures and rising healthcare demands.

LASEMA, NEMA Partner To Scale Up Flood Sensitisation

The Lagos State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (LASRERA) recently embarked on an inspection exercise across selected real estate sites and offices within Lagos State as part of its ongoing efforts to sanitise the real estate sector and ensure compliance with regulatory standards. The inspection exercise was aimed at verifying the operational activities of real estate agents, assessing compliance with registration requirements, and ensuring that practitioners operate within the provisions guiding real estate transactions in the state. During the exercise, officials of the Authority interacted with agents and property developers, emphasising the importance of professionalism, transparency, and adherence to ethical standards in real estate practice. Speaking during the inspection, Mrs. Alaba Somorin, Head of E-

CARE, Monitoring and Compliance Unit, LASRERA, reiterated the agency's commitment to protecting residents from fraudulent real estate activities and promoting a safe, transparent, and accountable property market in Lagos State. She encouraged real estate practitioners to register with the Authority and maintain proper documentation in their dealings with clients. Somorin warned against illegal practices, including operating without

registration, arbitrary charges, and false property representations, noting that defaulters would face appropriate sanctions in accordance with the law. The inspection exercise forms part of LASRERA's continuous monitoring and enforcement strategy designed to restore public confidence in the real estate sector while ensuring that all stakeholders comply with established regulations and best practices.

LASRERA Conducts Inspections on Realtors in Lagos

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LAWMA Urges Waste Reduction as Disposal Sites Face Pressure



The Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) has called on residents to embrace waste reduction, sorting, and responsible disposal practices as disposal facilities across Lagos State experience increased operational pressure arising from heavy rainfall and difficult terrain conditions. Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of LAWMA, Dr. Muiyiwa Gbadegesin, stated that persistent rainfall and increased waste evacuation activities had placed considerable strain on disposal infrastructure, affecting truck movement, turnaround time, and operational efficiency at some landfill and disposal locations across the State. He noted that the situation had also impacted evacuation logistics for PSP operators and sanitation personnel working under challenging weather conditions to sustain waste management operations statewide. According to him, the Authority was actively engaging relevant stakeholders and implementing operational measures aimed at improving accessibility, stabilising disposal operations, and reducing pressure on critical waste infrastructure during the rainy season. Dr. Gbadegesin urged residents to support

ongoing interventions by reducing waste generation, properly bagging waste, and adopting waste sorting practices that encourage recycling and resource recovery. He explained that waste sorting at source, particularly the separation of recyclable and organic waste, would significantly reduce pressure on disposal facilities while supporting the State's broader transition towards a circular economy and sustainable waste management system. The LAWMA boss further assured residents that the Authority remained committed to sustaining environmental sanitation across Lagos through continuous collaboration with PSP operators, operational reforms, infrastructure upgrades, and strategic interventions designed to strengthen the resilience of the waste management system. He also commended PSP operators, drivers, sanitation workers, and operational personnel for their resilience and continued commitment to service delivery despite prevailing operational constraints. LAWMA appealed to residents for understanding and cooperation, assuring that concerted efforts were ongoing to maintain effective waste evacuation operations and cleaner communities across the State.

Badagry Residents Jubilate As Sonayon-James Emerges as APC Deputy Governorhip Candidate

It was jubilation galore in Badagry at the weekend as residents trooped out in thousands to welcome the nomination of

Princess Damilola Sonayon-James as Lagos Deputy Governorship Candidate by the All Progressives Congress, APC.

The party selected Princess Damilola Sonayon-James as its deputy governorship candidate for the forthcoming Lagos State governorship election, positioning the Badagry-born politician for one of the most significant political contests in the state.

Reacting to this development, a former governorship aspirant of the All Progressives Congress in the state, Samuel Mayunwon Ajose, popularly known as SMA Gold congratulated Princess Sonayon James on her emergence, describing it as a welcome development. Recall that it took the intervention of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for Ajose to step down for the governorship candidate, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat.

However, speaking on Sonayon-James, Ajose who released the congratulatory message through his official X handle @samuelajose_ said her emergence is a proud moment for Badagry and a well deserved recognition of her dedication, service, and commitment to the APC.

According to him "For those of us who have consistently advocated for greater inclusion and representation for Badagry, this milestone is both meaningful and encouraging. My advocacy was never about personal ambition, but about ensuring that our people have a voice and a place at the table". He disclosed that her emergence is an

achievement worthy of celebration while wishing her wisdom, strength, and success in the journey ahead.

Also, a release by the Badagry Women Federation had congratulated Senayon-James, describing the nomination as timely and a big step in to liberate women in politics.

"It is a welcome development that will go a long way in strengthen women confidence," the statement read.

According to reliable party sources Sonayon-James will run alongside the incumbent Deputy Governor, Dr. Femi Hamzat, who recently emerged as the APC governorship candidate ahead of the election.

The choice of Sonayon-James is being viewed as a strategic move by the ruling party to strengthen its grassroots appeal and consolidate support across key parts of Lagos, particularly in the Badagry division where she enjoys considerable influence and political goodwill.

A seasoned grassroots politician, Sonayon-James currently serves as the Assistant State Woman Leader of the APC in Lagos State. Over the years, she has built a reputation for active community engagement, political mobilisation and advocacy for inclusive development.

Beyond politics, she is widely recognised as an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) expert and Sustainability Risk Consultant, with extensive experience spanning public service, policy implementation and community development initiatives.

The APC chieftain hails from the royal family of Kweme Kingdom in Badagry West Local Council Development Area, a factor that has further strengthened her



Sonayon-James

connection with local communities and traditional institutions across the division.

Her political journey has seen her serve as Supervisory Councillor for Agriculture and Social Services in Badagry West LCDA, where she played active roles in grassroots governance and social intervention programmes. Political observers have described her emergence as a significant milestone for women in Lagos politics, noting that her selection reflects the growing influence of female leaders within the APC and the state's political landscape.

Although the party is yet to make a formal

announcement, insiders disclosed that the official unveiling of the Hamzat-Sonayon-James ticket is expected in the coming days.

Over the years, she has built a reputation as a dedicated public servant, grassroots mobilizer, and advocate for community development.

Observers have described her emergence as a testament to her loyalty, competence, and unwavering commitment to public service. Her nomination is also seen as a reflection of the growing recognition of the strategic importance of Badagry and the immense leadership potential within the

division.

Across Badagry, the announcement has been met with excitement and optimism, with many residents expressing confidence in her ability to effectively complement the governorship ticket and contribute meaningfully to the continued development of Lagos State.

As the election season gathers momentum, Princess Damilola Sonayan James' nomination stands as a historic milestone for Badagry, further strengthening the division's presence in the political and governance structure of Lagos State.

Zero-Waste Economy: Lagos Re-affirms Commitment To Transitioning Initiative

The Lagos State Government has reaffirmed its irrevocable commitment to the transition process towards a zero-waste economy through strategic partnerships, improved landfill operations, recycling initiatives, and waste-to-energy projects.

The affirmation was made by the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab, during the 2026 Ministerial Press Briefing in commemoration of the seventh year in office of the Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration in the Environment Sector held at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, Alausa.

According to him, in line with the THEMES Plus development Agenda, the state is also committed to building a cleaner, healthier, flood-resilient, and environmentally sustainable megacity.

The Commissioner highlighted wide-ranging achievements across environmental sanitation, waste management, drainage infrastructure, climate governance, beautification, water supply, wastewater management, and environmental enforcement.

He stated that a major milestone of the administration was the successful reintroduction of the monthly statewide environmental sanitation exercise, saying the exercise aims to restore environmental consciousness and improve community participation in sanitation practices across Lagos State.

"The exercise recorded massive participation from residents, local governments, private organisations, and state officials, demonstrating renewed public commitment to environmental cleanliness," he said.

Wahab said the Ministry also intensified enforcement activities through its agencies, leading to the arrest and prosecution of environmental offenders, removal of illegal traders and squatters, and issuance of environmental abatement notices across the State.

