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Planning Permit:
Lagos Goes
Digital Pg.11

Oshodi 2027: Bamigbetan
Builds Consultation on Party
Loyalty, Constituency
Understanding Pg.13



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ONE IN FIVE CHILDREN IN LAGOS NOT IMMUNISED

...Riverine Communities Most Affected

Pg.
2&4



Sanwo-Olu
Delivers 11 Pg.6
Fire Stations In
Seven Years

Education District III, TECHFAM Host 2026 Robotics Competition Pg.10

Environmental
Advocacy: LAWMA,
EKO 57 Support Group
Partner To Mobilise Youths Pg.5

Underdog Bid
Stirs Interest in
Kosofe Race Pg.32

Seat Warmer, Not
Lawmaker, Olusegun
Blasts Seyi Lawal's
Record Pg.12

N20 Million AFCON Bronze Windfall for Super Eagles Pg.41

One in Five Children in Lagos Not Immunised

....Riverine Communities Most Affected

By Kunle Awosiyon

Across Lagos' riverine communities, children are growing up without basic vaccines not by choice, but by circumstance. A report by the Lagos State Ministry of Health reveals that one in five children in the state is under-immunised or not immunised at all, raising fresh concerns about access, inequality, and the risk of preventable disease outbreaks.

The findings come as the state government intensifies efforts to reach underserved populations, particularly children in riverine communities where immunisation coverage remains significantly lower. According to the 2025 report, about 80 per cent of children in Lagos are fully immunised, leaving approximately 20 per cent either partially covered or completely missed. This marks an improvement from 2017 data, which showed only 68 per cent full immunisation coverage.

Despite the progress, access challenges continue to hinder vaccination efforts in riverine areas, where difficult terrain, dispersed settlements, and limited infrastructure complicate healthcare delivery. Investigations by Echonews indicate that many of these communities, surrounded by water, creeks, and mangroves, remain hard to reach. Health workers often rely on boats to access them, reducing the frequency of vaccination visits.

"Increased travel time and cost make some settlements nearly inaccessible, especially during bad weather," a healthcare worker told Echonews.

Another official pointed to the lack of reliable electricity as a major barrier to maintaining the vaccine cold chain.



Prof. Akin Abayomi

"Vaccines must be stored within strict temperature ranges.

In many riverine areas, unstable or absent power supply makes refrigeration difficult, while long travel times by boat risk compromising vaccine potency," she said.

Frequent mobility among residents, many of whom are fishermen and traders, further complicates immunisation tracking, making it difficult for children to complete their vaccination schedules.

However, the Commissioner for Health, Akin Abayomi, said the state has recorded steady improvements in recent years, though significant gaps remain due to migration, access

constraints, and missed children who were routine vaccinations.

He noted that Lagos is represented by Dr. Temitope Balogun at the Measles Rubella Campaign launch of a routine immunisation programme in

Badagry, the commissioner said the initiative aims to expand access to life-saving vaccines, especially in hard-to-reach communities.



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One in Five Children in Lagos Not Immunised

....Riverine Communities Most Affected

Continued From Page 2

The programme is being implemented in partnership with the Federal Government, the Republic of Korea, the Lagos State Primary Health Care Board, Lagos State Health District V, and UNICEF.

Abayomi described the intervention as a critical step in safeguarding child health in a rapidly growing and complex urban environment like Lagos.

He emphasised that the persistence of "zero-dose" and under-immunised children remains a major public health concern requiring sustained and targeted interventions. Similarly, the Chairman of Badagry Local Government, Hon. Babatunde Hunpe, described immunisation as one of the most effective and cost-efficient public health measures.

He noted that geographical challenges, including riverine and border communities, have



A riverine community

historically limited access to healthcare services but expressed optimism that ongoing partnerships would help bridge the gap.

Hunpe urged parents, caregivers, and community leaders to support immunisation efforts to ensure that no child is left behind.

Also speaking, the Permanent Secretary of Lagos State Health District V, Dr. Oladapo Asiyanbi, highlighted the success of the

measles-rubella campaign, which achieved high coverage through community mobilisation and strategic outreach. He said the campaign's success reflects strong coordination among stakeholders, including development partners such as World Health Organization, and underscores Lagos' commitment to improving routine immunisation and advancing universal health coverage.

Despite these gains, stakeholders agree that closing the immunisation gap especially in riverine communities will require sustained investment in infrastructure, improved logistics, and continued community engagement.



Health officials at work

Lagos Pushes For Safer Motherhood With Free Healthcare Supplies

... As Health District III Distributes Life Saving Commodities To PHCs

The Lagos State Government, in a bid to reduce maternal and infant mortality to the barest minimum in the state, distributed life-saving commodities to all Primary Healthcare Centres in Eti-Osa, Ibeju-Lekki and Epe over the weekend. The Permanent Secretary, Health District III, Dr. Monsurat Adeleke, while distributing the commodities at the District III Office in Ikoyi, said the government took another decisive step towards achieving Universal Healthcare Coverage for all in line with the THEMES Plus Agenda of the present administration. "Today's distribution of life-saving commodities is a strategic

intervention. We are equipping our Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) - the bedrock of our health system - with the essential tools required to save lives at the most critical moments: during childbirth and throughout the fragile years of early childhood", she said. Dr. Adeleke further explained that the curated suite of commodities distributed was specifically chosen to tackle the causes of preventable deaths of mothers and children during childbirth, and the commodities include Oxytocin and Misoprostol, which prevent Postpartum Haemorrhage (PPH) during childbirth. She added that

other commodities are Misoprostol, a vital heat-stable alternative that ensures no woman bleeds to death, even in areas where refrigeration is a challenge. The Permanent Secretary highlighted other commodities to include Chlorhexidine, Zinc and ORS as well as Medical Consumables, which include gloves, syringes and delivery kits, saying these consumables help Midwives / Nurses perform their duties in a sterile, safe and dignified environment. She charged the Officers-in-Charge (OICs) and Midwives / Nurses to always make the commodities available free of charge to patients without delay and

avoid locking them up in cupboards while mothers and children need them. Dr. Adeleke emphasised that PHCs across the metropolis are well-stocked and called on residents to always seek professional care rather than stay at home when the need arises. In response, the Head of Pharmaceutical Unit, Epe PHC, Pharm. Temitope Adeyemi, expressed appreciation to the Permanent Secretary, promising that the life-saving commodities distributed to all PHCs in District III would be properly managed and utilised to improve healthcare service delivery.