According to him, 5,715 persons were arrested for highway crossing, 3,886 people were arrested for offences ranging from street trading, environmental polluters and cart pushers, 102 arrested for practising open defecation, while 931 people were arrested for waste management offences.

He highlighted that the Ministry also commissioned the Ikosi Waste-to-Energy Biodigester Plant, situated within the Ketu Fruit Market, adding that the plant converts organic waste into electricity, cooking gas, and agricultural fertiliser.

"The plant processes 0.5 tonnes of organic waste per day, generates 30kWh of electricity daily for lighting and cold storage, delivering an estimated annual emission.

He said in the area of waste management, the Ministry had increased landfill operational efficiency and waste truck turnaround time, adding that following a thorough performance evaluation exercise, the operating license of five underperforming PSP operators was withdrawn. He equally said the State also strengthened healthcare waste collection by deploying 35 new PSP operators to health facilities across the three senatorial Districts, adding that 3,920 health facilities were registered statewide with 80,000-105,000kg of medical waste treated every month.

"We have enhanced the



waste-to-wealth initiative with the signing of 12 new partnerships on environmental sustainability and have intensified monitoring and enforcement activities against indiscriminate waste disposal and environmental violations", he said.

The Commissioner added that the Ministry, in the last year, sustained the ban on Styrofoam and single-use plastics with the removal of 137, 530.94kg of PET plastic from the environment while significantly increasing plastic recycling and resource recovery efforts. Wahab also reported notable achievements in climate governance, air quality management, and environmental sustainability, saying Lagos retained its position as Nigeria's top-performing state in climate governance for the second consecutive year.

"The State successfully hosted the 2025 Lagos International Climate Change Summit focused on financing Africa's coastal resilience and blue economy opportunities, while the Ministry also successfully

installed over 100 air quality monitoring sensors across the State in addition to introducing cleaner fish processing technology in Makoko to reduce smoke emissions and improve public health outcomes for local processors"

Wahab said the Ministry continued in its tradition of tree planting, recording 16,966 planted trees across 16,966 the five divisions of the State, adding that new recreational parks were created while existing ones are undergoing renovation.

Wahab said flood control and drainage infrastructure remained a major focus of the administration as extensive dredging, drainage cleaning, and channel construction projects were executed across the State.

According to him, the Ministry maintained and cleaned 18 primary channels of 76km and Secondary Channels of 178km while also removing illegal structures obstructing drainage alignments.

Furthermore, he noted that the Emergency Flood Abatement Gang

operatives of the Ministry responded to flood-prone areas and black spots across Lagos, amounting to approximately 210km in length, adding that this reinforces the State Government's determination to mitigate flooding and improve stormwater management in vulnerable communities.

In the water resources sector, Wahab reported significant milestones with the commissioning of the rehabilitated 1 MGD Akilo Mini Waterworks, stating that steady progress is being made on the Adiyon Phase II Water Treatment Plant project and expansion of potable water infrastructure.

Wahab concluded that the collective achievements across sanitation, waste management, climate action, drainage, beautification, environmental enforcement, and water infrastructure are a demonstration that the Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration is committed to delivering sustainable environmental reforms and improving the quality of life for residents across Lagos State.

Sanwo-Olu's Facility Management Initiative Boosts Healthcare

As part of the ongoing Facility Management (FM) Assessment Tour across public health institutions in Lagos State, the Managing Director of Pillars and Frames Ltd., Mr. Segun Adebayo, has commended the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for sustaining a private sector-driven facility management model that continues to improve service delivery and infrastructure maintenance in government-owned medical facilities. Speaking during the assessment exercise conducted by the Lagos State Infrastructure Asset Management Agency (LASIAMA), Adebayo described the Governor's decision to outsource facility management

services to competent private firms as "germane and impactful," noting that the initiative has created measurable value for health care institutions and residents across the State. According to him, Pillars and Frames Ltd. currently provides integrated facility management services within healthcare facilities in Badagry, covering janitorial operations, waste management, environmental sanitation, equipment maintenance, security services, and power supply management. He explained that the company operates a multi-layered power support system comprising generator sets, solar energy solutions, and electricity supply from

Eko Electricity Distribution Company to ensure stable energy availability within the medical facilities. Adebayo, who is also the immediate past President of the International Facility Management Association, IFMA Nigeria, stressed that uninterrupted power remains critical to efficient healthcare delivery, especially in hospitals where medical operations require a constant electricity supply. While acknowledging the progress already made under the current administration, he emphasised the need for sustained investment toward achieving round-the-clock power availability in healthcare institutions. He added that the combination

of alternative energy systems and public electricity supply has significantly enhanced operational stability in the facilities under their management. On environmental sanitation and medical waste management, the facility management expert disclosed that the company adheres strictly to professional waste segregation procedures, particularly for hazardous medical waste. "We ensure that medical waste is properly segregated using designated yellow bags, while our staff members undergo regular training to maintain high environmental and safety standards," he stated. Adebayo further revealed that the company currently

maintains a workforce of 55 personnel, including security operatives, cleaners, mechanical engineers, and technical officers responsible for handling critical clinic equipment. The Managing Director also praised the maintenance culture being institutionalised by the Lagos State Government through LASIAMA, describing it as a strategic initiative that is simultaneously preserving public infrastructure and stimulating economic opportunities for skilled service providers. According to him, the initiative has not only strengthened healthcare support services in Badagry but also created employment and economic

empowerment opportunities across Maternal and Child Care (MCCs) throughout Lagos State. Adebayo, therefore, urged the State Government and the General Manager of Lagos State Infrastructure Asset Management Agency to sustain and expand the facility management framework to other public institutions in Lagos, noting that the policy has proven effective in improving operational efficiency, infrastructure sustainability, and quality service delivery to residents. He reaffirmed Pillars and Frames Ltd.'s commitment to supporting the vision of a cleaner, safer, and more resilient public healthcare system in Lagos State.



Lagos Harps On Building on Its Global Partnership

Lagos State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to building strategic partnerships that combine capital, innovation, expertise, and market access as critical drivers of sustainable economic growth and African prosperity.

The Honourable Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment, Mrs. Folashade Bada Ambrose-Medebem, made this known at the Nigeria-Mauritius Business Forum organised by the Economic

Development Board Mauritius, the Mauritius International Financial Centre, EnterpriseNGR, and the Lagos International Financial Centre (LIFC) in Lagos, themed: "Mauritius: Your Strategic Platform for Nigerian Capital, Growth, and Global Expansion."

According to the Commissioner, the forum reflects the growing urgency for stronger intra-African collaboration capable of positioning African economies to compete more effectively on the global stage.

"Today's gathering represents far more than a business forum. It is a convergence of vision, leadership, strategy, and opportunity. Africa's economic future will not be defined by isolated national successes, but by how effectively our economies collaborate, integrate, and create shared value across borders.

"As the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) gains momentum, African institutions must begin to think beyond national boundaries. We must strengthen African

capital networks, improve investment mobility, and build the institutional partnerships that will enable African enterprises to scale confidently across the continent and globally."

Mrs. Ambrose-Medebem further affirmed that Lagos State, under the leadership of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Deputy Governor Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, remains fully aligned with this continental vision through policies and reforms that promote investment, innovation, enterprise development, and

inclusive economic growth.

She noted that Lagos State continues to strengthen the Lagos International Financial Centre (LIFC) initiative as a strategic platform to position Lagos as Africa's leading financial and investment hub, while welcoming credible regional and global partnerships that create jobs, empower young people, deepen innovation ecosystems, and accelerate long-term prosperity in line with the Lagos State Development Plan 2052 and the THEMES+ Agenda.



Infrastructure, Investment and the Rise of New Lagos

Samuel Jacob Lawani speaks on the future of Lagos real estate, infrastructure growth, and why smart investors are already positioning ahead of the next property boom.

The conversation around "New Lagos" continues to dominate discussions within Nigeria's real estate industry. From the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway to the rapid expansion along the Lekki-Epe corridor, investors and developers are increasingly turning their attention toward emerging urban zones expected to shape the future of Lagos.