Environmental Advocacy: LAWMA, EKO 57 Support Group Partner To Mobilise Youths



The Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) and youth-based organisation, EKO 57 Support Group, are set to collaborate to mobilise young people across the State to promote environmental cleanliness and responsible waste management practices at the grassroots. The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of LAWMA, Dr. Muiwa Gbadegesin, disclosed this on Monday at the Authority's headquarters in Ijora-Olopa while receiving the leadership of the group, led by popular social media influencer Adams Kehinde (Lege Miami) and Remilekun Oshodi (Remi Surutu). He noted that the collaboration would expand LAWMA's advocacy and sensitisation efforts across the 20 Local Government Areas and 37 Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) of Lagos State. Dr. Gbadegesin described LAWMA as one of the largest employment drivers in the State, with over 100,000 youths directly and indirectly engaged across its operational value chain, adding that their energy and creativity remained vital to improving service delivery. He emphasised that young people would play a strategic role in deepening environmental

awareness and influencing positive behavioural change within communities. According to him, LAWMA worked relentlessly every day towards ensuring a clean city and would do all in its power to enlist the support of all and sundry for the same purpose. He added that the Authority had been working closely with community leaders, Community Development Associations (CDAs), and Community Development Committees (CDCs) to strengthen grassroots engagement, address service-related concerns, and encourage compliance with waste management guidelines. Dr. Gbadegesin expressed optimism that the proposed collaboration with EKO 57 Support Group would further amplify community-based sensitisation and significantly improve environmental consciousness among residents since the group is a formidable grassroots movement. In their remarks, the leaders of EKO 57 Support Group, Adams Kehinde and Mrs. Remilekun Oshodi commended LAWMA for the engagement, noting that achieving a cleaner and more sustainable Lagos required collective responsibility and active youth participation.



SGBV Enlightenment : DSVVA Sensitises CDAs In Somolu

The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) recently conducted a community engagement session with Community Development Associations (CDAs) in Somolu. The CDAs engaged included Ijobu-Tedo CDA, SakSak CDA, Layo-Otegbaade CDA, Boshua CDA, Aoolta CDA, Aroda CDA, Irebamisi CDA, Apata CDA, Onaolapo CDA, Boshua West CDA, Ifesowapo CDA, and Agbajowo CDA, bringing the total number of participating CDAs to twelve (12). The session commenced with a welcome address delivered by the CDC Chairman, Alhaji Telia Tajudeen, who



commended the Agency for its consistent efforts in promoting safety, awareness, and community well-being across Lagos State. During the

sensitisation, Ms. Bunmi Amosu and Mr. Richard Akanbi, who represented the Executive Secretary, outlined the core objectives of DSVVA. They emphasised the Agency's unwavering

commitment to eliminating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in the State. Participants were educated on the various forms of

child abuse, as well as the legal frameworks established to combat such offences. Community members were further enlightened on

available reporting channels, including the Family Support Unit (FSU), Primary Health Care Centres, and other essential support services provided by DSVVA for survivors of abuse. The Agency's toll-free helpline (08000333333) was also shared to encourage timely reporting and access to appropriate interventions. The programme concluded with closing remarks from representatives of the participating CDAs, who expressed their appreciation to DSVVA for bringing the sensitisation initiative to their community and for its continued commitment to fostering a safer and more informed society.

Sanwo-Olu Delivers 11 Fire Stations In Seven Years

The Lagos State Government has reinforced its commitment to public safety and infrastructure development with the addition of a new fire station to the fleet of the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service, as part of a series of landmark projects commissioned across the State. The commissioning, held over a two-day event from April 8-9, 2026, forms part of the laudable initiatives of the administration of the Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Olushola Sanwo-Olu. The projects were officially commissioned on behalf of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, by the President of the

Senate, Godswill Akpabio. Among the projects delivered is the Tolu School Complex in Olodi Apapa, Ajegunle, Ajeromi-Ifelodun, which comprises 36 schools, a modern fire station, and a stadium featuring 19 mini football pitches. The inclusion of a fire station within the complex underscores the State Government's proactive approach to safeguarding lives and property while promoting community development. Also commissioned is a landmark multi-agency complex named in honour of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, further strengthening inter-agency collaboration and

operational efficiency among emergency and public service institutions in the State. Speaking at the event, the Controller-General of the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service commended the State Government for its

sustained investment in safety infrastructure, noting that the additional fire station will significantly enhance emergency response coverage, particularly within densely populated communities.

Adeseye informed that the Tolu Fire Station will take the number of LSFRS locations to 25, the 11th delivered by the Sanwo-Olu administration. This does not include three others at various stages of completion, with two

slated in this year's budget execution. These initiatives collectively highlight the administration's unwavering dedication to building a safer, more resilient, and inclusive Lagos for all residents.



The Lagos State Government has formally migrated from analogue and semi-digital processing of planning permits for property owners in the State.

This was disclosed by the Special Adviser to the Governor on E-GIS and Urban Development, Dr. Olajide Abiodun during a press conference held recently at the State Secretariat in Alausa - Ikeja.

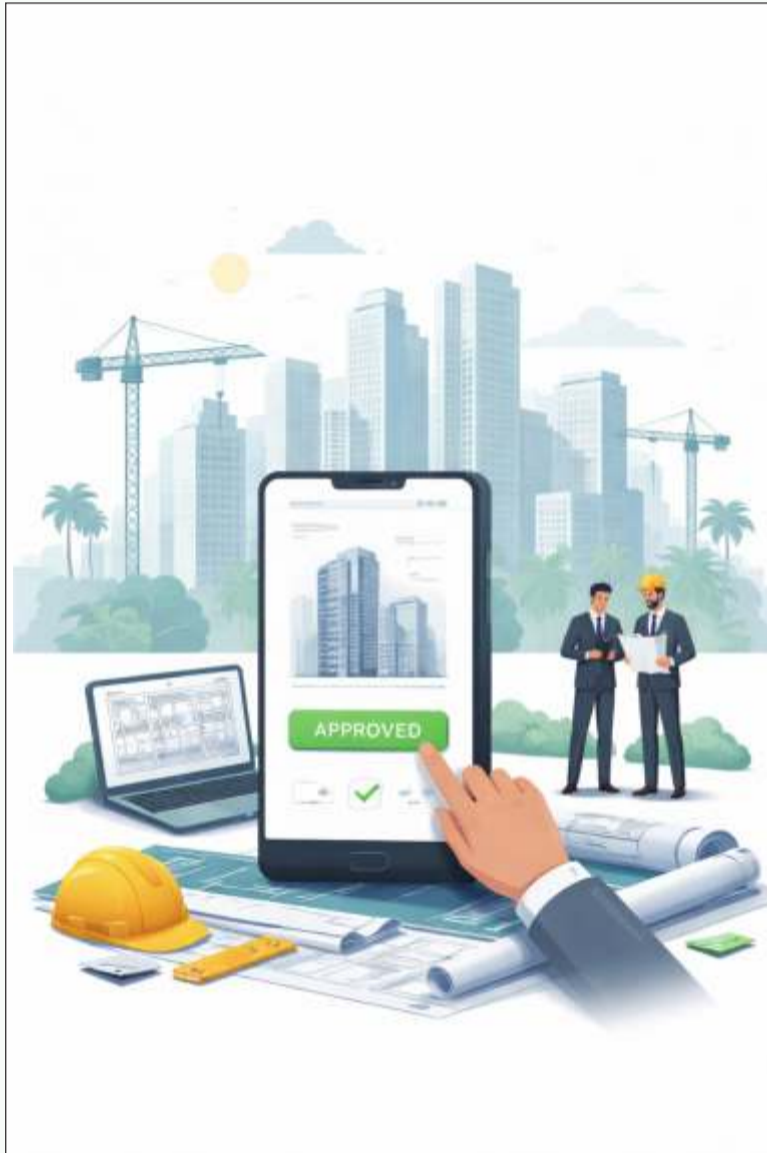
He said, "Lagos State has entered the dawn of a new era in digital processing of Planning Permissions, Authorisations to Commence Construction Works, Stage Certification, amongst other services". Under the leadership of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, we are actively transitioning from legacy, manual systems toward a highly efficient, transparent, and scalable digital framework.

"We are phasing out the old to make way for the new", Olajide said, adding that there is a need to formally address the public on the massive strides the State has made with the Electronic Physical Planning Process System, popularly known as EPPPS and other key pillars of operation in the e-GIS and Urban Development Office.

The Special Adviser noted that EPPPS is a transformative, web-based platform designed to completely modernise the operations of the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, which is transitioning from legacy, manual systems toward a highly efficient, transparent, and scalable digital framework.

"Meanwhile, the State Government has achieved 100%

Planning Permit: Lagos Goes Digital



training and retraining of personnel, 100% Computer Systems deployment across all districts of LASPPA and LASBCA, and 100% internet deployment across all district offices too. The infrastructure is fully ready, tested and running," he said.

He revealed that the full automation of its planning permit process commenced on April 1, 2026, stressing that this signified that the manual processing of physical planning permits has been completely discontinued and outlawed in Lagos State. He, however, noted that anyone processing planning permits manually from the stated date is engaging in an illegal activity and that all applications must now go through the EPPPS platform exclusively.

The special Adviser added that once one receives planning approvals via EPPPS, the journey is not over. The person should immediately apply for their Authorisation to Commence Construction Works and Stage Certifications through the EPPPS platform, amongst other services, adding that there will be a task force to monitor compliance with this activity. They will be going around to ensure full compliance with Mr. Governor's Approval.

While updating the citizens on other developments on Urban Development and Land Administration in the State, Olajide said the State Government has introduced CAP to further strengthen LASBCA's capability in

ensuring strict building development compliance.

According to him, CAP is a strategic Public-Private Partnership that allows accredited private professionals to work alongside LASBCA in monitoring building projects. "This helps us ensure strict compliance with the state's building codes. It will drastically reduce the risk of building collapses while accelerating project delivery. It is a win for safety, a win for the construction industry, and a win for Lagosians".

The Lagos State Government, in the journey of moving from the built environment to Land Administration, has actively decentralised its services to ease the burden on citizens, announcing that the e-GIS Regional Office in Ikeja has officially commenced operations.

In his words, "This is a dedicated, customer-facing hub designed specifically to handle your digitised land administration activities. Citizens will no longer need to travel all the way to Alausa for every land-related inquiry. The Ikeja office is fully equipped to serve residents efficiently at the grassroots level, as the Government is assuring that the remaining divisional offices across the state will also commence operations very soon". Olajide said Powering these e-GIS offices, and our entire backend land operations is the Aumentum Software. "We are aggressively moving away from the

era of dusty files, long queues, and missing documents. Aumentum is a highly robust and secure digital system driving the complete digitisation of our land administration ecosystem, most notably the digital processing of Certificates of Occupancy (C of O). With Aumentum, land titles are secure, searchable, and processed with unprecedented speed. This software guarantees the integrity of our land registry and significantly boosts investor confidence in the Lagos real estate market.

According to him, "As we digitise Land Administration through Aumentum, we have also optimised the financial processes tied to it. This brings us to the Moola Tracker, a software solution now fully integrated with Aumentum to handle the perfection of Mortgage Consent.