On the *Project Souq Grandeur* Podcast hosted by Emmanuel Daniji, entrepreneur and real estate consultant Samuel Jacob Lawani shared insights into infrastructure-driven property growth, investment opportunities, market psychology, and the evolving future of commercial and residential real estate in Lagos.

Below are excerpts from the conversation.

Q: Let's start with you introducing yourself. Who is Samuel Jacob Lawani?

Samuel Jacob Lawani: I'm an entrepreneur based in Lagos with interests in both real estate and entertainment. I'm the founder of SAMUELPROPERTIES, where we focus on brokerage, property management, and consultancy services. I'm also the founder of Fair Haven Record, a music label focused on developing young talents.

Real estate has always been something I'm passionate about because of the long-term value and impact it creates for individuals and communities.

Q: What attracted you to the real estate industry?

Samuel Jacob Lawani: Real estate is one of the few industries where you can literally see growth happen physically. Land appreciates, communities develop, infrastructure expands, and people build wealth through those changes.

What drew me in was the opportunity to help people make informed investment decisions while also building something

sustainable for the future.

Q: How would you describe the current Lagos real estate market?

Samuel Jacob Lawani: The market is evolving very fast. Lagos keeps expanding, population growth continues, and infrastructure projects are opening up new investment corridors.

We are seeing increased interest in developing areas because investors now understand the importance of positioning early before locations become fully commercialized or expensive.

Q: There's a lot of conversation around "New Lagos." What does that mean to you?

Samuel Jacob Lawani: To me, New Lagos represents the next major growth phase of the state. It's not just about new locations; it's about economic expansion, infrastructure development, and urban migration happening simultaneously.

Areas around Ibeju-Lekki, Epe, and the Lekki-Epe corridor are gradually becoming strategic investment zones because of the infrastructure projects

happening there.

Q: How important is infrastructure in determining property value?

Samuel Jacob Lawani: Infrastructure is everything in real estate. Roads, transportation systems, drainage, electricity, and accessibility directly affect demand and value.

Historically in Lagos, every major infrastructure project has influenced property appreciation. Once accessibility improves, commercial activity follows, and property prices naturally rise.

Q: What impact do projects like the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway have on the market?

Samuel Jacob Lawani: Projects like that completely change investment psychology. Investors understand that major infrastructure projects attract businesses, residents, and economic activities.

So people begin positioning themselves ahead of completion because they know property values may appreciate significantly once development becomes fully operational.

Q: Some people believe there's too much hype around New Lagos. Do you agree?

Samuel Jacob Lawani: Every growing market comes with hype, but the important thing is understanding the fundamentals behind the growth.

The opportunities are real, but investors need to avoid emotional decisions. Proper documentation, location analysis, infrastructure plans, and long-term development projections matter a lot.

Q: What opportunities are many investors currently missing?

Samuel Jacob Lawani: A lot of people wait too long before investing. By the time an area becomes fully developed, affordability drops significantly.



Samuel Jacob Lawani

Land banking remains one of the biggest opportunities right now for investors who understand long-term appreciation. There are still developing corridors with strong future potential.

Q: How important is master planning in urban development?

Samuel Jacob Lawani: Very important. Not every developing area becomes successful. Proper planning determines whether growth becomes sustainable or chaotic.

Things like zoning, road networks, drainage systems, environmental planning, and commercial integration all play major roles in the future of any development corridor.

Q: How do you see commercial real estate evolving in New Lagos?

Samuel Jacob Lawani: Commercial real estate will eventually become one of the strongest sectors there. As population increases, businesses naturally follow.

We'll see more mixed-use developments, retail spaces, offices, hospitality projects, and commercial hubs emerging as

the area matures.

Q: What advice would you give someone looking to invest with ₦10 million today?

Samuel Jacob Lawani: The first thing is strategy. Don't invest based on hype alone.

Focus on areas with future infrastructure potential, verify documentation properly, and think long term. Real estate rewards patience and informed decision-making.

Closer

The conversation with Samuel Jacob Lawani highlights a growing reality within Nigeria's property sector: infrastructure is increasingly shaping the future of investment decisions.

As Lagos continues to expand beyond its traditional urban centers, emerging corridors tied to transportation, commercial development, and government-backed projects are becoming the new focal points for investors seeking long-term value.

For many within the industry, the idea of "New Lagos" is no longer just a prediction — it is gradually becoming the next chapter of the city's real estate evolution.

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FG, AfDB Roll Out Aircraft Leasing Project

[AtumeTerfa](#)



Nigeria's aviation sector is set for a major transformation following the launch of a groundbreaking aircraft leasing initiative by the Federal Government in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB), a move expected to ease fleet acquisition challenges and unlock new growth opportunities for local airlines. The initiative, unveiled in Abuja by Aviation and Aerospace Development Minister, Festus Keyamo, introduces the

Nigeria Aircraft Leasing Company (NALC), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) designed to provide domestic and regional carriers with easier access to aircraft through flexible leasing arrangements. For decades, Nigerian airlines have struggled with the high cost of purchasing and financing aircraft, a challenge that has limited fleet expansion and constrained operational growth. The newly established leasing platform seeks to change that narrative by creating a more affordable pathway for airlines to acquire modern aircraft

without the heavy financial burden of outright ownership. Speaking at the unveiling, Keyamo described the initiative as a strategic intervention that could reshape the aviation landscape. He emphasized that NALC is not intended to compete with airline operators but rather to serve as a catalyst that enables carriers to expand operations, improve service delivery, and strengthen their competitiveness within Africa's growing aviation market. A major boost for the project comes from the AfDB's

support through a \$7 billion aviation financing programme. The development bank is also expected to formalize its partnership with Nigeria through a Memorandum of Understanding, signalling increasing investor confidence in the country's aviation reforms and long-term growth prospects. Officials noted that plans for a national aircraft leasing framework have existed for years but faced setbacks due to regulatory hurdles and compliance issues linked to the Cape Town Convention. With those concerns

now largely addressed, authorities believe the environment is finally conducive for implementation. Under the structure of the new company, the Federal Government will retain equity participation through the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI), while private investors are expected to provide significant funding. Government involvement will primarily be limited to offering sovereign guarantees where necessary, ensuring that the venture remains commercially

driven. Industry leaders have welcomed the development as a long-awaited breakthrough. Chief Executive Officer of Ibom Air, George Uriesi, described the initiative as a potentially game-changing reform capable of improving aircraft availability, reducing operational bottlenecks, and enhancing the competitiveness of Nigerian carriers across regional and international routes. Aviation experts believe the leasing company could stimulate fresh investments, improve connectivity, support airline expansion, and position Nigeria as a leading aviation financing and leasing hub on the African continent. If successfully implemented, the initiative could mark the beginning of a new era for Nigerian aviation—one where access to aircraft is no longer a barrier to growth, but a catalyst for a stronger and more globally competitive industry.

Julius Berger Intensifies Efforts to Rehabilitate Key Bridges In Lagos

AtumeTerfa

Millions of Lagos commuters could soon enjoy safer and smoother journeys as Julius Berger Nigeria Plc accelerates extensive rehabilitation works on some of the city's most strategic bridges, tackling years of structural wear and strengthening critical transport infrastructure.

The construction giant is currently spearheading a large-scale restoration programme on key bridge networks, including the Third Mainland Bridge, Carter Bridge, Iddo Bridge, and the Iddo Bridge Underpass. The intervention forms part of the Federal Government's broader effort to modernise ageing infrastructure and improve the resilience of Lagos' transportation system.

Years of heavy traffic, exposure to harsh marine conditions, and natural ageing had taken a toll on several of the structures, prompting urgent engineering interventions to



prevent further deterioration and ensure long-term safety.

Among the projects nearing completion is the Carter Bridge rehabilitation. Julius Berger disclosed that major repair works have been concluded, particularly on underwater sections and supporting structures affected by corrosion and tidal activity. The project has now moved into its final phase, with finishing and close-out activities underway.