"Previously, the processing of Mortgage Consent was a tedious journey involving about 29 manual steps, which took an unending number of days. We are happy to announce that with this integrated digital solution, we have reduced it to just eight steps. This marks the dawn of a new era in service delivery in Lagos State. We are systematically phasing out old processes to deliver immediate benefits, for the Citizens, Government and Financial Institutions," Olajide concluded.

LJLA Abuja Dialogue Calls For Structured Approach To Youth Leadership

The Abuja Dialogue 2026, convened by the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy (LJLA), in partnership with the Office of the Vice President, delivered a clear and urgent message: "Nigeria's future depends not on the promise of its youth alone, but on the systems deliberately built to develop, integrate, and sustain them within governance and leadership structures".

The Dialogue, held at the State House Banquet Hall, Presidential Villa, brought together senior government officials, development partners, private sector leaders, and emerging leaders in a high-level engagement, deliberating on repositioning youth leadership as critical national infrastructure.

Delivering the keynote address, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Kashim Shettima, G C O N , emphasised the need to convert Nigeria's demographic advantage into institutional capacity.

"Youth leadership must not be seen as a generational shift that will occur naturally over time, but as a structured process through which individuals are prepared, integrated, and sustained within systems critical to national

development", he added.

Also speaking, the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, described the Dialogue as a critical step in expanding the conversation on leadership beyond subnational boundaries.

"What began as a Lagos initiative must now become a national movement. This Dialogue is not just a precursor to the Lagos Leadership Summit, it is a statement of intent that the conversation on youth leadership must move from the margins to the centre of national development".

In his welcome address, the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Vice President, Senator

Ibrahim Hadejia, underscored the importance of moving youth leadership from rhetoric to implementation.

"The significance of this Dialogue lies in its focus on youth leadership, not as a theoretical aspiration, but as a practical necessity for strengthening governance systems and ensuring that institutions remain effective, responsive, and capable of delivering results in an increasingly complex environment".

Setting the tone for the engagement, the Executive Secretary of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy, Mrs. Ayisat Agbaje-Okunade, reinforced the

Academy's founding philosophy that leadership must be cultivated through intentional systems.

"Leadership cannot be left to chance. If we want better governance, stronger institutions, and a more prosperous nation, then we must become far more deliberate about how we identify, develop, and position the next generation of leaders", she said.

A defining feature of the Abuja Dialogue 2026 was its structured engagement format, which moved beyond speeches to active participation. Through panel sessions, fireside conversations, and a dedicated

Audience Dialogue segment, stakeholders engaged directly on practical pathways for embedding youth leadership into governance systems.

The Audience Dialogue created a platform for real-time exchange among senior government officials, members of the National Assembly, state actors, development partners, private sector leaders, and emerging leaders, reinforcing the Dialogue's commitment to inclusion, collaboration, and actionable outcomes.

Across all sessions, a consistent theme emerged: Nigeria must transition from

acknowledging youth potential to building systems that make leadership development intentional, measurable, and sustainable.

The Abuja Dialogue 2026 stands as a pivotal moment in reframing youth leadership not as an aspirational concept, but as a strategic pillar for national transformation. It sets the stage for continued engagement at the upcoming Lagos Leadership Summit 2026 and signals the beginning of a broader, coordinated movement to institutionalise leadership development across Nigeria.



Single Social Register : Lagos Strengthens Social Protection

The Lagos State Government, through the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, on has convened a strategic engagement with Community - Based Targeting (CBT) Teams, Local Government Coordinators, and Field Enumerators across the 57 Local Government Areas (LGs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) to advance the update of the Lagos State Single Social Register. The engagement, which was held on Monday at the Radio Lagos Multipurpose Hall, Agidingbi, Ikeja, and themed "Closing the Gap: Accelerating Lagos State Single Social Register Update," underscores the State's continued leadership in data-driven governance and its commitment to building a more inclusive and responsive social protection system.

The Lagos State Single Social Register remains a critical instrument for identifying vulnerable residents and enabling well-targeted, impactful interventions by government, development partners, and other stakeholders.

Speaking at the session, the Honourable Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. Ope George, commended the dedication of field personnel and appealed to them to be more intentional by intensifying their commitment. Mr George reaffirmed the State Government's resolve to continuously strengthen and refine the Register to reflect evolving realities.

In her remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Olayinka Modupe Ojo, described the Register as a cornerstone for effective planning and delivery of social intervention programmes, emphasising

that it's an ongoing update to further enhance data reliability, coordination, and service delivery outcomes.

She added that the advocacy and sensitisation will scale throughout the 57 LGAs and LCDA so as to give more to Lagos residents. Hence, the statewide update exercise is expected to expand access to key social intervention programmes, including financial support, healthcare, education, and other welfare initiatives aimed at improving livelihoods.

It also provides a platform to deepen collaboration, strengthen data quality, and reinforce a unified,



transparent approach to grassroots data collection. Overall, the meeting highlights Lagos State

Government's unwavering commitment to leveraging innovation, partnerships, and accurate data to

promote social inclusion, reduce vulnerability, and improve the quality of life for all residents.

LASCOHET Sensitises Aesthetic Students on Best Practices

The Lagos State College of Health Technology (LASCOHET), in line with its continuous commitment to improving health practices in the State, has issued a strong advisory to students in the field of aesthetic medicine. The Provost of the College, Professor Raheem Akewushola, gave the advice while welcoming the 2025/26 set of Students in the

aesthetic medicine department to the college for the last phase of their six-month training.

Professor Akewushola emphasised the need for students to adhere strictly to critical best practices, professional ethics and safety standards learned from their training in the college.

The Provost went on to say that the college admitted all

applicants to the programme to contribute to the standardisation of the practice of aesthetic medicine in Nigeria, because students applied and were admitted to the College from different States in the Nation.

While commending the Course Co-ordinator, Dr. Felix Avajah, for his unending commitment to the programme, he emphasised

that in-depth education and training are necessary for practitioners of aesthetic medicine in the State and the Nation as a whole in order to eradicate quacks from the practice and safeguard the lives of citizens from irreparable errors.

The Provost advised the Students that to practice successfully as aesthetic practitioners, who stand out as good ambassadors of the College, the Students must be well knowledgeable about the Body and the Skin, which is the largest organ of the Body.

Finally, Professor Akewushola reiterated strictly that the College does not train Students of Aesthetic Medicine on Invasive Surgeries or injectables. The training by the College, according to him, is strictly on non-invasive procedures. The College will therefore disclaim and distance itself from any Practitioner caught performing invasive procedures or injectables.





Education District III, TECHFAM Host 2026 Robotics Competition

Lagos State Education District III, in collaboration with TechFam, a non-governmental organisation committed to digital empowerment, has successfully hosted the Year 2026 Robotics Demonstration Competition. The event, which took place recently at the National Stadium Surulere, brought together female students from various schools across the District under the theme "Science Leading the Path to Growth and Development." TechFam, an African Women Digital Acquisition Initiative founded by Mrs. Kelechi C Iwuamadi, focuses on encouraging female students to actively engage in Science,

Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), particularly in the field of robotics. The programme aims to nurture young girls who are not only interested in building technological solutions but are also confident in competing alongside their peers on global platforms. Speaking at the event, the Tutor-General / Permanent Secretary of Education District III, Mr. Olawale Olusegun Osinaike commended TechFam for its continued efforts in empowering the girl child through technology-driven initiatives. He highlighted the growing prominence of female students within the District,

noting their outstanding representation at international competitions, including recent participation in Turkey. Mr. Osinaike further emphasised that the emergence of female students in leadership roles, such as the recent One-Day Governor initiative, reflects the increasing academic excellence and leadership capacity of girls within Lagos State. He expressed his delight in supporting programmes that align with technological advancement and youth development. He also acknowledged the unwavering support of the Lagos State Government in fostering strategic

partnerships with organisations like TechFam, noting that such collaborations are in line with Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's THEMES Plus Agenda, particularly in advancing education and technology. In her remarks, the Founder of TechFam, Mrs. Kelechi C Iwuamadi reiterated the organisation's commitment to raising a new generation of girls who are not only technologically skilled but also purpose-driven, creative and solution-oriented. She stated that the initiative aligns with the vision of the World Robotics Olympiad WRO which seeks to inspire young minds to develop

innovative technology-based solutions to real-world challenges. Mrs. Iwuamadi expressed appreciation to the Tutor-General / Permanent Secretary for his steadfast support and belief in the initiative. She also noted that students with special needs who have participated in previous editions of the programme have demonstrated exceptional performance, further underscoring the inclusiveness of the initiative. The competition, which lasted for two hours, featured participation from five schools within Education District III across both junior and senior categories. At the end of the keenly contested exercise,

Dolphin Senior High School emerged as the overall winner, while Okesuna Junior Secondary School secured second place, and Epe Junior Grammar School came third. Participants and winners were rewarded with various prizes, including laptops, mobile phones and tablets, reinforcing the District's commitment to promoting holistic learning and encouraging excellence beyond the classroom. The event underscores Education District III's dedication to fostering innovation, inclusivity and academic excellence while equipping students with the skills required to thrive in a technology-driven world.

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Seat Warmer, Not Lawmaker, Olusegun Blasts Seyi Lawal's Record

Kehinde Adeleye



The Convener of the Lagos Standard Forum, Ayo Olusegun, has launched a strong criticism of Seyi Lawal, describing his representation of Ikeja Constituency I in the Lagos State House of Assembly as a “tragedy of

underperformanc e” marked by “invisibility.” In a statement, Olusegun accused the lawmaker, who chairs the House Committee on Science and Technology, of failing to deliver meaningful representation for

one of Lagos' most strategic constituencies. He dismissed the distribution of JAMB forms, often cited by Lawal's supporters, as a weak measure of performance. “At a time when serious lawmakers are securing scholarships,

global opportunities, and sustainable empowerment for their constituents, pointing to JAMB forms as an achievement is nothing but tokenism,” he said. Olusegun argued that expecting residents of an

urban and highly educated constituency like Ikeja to celebrate such gestures in 2026 amounts to “an insult to their intelligence.” He also criticised the promotion of boreholes as legacy projects, insisting that such interventions fall short of expectations for a metropolitan hub like Ikeja.

According to him, the constituency deserves forward-thinking representation focused on youth employment, innovation, technology, and structured urban development, not what he described as “borehole politics.”

The forum further alleged growing dissatisfaction among residents, claiming that access to opportunities linked to the lawmaker is limited to a select inner circle rather than the broader constituency. With the 2027

elections approaching, Olusegun challenged Lawal to publicly substantiate claims of job facilitation.

“Provide names, numbers, and proof. Representation must be transparent and inclusive, not selective,” he said. He added that voters are already taking note.

“2027 is watching. The people will soon decide whether they want another term of excuses or real representation,” the statement read.

Olusegun also alleged that there has been no record of any significant motion moved by the lawmaker in three years.

“If that is the case, then Ikeja Constituency I has not had an active legislator, it has had a seat warmer. The Assembly is not a retirement lounge,” he added.

Oshodi 2027: Bamigbetan Builds Consultation on Party Loyalty, Constituency Understanding

Kehinde Adeleye



Bamigbetan



“ You know me, I love APC.”