Progress has also been significant on the Third Mainland Bridge, one of Africa's busiest road links. Rehabilitation works on vital structural components, including bridge piers, deck soffits, and underwater foundations, have reached an advanced stage. Engineers continue to assess and monitor the bridge to guarantee its durability and operational integrity for years to come.

At Iddo Bridge, however, reconstruction efforts remain in full

swing. Following detailed structural assessments that uncovered extensive damage, large portions of the bridge are being rebuilt with reinforced concrete components and upgraded support systems. Work is also ongoing at the adjoining underpass as contractors push ahead with the restoration programme.

The bridge renewal campaign comes against the backdrop of increasing concerns over the

condition of Lagos' ageing infrastructure. Engineering inspections conducted over the years revealed significant corrosion and weakening in critical sections of several bridges, raising concerns about safety and serviceability.

Authorities believe the ongoing upgrades will do more than preserve existing infrastructure. Beyond extending the lifespan of the bridges, the projects are expected to improve road safety, reduce

traffic-related disruptions, facilitate the movement of goods and people, and support economic activities across Nigeria's commercial capital.

With rehabilitation efforts gathering momentum, the Federal Government and Julius Berger are betting on a stronger, safer, and more efficient transport network capable of meeting the demands of one of Africa's fastest-growing megacities.

LASERC Opens Door for Consumers Seeking Power Dispute Resolution

[AtumeTerfa](#)

The Lagos State Electricity Regulatory Commission (LASERC) has called on electricity consumers across the state to take a more active role in protecting their rights by reporting unresolved power-related complaints to the commission. The appeal comes as many residents continue to grapple with persistent challenges, including erratic power supply, estimated billing, faulty meters, delayed metering services, and dissatisfaction with

how some complaints are handled by electricity providers. LASERC explained that customers should first report any service-related issue to the Customer Complaints Unit of their electricity company. However, where complaints remain unresolved or consumers are unhappy with the outcome, they are encouraged to escalate the matter to the commission for further review and intervention. The regulator said

the move is part of ongoing efforts to build a more transparent and consumer-driven electricity market in Lagos, where service providers are held accountable and customers have access to effective channels for seeking redress. In recent months, LASERC has stepped up oversight of the electricity sector through stricter service monitoring, improved complaint resolution mechanisms, and initiatives aimed at reducing the

burden of estimated billing. The commission is also driving the adoption of smart metering solutions to improve billing accuracy and enhance customer confidence in the system. The reforms have been widely viewed as a significant step toward improving consumer protection and strengthening accountability within Lagos' evolving power sector. To further improve accessibility, LASERC plans to

expand its customer engagement framework by establishing additional complaint centres across the state, making it easier for residents and businesses to lodge complaints and receive regulatory support. As Lagos advances efforts to develop a more efficient and independent electricity market, regulators believe consumer participation will play a vital role in raising service standards and ensuring electricity

providers fulfill their obligations. Residents have therefore been advised to keep records of issues such as prolonged outages, billing disputes, meter faults, and other service failures, and to report them through the appropriate channels. Authorities say increased reporting will not only help resolve individual complaints but also contribute to broader improvements in electricity service delivery across the state.





Lagos Boosts Innovation Drive with UBA's New UNILAG Hub

AtumeTerfa

Lagos has taken another step toward strengthening its position as a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and knowledge-driven development following the unveiling of a new Innovation Hub and Business Office by United Bank for Africa (UBA) at the University of Lagos (UNILAG).

The newly commissioned four-storey facility, situated on the university's Akoka campus, represents a major investment in the future of education,

enterprise, and youth empowerment. Designed to bridge the gap between academia and industry, the centre will provide students, researchers, innovators, and aspiring entrepreneurs with access to resources, collaboration opportunities, and support systems needed to transform ideas into impactful ventures.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, UBA Group Chairman, Tony Elumelu,

represented by UBA Group Managing Director, Oliver Alawuba, described the project as an investment in Africa's next generation of leaders and innovators.

Elumelu, a proud alumnus of UNILAG, noted that universities remain vital centres for creativity, research, and leadership development. He said the initiative reflects UBA's commitment to supporting institutions that nurture talent and drive societal transformation.

The facility is expected to serve multiple functions. While UBA's

Business Office will provide banking and financial services to students, staff, and the wider university community, the Innovation Hub will act as a collaborative space for research, entrepreneurship, enterprise development, and technological advancement. Other sections of the building will support academic and administrative activities within the institution.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos, Folasade Ogunsola, welcomed the development, describing it as a

shining example of how partnerships between higher institutions and the private sector can accelerate innovation and sustainable development.

She said the collaboration aligns with the university's vision of producing graduates equipped with the skills, knowledge, and entrepreneurial mindset required to compete in a rapidly changing globaleconomy.

Beyond the new facility, UBA also reaffirmed its support for academic excellence by increasing funding for its Professorial Chair in Finance at

UNILAG. The additional investment is expected to strengthen research, promote thought leadership, and contribute to the development of Nigeria's financial and academic sectors.

The launch of the Innovation Hub and Business Office further reinforces Lagos' growing reputation as a centre for innovation and enterprise, while deepening the longstanding partnership between UBA and UNILAG in advancing education, research, and human capital development.

Iyaloja-General Demands Justice Over Disputed APC Primaries

Kehinde Adeleye

The Iyaloja-General of Nigeria, Mrs. Folashade Tinubu-Ojo, has emerged as a leading voice in the growing controversy surrounding the All Progressives Congress (APC) House of Representatives primaries in Agege and Ojokoro federal constituencies in Lagos State. She spoke as aggrieved market leaders and political stakeholders demanded an urgent review of the primaries, alleging widespread irregularities, manipulation, and imposition of candidates. Tinubu-Ojo, addressing market leaders and stakeholders at a meeting held at the Iyaloja-General's office in Alausa, Ikeja,

described the conduct of the primaries as unacceptable and capable of undermining internal democracy within the ruling party. She specifically faulted the outcomes in Agege Constituency II, Ojokoro, and Mushin Federal Constituency, alleging that the genuine mandates of aspirants were altered in favour of "non-winners." According to her, political interference and the activities of internal party blocs contributed to what she described as "political shenanigans" during the process. She called for the immediate disbandment of influential blocs within the party,

including Justice Forum and Mandate Movement, accusing them of influencing delegate decisions and distorting electoral outcomes. Tinubu-Ojo further

cited cases involving Hon. Mutiu Olaide Oladeebo (Okadigbo) in Agege Constituency II, Seye Oladejo in Mushin, and Olotu Emmanuel Ojo in Ojokoro, insisting that they were the authentic winners of their respective primaries before alleged

manipulation. She urged APC leaders at both the state and national levels to urgently investigate the disputed primaries and ensure justice is done before final ratification. Meanwhile, aggrieved party members in the affected constituencies have threatened

protests if the alleged stolen mandates are not restored, accusing some party leaders of undermining internal democracy. The developments have heightened tensions within the Lagos APC, with concerns that the crisis could deepen factional divisions ahead of the 2027 general elections.



Ifako-Ijaiye APC Members Reject Adedeji's Emergence

Kehinde Adeleke

Temitope Adedeji's emergence as the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate for the Ifako-Ijaiye House of Assembly seat has been rejected by a group of concerned party

members. The group, under the APC Ifako-Ijaiye Grassroots Forum (IGF), described the primary election held on May 20, 2026, as flawed and inconsistent with democratic principles. In a petition dated

May 26, 2026, and addressed to the APC National Chairman in Abuja, the group called for a full investigation into the exercise. They alleged result manipulation, voter intimidation, inflated vote figures, and the

absence of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) officials during the primary. According to them, the outcome that produced Temitope Adedeji did not reflect the

true will of party members who participated in the election. They also accused some officials of violating party guidelines on membership verification and alleged intimidation of

members perceived to oppose the incumbent. The group therefore urged the national leadership of the APC to intervene and ensure justice and internal democracy within the party.



Oyekan Advocates For Unity Among Residents

By Saheed Afolabi



The chairman of Lagos Island LG, Prince Taiwo Oyekan has called on residents to embrace unity and strengthen their resolve against insecurity. In an emphatic message to residents, the council chairman emphasized the need for harmonious coexistence in the diverse and historic community. Oyekan urged residents to be compassionate, imbibe the habits of generosity towards the less privileged

and vulnerable in the society without sentiments towards religion and tribe. "I enjoin residents to embrace unity, compassion, and generosity, especially towards the vulnerable, irrespective of tribe or religion," he said. The council boss called for divine blessings, upliftment to all households in the community. "May the Almighty Allah accept our prayer, and shower his blessings upon every household (Amen)"

BADAGRY

Badagry West APC Appoints New Chairman

By Felix Kuyinu

The All Progressives Congress, APC, in Badagry West Local Council Development Area has inaugurated a newly elected LGA and Ward Executives ahead of the impending 2027 general elections. The APC in the council endorsed Peter Metome as its chairman as well as Friday Godonu as the Secretary and other excos who

gathered for an informal swearing-in to enact them to their new roles. During the ceremony held at Suntan Beach, party leader, Bamgbose Joseph, described party leadership as a serious responsibility that requires sacrifice, discipline, humility, and loyalty to the ideals of the party, charging the new appointees to remain united and committed ahead of the next

year's general elections. Joseph urged the executives not to see their emergence as an avenue for personal celebration alone but as a call to service and commitment to strengthening the APC structure at the grassroots. According to him, the party remains guided by directives, unity, and collective decisions, stressing that every

member must remain loyal to the vision and leadership of the APC. He charged the executives to immediately begin mobilization across communities in preparation for the 2027 general elections, particularly for the re-election of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the emergence of Dr. Obafemi Hamzat as Governor of Lagos State, Senator Oluranti Adebule,

and all APC candidates in Badagry. In his acceptance remarks, Metome cautioned party members against actions capable of causing division within the APC, warning against unhealthy criticism, backtalk, and internal conflicts. Metome stressed the need for unity, mutual respect, and cooperation among party faithful, noting that the strength of the APC can only be sustained through collective

understanding and peaceful engagement. Former Badagry West LGA Chairman, Dominic Omotayo, reminded the newly inaugurated executives that they now represent the image of the APC within their wards and communities. Omotayo urged them to conduct themselves responsibly and remain active in mobilizing support for the party at the grassroots.

Oyekan Charges Students To Shun Social Vices

By Saheed Afolabi



Chairman of Lagos Island LG, Prince Taiwo Oyekan has urged students to shun bad influences and focus on their studies in order to make positive decisions that will have a meaningful impact in their future. The council boss backs the students to be responsible to their immediate community and be a good role model. He dissuaded the students from joining peer groups who will have a negative influence in their educational career path, while he charges them to be the shining lights in their respective communities. "I urge you to concentrate on your studies, shun bad peer groups, and be good ambassadors of your communities," he said. Oyekan encourages the kids to keep their fire burning while making their education a priority to excel in life with the potential of shining brightly. "Keep dreaming, keep learning, and always know you have the potential to shine brightly."

FOS Autism Foundation Organises Medical Outreach for Special Children

By EMMANUEL DANIJ

Families of children with special needs across Ikorodu Division received medical support, counseling, and renewed hope on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, as the FOS Autism Foundation organised a special medical outreach programme in commemoration of the 2026 Children's Day celebration. The outreach brought together parents, caregivers, healthcare professionals, therapists, and children living with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental conditions for a day

focused on awareness, screening, intervention, and family support.

The programme centred on autism awareness, early diagnosis, counseling, intervention strategies, and practical support services aimed at helping families better understand and manage developmental conditions affecting their children.

Speaking during the event, the founder of the foundation, Osezusi Bolodeoku, explained that the initiative was inspired by the financial struggles many parents face in accessing professional intervention and therapy services for

their children.

"The fact that I sit in my office and I know that my door is not accessible to some individuals because of their financial capacity inspired this initiative," she said.

According to her, many parents lack both the financial resources and the necessary information required to adequately support children with developmental challenges.

She stressed that educating parents on intervention techniques and caregiving strategies plays a crucial role in improving the development and wellbeing of children with autism and related conditions.

Mrs. Bolodeoku noted that there is a growing number of children with developmental challenges within Ikorodu Division and called for increased collaboration between government agencies, professionals, and private organisations. "The government is doing its bit, and we are also part of the government. Why not make intervention accessible to them? Why not make screening accessible to them? This programme is a way of demystifying autism and bringing awareness to the community," she added.

She disclosed that families who attended the outreach were provided with

educational materials containing recommendations and practical caregiving strategies that could be applied at home.

The foundation also established support groups to allow parents direct access to professionals for guidance and follow-up support.

"Families are not leaving empty-handed. They are going home with recommendations and strategies, and they also have access to support groups where professionals will answer their questions," she stated.

According to her, over 50 children had already been attended to before midday, with organisers expecting the number to rise to about 100 beneficiaries before the end of the outreach.

Mrs. Bolodeoku encouraged parents not to lose hope, emphasizing that autism is not a disease or a hopeless condition.

"Autism is not all gloomy. Autism is not a disease and it is not a death sentence. Early intervention creates a better future for children. When children receive support early, they develop the skills they need to thrive," she said.

Also speaking at the programme, clinical psychologist Benedict Salami explained that the outreach was designed to provide hope, compassion, and emotional support to parents and caregivers.

He urged families not to give up on children living with autism, Down syndrome, ADHD, and other developmental conditions.

"The main reason for this initiative is to give

hope to parents, show love, and show compassion. We want parents to understand that there is hope for their children," he said.

Dr. Salami noted that many families in underserved communities often feel abandoned due to lack of awareness and support systems.

"We are here to tell them that there is hope, there is help, and there are interventions available. These children can become better versions of themselves when they receive the right support," he added.

The outreach featured professionals from different medical and therapeutic fields, including psychologists, psychiatrists, therapists, and healthcare practitioners who provided assessments, counseling, and guidance to parents.

One of the beneficiaries, Tunrayo Babatunde, commended the organisers for what she described as an impactful and enlightening programme.

She noted that parents were not only given access to medical support for their children but were also educated on effective caregiving methods and intervention strategies.

She appealed to the organisers to sustain the initiative and make it a continuous programme for families within the division.

Other beneficiaries also expressed appreciation to the foundation for bringing awareness, professional support, and hope to parents and caregivers of children with special needs across Ikorodu Division.



Olatoun Initiative Donates Uniforms, Bed-sheets in Baiyeku

BY Emmanuel Daniji

In commemoration of the 2026 Children's Day celebration and as part of activities marking the birthday anniversary of its founder, Barr. Olatoun Adekoya, the Olatoun Olabinjo Women and Child Initiative has donated 20 school uniforms to pupils of Local Government Primary School, Baiyeku, alongside 12 bedsheets to the Baiyeku Maternity Centre.

The outreach programme, held on Tuesday, May 27, 2026, was aimed at supporting children's welfare and strengthening healthcare support services within the Baiyeku community in Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA.

Speaking during the presentation, Barr. Olatoun Adekoya said the initiative remains committed to improving the wellbeing of women and children through impactful humanitarian interventions and community support programmes.

According to her, every child deserves access to quality education, encouragement, and opportunities that can inspire them toward a brighter future, while mothers and newborns should also receive healthcare in a comfortable and supportive environment.

She explained that the outreach was organised not only to celebrate Children's Day but also to give back to society in appreciation of the



goodwill and support the initiative has continued to receive over the years. Barr. Adekoya further emphasized the importance of collective community efforts in supporting vulnerable groups, noting that sustainable development can only be achieved when individuals and organisations contribute

meaningfully to social welfare. "Our children deserve care, encouragement, and support to help them succeed academically and socially. At the same time, our mothers and newborns must receive quality attention in conducive environments. This is our little way of contributing to humanity and giving back to society," she

stated. The event attracted several dignitaries and community stakeholders, including the Supervisor for Education, Adeyemi Benson; medical officers at the Baiyeku Maternity Centre; the CDC Chairman of Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA, Alhaji Rasaanbiyeye; and the CDC Zone 4 Chairman, Baiyeku, Mr. Femi

Adelaja, among other community leaders and residents. Beneficiaries, including pupils, teachers, healthcare workers, and residents of the community, expressed appreciation to the Olatoun Olabinjo Women and Child Initiative for the thoughtful gesture and its continued commitment to community

development and social support initiatives within Baiyeku. The outreach programme further highlighted the growing role of community-based initiatives in complementing government efforts toward improving education, maternal healthcare, and child welfare at the grassroots level.