That simple line continues to shape the political message of Kehinde Bamigbetan, popularly known as KOK, as he signals interest in representing Oshodi Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives

under the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC). Bamigbetan is projecting himself as a party man with deep loyalty to the APC, combined with extensive experience in governance and a strong understanding of grassroots issues within Oshodi

Federal Constituency as he continues to consult widely. He previously served as Chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area, where he was involved in local administration and community development initiatives. He also held office as

Lagos State Information and Strategy, a role that placed him at the centre of government communication, public engagement, and policy coordination in the state. Supporters say these past roles have given him practical exposure to both grassroots governance and state-level decision-making, strengthening his capacity to engage with constituency challenges such as infrastructure needs, youth development, and public service delivery. Bamigbetan is also consistently

stressing his loyalty to the APC, describing himself as a committed progressive who believes in party cohesion and structured governance. According to him, political alignment and internal stability within the party remain critical to delivering effective representation at the National Assembly. He maintains that Oshodi Federal Constituency requires a representative who not only understands the community's concerns but also possesses the experience and political network to navigate legislative

responsibilities effectively. Political observers note that his messaging continues to centre on three key themes: his past public service record, his deep loyalty to the APC, and his familiarity with the socio-political dynamics of Oshodi Federal Constituency. As the 2027 elections draw nearer, Bamigbetan's supporters say he is better positioned through experience and party alignment, while he insists that effective representation must be rooted in both competence and loyalty to the progressive tradition.



Lagos Waterways Under Spotlight as Major Channel Review Begins

Atume Terfa

Lagos' vital maritime lifelines are now at the centre of a sweeping federal review, as authorities move to reassess the performance and efficiency of channel operations powering the state's bustling seaport economy. The exercise, unfolding across Lagos, places renewed focus on the intricate network of access channels that feed into the Lagos Harbour, a gateway that handles a

significant share of Nigeria's maritime trade. For a city widely regarded as the nation's commercial heartbeat, the outcome of this review could have far-reaching implications. Spearheaded by the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy in partnership with the Nigerian Ports Authority, the five-day technical validation is taking a hard look at the long-standing joint Channel Management

Limited. The company has been responsible for maintaining navigable channels into Lagos ports since 2005. Unlike routine audits, this review is being driven as a rigorous, on-the-ground assessment. Inspection teams are examining dredging depth, navigational safety standards, and the overall cost-effectiveness of operations, key metrics that determine how smoothly vessels

move in and out of Lagos waters. Officials say the mission is clear: verify performance claims, identify gaps, and establish a solid benchmark for future oversight. With increasing vessel traffic and growing trade volumes, Lagos' waterways are under more pressure than ever, making efficiency non-negotiable. Beyond the technical checks, the review reflects a broader ambition, to

reposition Lagos as a model for maritime excellence within Nigeria's expanding blue economy framework. Authorities are aiming to tighten governance, eliminate inefficiencies, and ensure that every investment in channel maintenance delivers measurable value. For years, Lagos Channel Management Limited has overseen critical operations including dredging, wreck removal, hydrographic surveys, and navigational aids installation. Now, its performance is being measured against the evolving demands of a city whose ports remain central to national and regional commerce. As the review progresses, stakeholders are watching closely. The findings are expected to influence future policy directions, strengthen transparency, and ultimately reinforce Lagos' status as the nerve centre of Nigeria's maritime economy.

Assembly: Ifako-Ijaiye CDC Members Endorse Adedeji For Re-election

The Ifako-Ijaiye Community Development Committee, CDC, has drummed support for its Lagos House of Assembly representative, Adewale Adedeji, on his re-election in the 2027 polls. No fewer than 132 Community Development Association, CDA, members in the Ifako-Ijaiye Constituency 01, expressed

confidence in Adedeji's performance, the CDC Chairman, Samuel Opajobi, describing the lawmaker as an achiever and lover of mankind. Opajobi, in unison

with other members opined that the legislator has represented the constituency satisfactorily citing contributions in education, infrastructure development, youth empowerment and healthcare. Responding, the

lawmaker, who is also the Chairman of the House of Assembly Committee on Transportation, thanked the CDC for support over the years. According to him, Ifako-Ijaiye CDC has been a strong supporter of the APC and a reliable

grassroots mobiliser. He urged the CDC to continue supporting President Bola Tinubu's administration. Adedeji, who is the Majority Leader in the assembly, was first elected in 2019 and re-elected in 2023.

ISLAND

Oyekan Assures Residents of Unhindered Access To Education

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Lagos Island LG, Prince Taiwo Oyekan has assured residents that his administration will ensure a smooth access to education. Oyekan said he inspected the road construction project at Oja Oba Road which will host the new vocational training center including CBT center when completed. He said his aim is to complete the project in order to create an unhindered access to the educational facility. "I inspected the ongoing Road Construction Project at Oja Oba

Road and the Proposed site for the construction of Vocational Training Institute, e-Library and CBT Centre in Isale-Eko Community, Lagos Island. "The Lagos Island local government is set to construct access road to link the proposed projects and other major facilities within the area. "My administration is determined to provide unhindered access to both formal and informal education on Lagos Island local government area."



HON. TAIWO AJIBADE OYEKAN
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN LAGOS ISLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Folawiyo Intensifies Anti-Flooding Drive

Chairman of Lagos Island East Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mr. Muibi Folawiyo, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to

proactive environmental sanitation. Through his Supervisor for Works, Saheed Oshoja, and Special Adviser on Environment, Ganiyu

Aroworade, the LCDA has embarked on large-scale clean-up operations, particularly desilting and clearing of drainages along Adeniji Adele Road

By Saheed Afolabi

and across various parts of the council area.

My administration, through my Supervisor for Works, Saheed Oshoja and Special Adviser on

Environment, Regular Ganiyu maintenance of Aroworade, drainage infrastructure continues to be a key part of my administration's strategy to promote environmental sustainability and safeguard the wellbeing of my people. "I urge all residents to collaborate with the government in maintaining the cleanliness and free flow of drainage channels by not dumping refuse into drainages and canals."

The Chairman emphasized that sustained maintenance of drainage systems remains central to his administration's environmental agenda, calling on residents to play their part by refraining from indiscriminate refuse disposal. This ongoing intervention is expected to significantly reduce flood risks during the rainy season and improve overall living conditions across my constituency.