Tinubu Celebrates Abike Dabiri-Erewa's Father at 100

By EMMANUEL DANJI

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has congratulated Alhaji Ashafa Ajibola Erogbogbo, father of the Chairman/CEO of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, as he clocks 100 years.

The centenarian celebrated his 100th birthday on Wednesday, May 28, 2026, marking what President Tinubu described as a rare milestone, a special blessing, and the reward for a life dedicated to discipline, integrity, and service to humanity.

Alhaji Erogbogbo previously worked with the Government Printing Press, Nigeria Customs and Excise, and later served as an



aviation supervisor at Shell Company Nigeria Limited.

In a tribute released to

commemorate the occasion, President Tinubu praised the elder statesman for his

professionalism, diligence, and contributions to national development

throughout his career. "I extend warm greetings to Alhaji Ashafa Ajibola Erogbogbo, an elder statesman and retired aviation supervisor at Shell Company Nigeria Limited, as he marks his centenary on May 28," the President stated.

"Reaching 100 years is a remarkable milestone, a rare blessing, and a reward for a life of discipline, dedication, integrity, and selfless service to humanity and the nation."

President Tinubu also commended the celebrant's impact as a respected community leader in Ikorodu, Lagos State, noting that his wisdom, mentorship, and exemplary lifestyle continue to inspire younger generations.

According to the President, Alhaji Erogbogbo remains

mentally sharp and warm in spirit despite his advanced age.

He further congratulated the Erogbogbo family, especially Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, for the grace of celebrating their patriarch's centenary.

The President also expressed anticipation for the celebrant's life story titled, "Echoes of Grace: The Journey of a Century," which was published to mark the occasion.

"I rejoice with you, your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren as you celebrate this extraordinary milestone," Tinubu added.

"As you celebrate this milestone, I pray that Almighty Allah will continue to sustain you with good health, peace, strength, and happiness."

Benson Disburses N50,000 Business Grants to 600 Traders

By EMMANUEL DANJI

In a renewed effort to support grassroots businesses and economic empowerment, Babajimi Benson has facilitated the disbursement of 50,000 business grants to market men, market women, and small business owners across Ikorodu Federal Constituency.

The empowerment programme officially commenced on Monday, May 25, 2026, at the lawmaker's constituency office in Ikorodu and is expected to benefit 600 beneficiaries drawn from various markets and communities within the division.

Although Rep. Benson was unavoidably absent at the

commencement ceremony, he was represented by Mayor Deen Sanwoola, who supervised the official flag-off of the disbursement exercise on behalf of the federal lawmaker. Sanwoola, who also serves as Executive Assistant to the Governor of Lagos State on LASPARK, explained that only a fraction of beneficiaries were physically present for the symbolic launch, while the full disbursement process commenced immediately after the event and was scheduled for completion on Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

Addressing

beneficiaries and stakeholders, Mayor Sanwoola described the intervention as another reflection of Rep. Benson's commitment to improving the economic wellbeing of ordinary residents, particularly small-scale entrepreneurs and market traders. According to him, the grant scheme forms part of the lawmaker's annual empowerment initiative targeted at strengthening small businesses and supporting families amid prevailing economic realities.

He disclosed that although the programme experienced a temporary setback the last year, Rep. Benson remained determined to restore the initiative this year in fulfilment of his promises to constituents.

Sanwoola further noted that the programme aligns with the economic support philosophy of Bola Ahmed Tinubu and represents another effort at taking the Renewed Hope agenda directly to the grassroots.

He commended President Tinubu for policies and interventions aimed at improving economic conditions while also praising Rep. Benson for sustaining people-oriented empowerment programmes across Ikorodu despite economic challenges.

The iCare Foundation DG urged beneficiaries to make productive use of the grants in expanding their businesses and improving household income.

Beneficiaries at the event expressed

appreciation to President Tinubu, Rep. Benson, and the iCare Foundation for what they described as timely and impactful support.

Many of the traders noted that the grants would help them restock goods, stabilize their businesses, and cope with current economic pressures. Several market leaders and residents also commended Rep. Benson's consistency in facilitating grassroots interventions, stating that the lawmaker has continued to distinguish himself through programmes that directly affect the lives of ordinary people.

Stakeholders and party leaders present at the programme praised the transparent and orderly coordination

of the disbursement process, describing the initiative as another example of responsive and people-centred representation.

Over the years, Rep. Benson has sustained various empowerment and social intervention programmes across Ikorodu Federal Constituency through the iCare Foundation, covering education, healthcare, youth development, food support, business empowerment, and infrastructural projects.

Observers noted that the return of the annual business grant scheme further strengthens the lawmaker's reputation as a strong advocate for grassroots economic growth and inclusive development across Ikorodu Division.

Aruwe Provides Affordable Healthcare To Mushin Residents

By Saheed Afolabi



Chairman of Mushin LG, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe has extended free healthcare to residents of Mushin under a comprehensive healthcare outreach. The medical outreach, which took place at Bankoke off

Owokoniran Street, Mushin, was coordinated by the council's Department of Primary Health Care and Disease Control. The programme recorded a massive turnout as residents trooped out to benefit from various

free medical services. Services provided during the outreach included health education and counseling, blood pressure checks, blood sugar tests, vision tests, HIV screening, tuberculosis screening, family

planning services, general medical consultations, and the distribution of essential drugs. Speaking on the initiative, Aruwe reiterated that providing accessible and affordable healthcare remains a top priority of his

administration. Aruwe expressed appreciation to the medical personnel, health workers, and all stakeholders who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the programme. He also urged residents to embrace regular

medical check-ups for healthier and more productive lives. Beneficiaries of the outreach lauded Mr Aruwe for the people-focused initiative, describing it as timely, impactful, and a clear sign of responsive leadership in Mushin Local Government.



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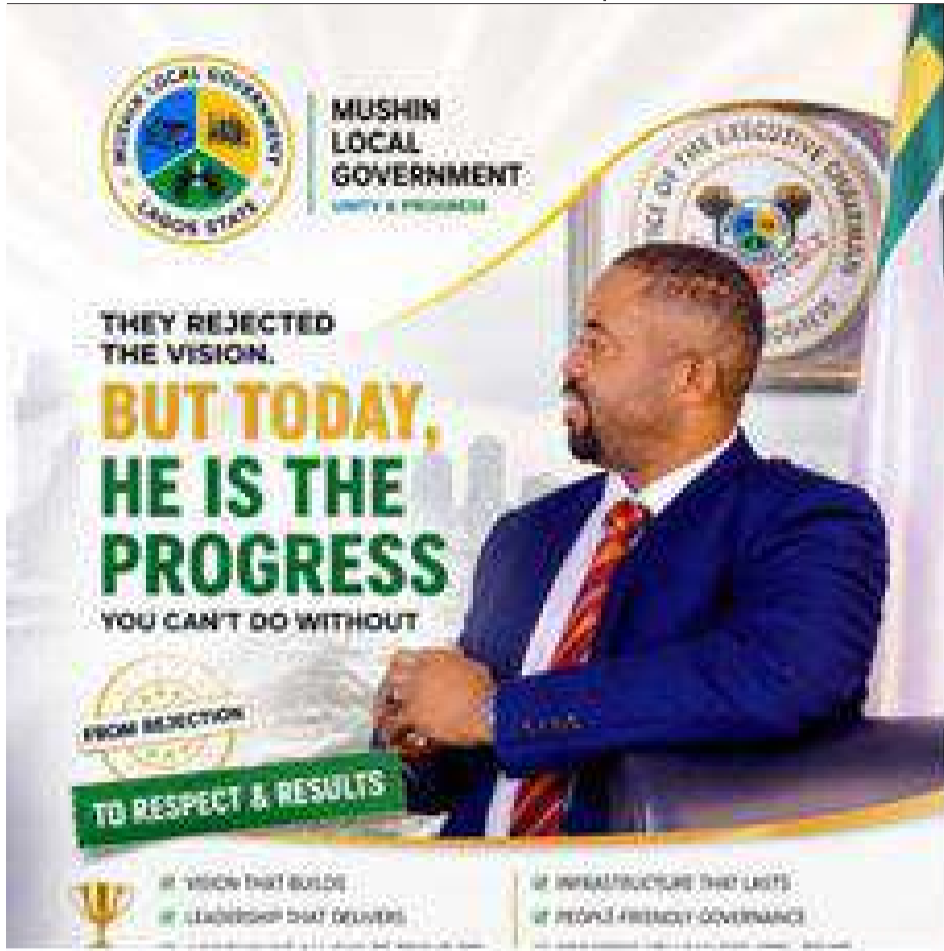


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Mushin Residents Laud Aruwe Over Alves Road Project

Residents of Mushin Local Government are beaming with excitement and appreciation as the reconstruction of Alves Street, executed by the council chairman, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe, approaches completion.

For many years, the deplorable condition of Alves Street caused daily hardships for motorists, traders, pedestrians, and commuters. The rehabilitated Alves Street is expected to significantly ease traffic congestion,

improve safety, and boost economic activities in the area. Many residents and business owners have described the development as a long-awaited relief. Mrs. Kafilat Adeyemi, a resident, said the road has long been abandoned but the

construction of the road has brought relief to the needs of the people. "This road has been in terrible condition for years, but now we are seeing real development. We appreciate Hon. Aruwe for responding to the needs of the

people of Alves." Another resident, Mr. Seyi Oladipo believes Alves Street will benefit the community at large and scale away stress involved in movement of motorists and residents. "The improvement on Alves Street will reduce stress for motorists and residents. It is encouraging to see

projects that directly benefit the community." Traders and transport operators in the area have also expressed optimism that the completed road will enhance their businesses, reduce travel time, and make movement safer for everyone.

By Saheed Afolabi

Children Are Treasures Of The Community - Jakande

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Dr Seyi Jakande has described children as the true treasures of the community and the hope for a brighter future.

Jakande highlighted the importance of creating a conducive environment for children to thrive and realize their dreams.

"Our children are the true treasures of our community and the hope for a brighter tomorrow. Their laughter, curiosity, and dreams inspire us to build a society where every child can thrive and reach their full potential,"

Jakande said.

He emphasized the collective responsibility of leaders, parents, and guardians in nurturing the younger generation.

"As leaders, parents, and guardians, we carry the sacred responsibility of nurturing our children with love, guidance, and opportunities.

"We must continue to invest in their education, protect their rights, and create safe spaces where they can grow with confidence and

dignity."

Jakande further reaffirmed the LCDA's dedication to child-friendly policies and programmes.

"I reaffirm our dedication to policies and programs that uplift them."



Sarz Says Ego Hindered Early Collaborations in His Career

Kehinde Adeleye

Record producer and musician Osabuohien Osaretin, popularly known as Sarz, has spoken about how ego and self-perception early in his career affected his ability to collaborate with other artistes in the music industry. In a recent interview with The Fadar, the 'Back

Outside' crooner admitted that he was once "very hot-headed" and often felt superior to many of his colleagues when he started out in music. According to him, that mindset made him less open to working with others, as he believed he had already reached the peak of his creative abilities.

"When I started making music, I was very hot-headed. I really wanted to impress everybody. I just thought I was the best thing to exist in music," he said. Sarz, however, noted that time and experience changed his outlook, helping him realise the importance of humility and continuous learning in his craft. "But now I understand that I

don't know it all. I'm always willing to learn from anyone—even someone that just started yesterday," he

added. He explained that the shift in mindset has made him more open to collaboration,

including working with newcomers and learning from different perspectives within the industry.



I Spent N340m on Weed Between 2020 - 2026 - Ice Prince

Kehinde Adeleye



Nigerian singer and rapper, Ice Prince Zamani, has disclosed that his past smoking habit had a significant financial impact on him, revealing that he spent about 340 million on weed between 2020 and 2026 from just one dealer. He made the revelation in a recent episode of the Black Box podcast, where he discussed his lifestyle changes, personal struggles

and self-development journey.

According to the 'Aboki' crooner, the figure only reflects what he spent with a single supplier based in Lagos, adding that his total expenditure was far higher when other sources in Abuja, Jos, Ghana and London were included.

"From 2020 to 2026, I have spent N340 million on weed from just one dealer alone, not to even mention my other dealers from Abuja,

Ghana, Jos, and London. This is just one dealer, who lives close to me in Lagos," he said.

Ice Prince noted that he eventually quit smoking and alcohol as part of a broader decision to improve his health and embark on a weight loss and self-discovery journey.

The rapper also revealed that he has embraced celibacy for a period as part of his personal transformation process, describing it as part of a lifestyle reset.

VDM Says "I Want to Face the Law" Over Viral Fake Audio Video

Social media commentator Martins Vincent Otse, popularly known as VeryDarkMan (VDM), has reacted to a legal threat issued from the Presidency following the circulation of a doctored video allegedly linked to him involving fake audio of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. The controversial

video had gone viral on social media, prompting a reaction from

Kehinde Adeleye
presidential aide Bayo Onanuga, who stated that



VDM would be made to face the law over the incident.

However, in a swift response, VDM dismissed any attempt to distance himself from the matter, saying he would not deny the allegations and was prepared to face legal consequences.

"I will not defend the allegations. If I respond, let God punish me. I want

to face that law. I will even book a flight to come earlier than I planned. I want to see what you people can do," he said.

He maintained that as a citizen in a democratic system, he has the right to criticise government actions when necessary.

"If you are pained that VDM is speaking, what option do I have

other than to speak? It is my right to criticise the government when it is doing wrong. We are in a democracy," he added.

The development has continued to generate reactions online, as debates intensify over freedom of expression, misinformation, and the boundaries of digital activism in Nigeria.

Giants of Africa Marks Milestone With 50th Basketball Court

Kehinde Adeleye

Giants of Africa has reached a major milestone in its Built Within initiative with the unveiling of its 50th community basketball court in Lagos State, Nigeria.

The court, located at King's College, Lagos, was officially unveiled on May 25 as part of the organisation's plan to build 100 basketball courts across Africa to promote youth development through sport.

Founder of the organisation, Masai Ujiri, described the achievement as a significant moment, noting that reaching



court number 50 in Nigeria made the milestone even more meaningful. "Reaching court 50 is a milestone we'll never forget. To be able to have our 50th be in Lagos makes this moment even more special. Nigeria is home, and King's College is an institution I deeply respect,"

he said.

He added that the initiative, launched in 2021, has continued to grow across the continent, with courts built in 16 African countries so far.

According to him, the project is not only about infrastructure but also about empowering young

people to develop leadership skills and discover their potential through sports.

"However, this milestone belongs to all the communities across Africa, the partners who have supported us, and the young people who will use these courts to grow, lead and discover

their potential. We are halfway to 100 and committed to the next phase," he said.

The unveiling ceremony featured representatives of King's College Lagos management, alumni associations, as well as performances from

Nigerian artists and community engagement activities.

Following the unveiling, Giants of Africa also organised a basketball clinic for 50 boys and girls from King's College and Queen's College, Lagos, as part of its youth empowerment activities.

The organisation also held a separate coaching clinic for female coaches, reinforcing its focus on women's participation in sports development.

Founded in 1909, King's College Lagos remains one of Nigeria's most historic secondary schools and continues to serve as a hub for educational and sporting development.