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Orile-Agege LCDA Supports Waste Management with New Compactor

Kehinde Adeleye



Residents of Idowu. Orile-Agege LCDA are set to benefit from improved environmental sanitation following the delivery of a new Ten-Tyre Compactor Truck procured by the Chairman, Hon. Akinola Abiodun Idowu. The truck was delivered on Monday, April 13, 2026, at the Orile-Agege LCDA Secretariat, where it was presented for management inspection as part of efforts to strengthen waste management operations across the council area.

The modern compactor is equipped with a hydraulic lift, waste compression system, advanced hydraulic mechanisms, and protective covering designed to reduce particle dispersion during operations. These features are expected to improve efficiency in waste collection and enhance emergency environmental response within the community. According to the council leadership, the initiative is aimed at complementing the efforts of

Private Sector Participation (PSP) operators and the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) in ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment for residents. Hon. Akinola Abiodun Idowu reaffirmed his

administration's commitment to environmental hygiene, noting that sustained investment in sanitation infrastructure remains key to building a cleaner, safer, and more livable Orile-Agege LCDA for all residents.

Pupils In Abaranje To Benefit From School Project Earnings

Kehinde Adeleye

Students in Abaranje are set to benefit from improved learning conditions following an inspection visit to the Abaranje Secondary School project, a development aimed at strengthening access to quality education in the

community. Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly, alongside the Chairman of Egbe/Idimu LCDA, Idris Balogun, visited the project site to assess the level of work and its impact on students and the wider community. The visit highlighted the

importance of the project in creating a more conducive learning environment, with stakeholders noting that improved infrastructure plays a critical role in shaping students' academic performance and future opportunities. Speaking during the inspection, the

project facilitator reaffirmed a commitment to people-focused development, emphasising that education remains central to community growth and long-term progress. The visiting officials commended the quality and relevance of the project, describing it as a

significant step toward expanding educational access and supporting young people in the area. They also stressed the need for continued investment in initiatives that directly impact students, noting that such efforts are essential for sustainable grassroots

development. For many residents, the Abaranje Secondary School project represents more than just infrastructure—it is a long-term investment in the future of students and a pathway to greater opportunities for generations to come.

NGOs, Council Partner on PVC Awareness Campaign

Kehinde Adeleye

Residents of Alimosho Local Government are set to benefit from a renewed push to increase voter participation as the Springwell Development Initiative, in collaboration with select NGOs under YIAGA Africa, paid a courtesy visit to the Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson.

The engagement focused on strengthening civic awareness and mobilising eligible residents particularly young

people to register for their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs), a step organisers say is crucial to improving democratic participation at the grassroots level.

Speaking during the visit, Feyi Fabiyia, Head of the Springwell Development Initiative, expressed concern that despite ongoing awareness efforts, many eligible citizens are still yet to complete their voter registration. She stressed that empowering communities with accurate



information remains key to increasing participation in future elections. Fabiyi noted that with support from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the initiative plans to intensify outreach across communities in Alimosho. She

added that a sensitisation programme scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2026, will kick-start wider grassroots engagement and appealed for support in the areas of logistics, transportation, and security to reach more residents effectively.

In his response, Chairman Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson commended the initiative, describing it as a vital bridge between government and citizens at the community level. He reiterated that voter registration is a civic responsibility that

cuts across political lines and is essential for strengthening democracy.

He further pledged the council's full support for the programme, approving the use of the council hall as well as providing logistics support including security, ambulance services, and refreshments to ensure smooth execution of the outreach.

The planned engagement will bring together key stakeholders and will be followed by a grassroots campaign across communities in Alimosho aimed at ensuring wider voter registration and increased civic participation among residents.

Gbenu Pleads For Party Support Ahead Of Primaries

The immediate past Chairman of Badagry West LCDA, Mr GbenuHenugbe Joseph has pleaded for the support of the All Progressives Congress (APC) stalwarts ahead of party primaries. Gbenu has formally declared his intention to contest for the Lagos State House of Assembly seat in Badagry Constituency. The declaration was a strategic consultative meeting with party leaders and critical stakeholders in Badagry, was marked by a large turnout of supporters and high political enthusiasm. Addressing the gathering, Gbenu said the purpose of the meeting was purely consultative,

By Saheed Afolabi

aimed at officially notifying party leadership of his aspiration and seeking their blessings. "I am not here to present a manifesto today. There has been a lot of publicity online about my intention. Today, I am here to officially begin my journey into the race for the Lagos

State House of Assembly, Badagry Constituency," he stated. He further tied his ambition to the renewed hope a agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Gbenu pledged absolute loyalty to the All Progressives Congress (APC) and its leadership, promising to uphold party discipline while

delivering effective grassroots representation if elected. Earlier, his Campaign Director-General, Mr Yahaya Lateef, popularly known as described Gbenu as a tested, competent, and grassroots-oriented leader. "Gbenu recorded over 70 percent performance as Council Chairman. He is a man with

capacity, track record, and deep connection with the people. This is not about grammar; it is about competence and remembering the people who voted for you." He noted that Gbenu's decision to first consult party leaders reflects his respect for party hierarchy, discipline, and internal democracy.





Yemaren Promises Prompt Bursary Payment

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Badagry West Local Council Development Area, Mr Rauf Yemaren (popularly known as Rikay), has assured students that their bursary will be paid soon. The Chairman gave this assurance during the colourful inauguration ceremony of the

new executives of the National Association of Badagry West Students (NABWES) held recently. Speaking at the event, Yemaren reaffirmed his administration's strong commitment to the welfare and development of students, describing them as critical stakeholders in

the future of the LCDA. "We are working on your bursary, and you will get it soon," he declared to the students. He also highlighted other key interventions his administration has rolled out for the benefit of students, including the ongoing construction of a modern CBT Centre at Ganyigbo and the

recent distribution of free GCE forms to indigent students across Badagry West. The inauguration ceremony, which was marked by excitement and vibrant displays, saw the swearing-in of the new NABWES executive led by President Awuyon Prosper Gbeyon. Presenting the new executives, the Chairman of the Independent

Electoral Committee, Comr. Hezekiah Godonu, declared that the election was free, fair, and transparent. In his acceptance speech, the new President commended Council Chairman for his consistent support for students, especially the ongoing ICT/CBT Centre project, and pledged that

his leadership would focus on unity, innovation, and student welfare. The Leader of the Legislative Arm, Awoyemi Israel Olamide, also pledged the Assembly's continued support for the association. The ceremony also featured the unveiling of the maiden edition of the NABWES Student Magazine.