Lagos Court Forfeits Chinese Mining Assets To FG

The Federal High Court in Lagos has ordered an outright forfeiture of a Chinese mining asset to the Federal Government over allegations of illegal activities. The court in Ikoyi, Lagos, imposed the order followed an application filed by the Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes

Commission, EFCC, disclosing that the mining site in Ode Remo, a Toyota 4Runner SUV with Registration number AWE 261 AE, two trucks loaded with substantial quantities of mica and lithium stones, as well as a 40-foot container filled with large quantities of the minerals are all included in the



By Felix Kuyinu

enforcement to be handed over to the government.

Justice Daniel Osiagor granted the order pursuant to Section 330 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015, and other relevant laws after considering the affidavit evidence presented by the EFCC counsel,

Bilkisu Buhari, submitted that intelligence reports revealed that a syndicate involving Chinese and Nigerian nationals was engaged in the illegal mining and trade of mineral resources, particularly mica and lithium stones. After reviewing the submissions, Justice Osiagor ordered the final forfeiture and disposal of the assets, directing that the proceeds be paid into an interest-bearing account pending the determination of the criminal trial.

Clearing Agent In Custody Over Alleged Illicit Drug Trafficking

A clearing agent, Agoro Moninuola, has been arraigned at the Federal High Court in Lagos over accusations of peddling illicit drugs. Moninuola was held by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, who stated that the accused attempted to export 2.80 kilograms of cocaine to the United Kingdom through the Murtala Muhammed

By Felix Kuyinu

International Airport, MMIA, Ikeja where he was apprehended. Justice Daniel Osiagor presided over the three-count charge case bordering on conspiracy, unlawful procurement, and exportation of narcotic drugs. The NDLEA prosecutor, Arit Okon, told the court that the defendant allegedly conspired with two persons, Azeez Nurudeen and

Nuru, who are currently at large, to traffic the illicit substance abroad in April 2026 through the SAHCO Export Shed located at the MMIA.

Oki further informed the court that the cocaine consignment was intercepted during an outward examination of cargo, adding that the offences committed contravened Sections 14(b), 21(2)(d), and 11(b) of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act, Cap N30, Laws of the

Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

Following the defendant's non-guilty plea on all the charges, the prosecutor urged the court to remand him in custody pending trial and asked for a date for the commencement of trial.

The court admitted the defendant to bail in the sum of N10m, with one surety in a like sum and thereafter adjourned the matter till October 28 for the commencement of trial.



Police Arraign Three Male Suspects Over N11M Fraud



By Felix Kuyinu

The Police have arraigned three suspects, John Zinsu, Koleosho Olamide age Oyinlola Saheed over fraud allegations in the tune of N11,400,000 million

fraudinLagos. Zinsu, 43; Olamide of age 45; and Saheed, 37, were put on trial at the Ikeja Magistrates' Court on three-count charge of conspiracy, obtaining money under false

pretences and stealing which they pleaded not guilty to. Nevertheless, the prosecutor, Josephine Ikhayere, told the court that the defendants committed the offences in Yaba

area, conspiring to obtain the sum from the complainant simply identified as Idahi under the pretence of selling a grey 2013 Toyota Camry for him. According to the Ikhayere, the

defendants failed to deliver the vehicle and refused to refund the money, instead converting it to their personal use. Ikhayere said the offences contravened Sections 287, 314, and 411 of the

Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. The Magistrate, Mr Lateef Owolabi, granted each defendant bail in the sum of N500,000 with two reliable sureties in like sum before adjoining the case till June 30.

Ex International Cup: Apapa Iganmu Chairman, Saliu Commends Lagos FA

By Saheed Afolabi

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chairman, Mr Jimoh Olawale Saliu has commended the Lagos FA for empowering former national team stars through the ex internationals Cup. Saliu believes the countries heroes deserve the accolades they are getting through the ex internationals Cup while they are alive not forgetting their labors in bringing glory to Nigeria.

He emphasized that the union of the ex internationals will ignite the younger ones to be passionate and disciplined with their career.

"As we used to say in our national anthem, that the labors of our heroes' past shall never be in vain, it's better they're celebrated while they're still alive.

"Their coming together will enhance the younger ones coming to the sport."

32 former national team stars will compete in the ex internationals Cup as they breed the next generation of stars for the national team.



Apapa Iganmu LCDA Boss, Saliu, Reveals Ambitious Plan For Sports

By Saheed Afolabi



Chairman of Apapa Iganmu LCDA, Mr Jimoh Olawale Saliu has unveiled a positive roadmap for sports

development. The council boss who's popularly known as Olugbani said he has transformed sports in Apapa Iganmu LCDA since he resumed

office as chairman of the council. Saliu stated that, his investments in sports have yielded results as both the men and women's team have

won three trophies as he reveals plans of sponsoring both teams for international competitions outside

the country. "Since I started last year, I've done a lot in terms of youth and sports, precisely sport. And both the girls and boys have performed

wonderfully well. "My ladies have won about three trophies, ditto the boys. I will still support them at least before the end of my first tenure for one of these international competitions."

The council boss noted, there will be indoor games competition before the end of this year including track and field for athletics athletes.

"I have to ask for indoor game, at least that will come towards the end of this year. I have plans for the track and field, being a sportsman, I understand what it means."

Saliu however maintained a close lips of another brainstorming sporting event that will take place in Apapa Iganmu LCDA which he believes will drive grassroots sports forward in council area.

"Yes. I don't want to break the yoke now, with time, I'll do the press conference for that. I don't want to let the cat out of the bag now."

The Senior Special Assistant on sports to the chairman, Prince Ganiyu Adetunji said he has utmost belief and trust in Mr Jimoh Saliu to position sport as a pride of honor in Apapa Iganmu LCDA.

Lagos FA Boss, Gafar, Speaks on Uniqueness Of Ex International Cup

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Lagos State Football Association (LSFA), Hajji Gafar Liameed has drawn out the impacts and uniqueness of the Ex International Cup. The second edition of the Ex International Cup is scheduled to hold in Lagos as 32 former national team heroes leads their teams to glory. Gafar revealed that the progress of the competition made 40 ex International to show interest but they

could only admit 32 that signified concern early enough. He said players will have the opportunity to gain from the football intelligence and brilliance of the ex internationals which will therefore have a positive impacts on performance and career. "The uniqueness of this one is the presence of all the ex internationals, 32 of them. We almost got about 40 but the 32 that registered first, that showed interest

first are the ones we're going forward with, and it's using history to create history. "The ex internationals that have served the nation now using their name and their football IQ to encourage the young ones. Another good thing is the boost from the bet9ja foundation. It's a huge boost for us, across the board all over Nigeria, I have not seen this kind of sponsorship in any football space. So bet9ja coming on board and literally

allowing us to shine is a uniqueness of this year, and as you can see, the press conference and the draw is more or less like bringing a European style of draw to Nigeria, to Lagos and that's it. "It would do a whole lot of good to them. It will inspire them, it will also encourage them to want to play for Super Eagles. You know, the endgame and the core concept is to make sure that we have players that are going to be playing

for Super Eagles, willing and aspiring with a whole lot of energy and tenacity to want to always play for Super Eagles. By seeing Yakubu Aiyegbeni, seeing Waheed Akanni, Friday Ekpo, Friday Elahor, Wasiu Ipaye that have played for this country before, now coaching them only does one thing; inspire them to also want to play for the national team." The Lagos FA boss stated that the impacts of the

competition draws out joy on the faces of the ex internationals who are basking with beaming smiles as they know, they are being celebrated alive and also players who stand to gain from their tutelage and who are excited to see match clashes among favorites. "Well the impact is what I'll call football joy, you know in football, let's say we have a 90 minute game, at the 94th minute extra time, still at 1-1. Then all of a sudden, a team scored and it was 2-1, so you see joy and despair. "So this one is no despair, it's all about joy. The ex internationals coming out, beaming with smiles knowing that someone somewhere remembers them, and remembers what they have done for the country and now recognizing them and bringing them out from their shells and coaching the young ones. "You know, as a footballer, the only thing you can hope for is to inspire the young ones. Now they're not only inspiring with what they have done, they'll be inspiring with them nurturing and coaching and getting the young ones to the next level."





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