Residents Commend Yemaren On Owode Apa Road Rehabilitation

By Saheed Afolabi



Residents of Badagry West Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have thrown their commendation to the Council Chairman, Mr Rauf Yemaren, popularly known as Rikay, following the commencement of major grading and rehabilitation works on the long-

neglected Owode Apa Road. The project, which is part of the council's broader infrastructural development initiative, is already generating excitement across the affected communities. The ongoing exercise aims to restore smooth passage, reduce travel

time, and alleviate the daily transportation struggles faced by residents along the corridor. The rehabilitation covers a key stretch from Gbaji Gayingbo, Gedu, Igbogbele, and Kankon, extending to several adjoining settlements within the Owode Apa axis. Once

completed, the improved road is expected to boost the movement of people and goods while significantly stimulating economic activities in the area. To ensure high standards, Yemaren personally led members of his executive cabinet on an on-site inspection tour to assess progress

and confirm that work is being executed according to specifications. Speaking during the inspection, the Chairman reiterated his administration's dedication to infrastructure development that directly improves the lives of residents. "Road rehabilitation remains a top

priority for this administration," he said, assuring that similar interventions would continue across all communities in Badagry West LCDA.

A visibly delighted resident, Mr. Hunsa Emmanuel, described the development as a welcome relief after years of enduring the deplorable condition of the road.

In the same vein, commercial motorcycle operator Mr. John Ajose commended the Chairman, noting that the upgraded road would drastically reduce damage to motorcycles and make daily commuting safer and easier for both riders and passengers. When completed, the Owode Apa Road will ease commuters movement and bring relief to residents.

Eti-Osa Council Boosts Maternal Care with Food Support

Atume Terfa

The Executive Chairman of Eti-Osa Local Government, Omo'Oba (Dr.) Adeola Alimot Adetoro, has continued her administration's maternal health intervention programme with the distribution of nutritional food packs to pregnant women across selected primary healthcare centres in the council area. The outreach, which took place at Ikate Primary Health Centre and Igbo-Efon Primary Health Centre, is part of an ongoing grassroots

healthcare support initiative aimed at improving maternal nutrition, strengthening antenatal care outcomes, and reducing preventable risks associated with pregnancy. The exercise was coordinated on behalf of the Chairman by the Vice Chairman, Hon. Adeola Idowu Badru, who supervised the distribution process to ensure that expectant mothers received adequate nutritional support. Beneficiaries were

presented with food packs containing essential dietary items intended to promote healthier pregnancies and support fetal development. According to health development perspectives widely adopted in maternal care programmes across Nigeria, proper nutrition during pregnancy is a critical factor in reducing complications, improving birth outcomes, and supporting early childhood development.

Similar initiatives on community-based interventions that combine healthcare access with nutritional and social support for vulnerable groups. Officials noted that the programme is part of the council's broader commitment under its health and social welfare agenda, which prioritises improved access to quality healthcare services, reduced maternal and infant mortality risks, and enhanced wellbeing for families across the local government area. Speaking on the significance of the initiative, the council reaffirmed that investing in maternal nutrition remains central to building healthier communities, stressing that "a healthier mother translates to a stronger and more resilient society." The outreach is expected to continue across additional primary healthcare centres in Eti-Osa as part of sustained efforts to support expectant mothers and improve overall maternal health outcomes in the region.

Similar initiatives across Lagos State and other regions have been integrated into primary healthcare strategies to encourage antenatal attendance and improve maternal survival rates. The Eti-Osa initiative aligns with broader public health efforts in Lagos State that focus on strengthening primary healthcare delivery, particularly in maternal and child health services. It also reflects growing emphasis

on community-based interventions that combine healthcare access with nutritional and social support for vulnerable groups. Officials noted that the programme is part of the council's broader commitment under its health and social welfare agenda, which prioritises improved access to quality healthcare services, reduced maternal and infant mortality risks, and enhanced wellbeing for families across the local government area.

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Lekki LCDA Reaches 617 Residents with Free Medical Outreach

Atume Terfa



A wave of relief swept through communities in Lekki LCDA as no fewer than 617 residents accessed free healthcare services during a large-scale medical outreach held at the council secretariat. The initiative, spearheaded by the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Mbalaaso Chidinma, brought

essential medical services closer to the people, offering everything from blood pressure and glucose checks to laboratory tests, dental care, eye screenings, consultations, medications, and expert health counselling. Chairman of the council, Rasaki Bamidele Kasali, was on the ground to interact

with beneficiaries, using the opportunity to stress the importance of proactive health management. He urged residents to make regular visits to primary health centres across the LCDA, noting that early detection and routine check-ups remain key to healthier living. Reaffirming his administration's commitment, the

chairman revealed plans to expand the frequency of such outreaches, ensuring that more residents, especially those with limited access to healthcare—continue to benefit from free and preventive services. For many who turned out, the programme went beyond routine checks; it provided

access to quality medical attention that might otherwise have been postponed or out of reach. The outreach also served as a critical intervention in promoting awareness and encouraging healthier lifestyle choices. The exercise underscores the council's broader vision of strengthening

community-based healthcare, bringing services directly to the grassroots while building a healthier, more resilient population. More than just numbers, the outreach represents hundreds of lives touched and a sustained push toward people-focused governance in Lekki.

Eti-Osa Council to Disburse Cash Relief to Oba Elegushi Market Fire Victims

The Eti-Osa Local Government has announced plans to present cash support to victims of the recent fire outbreak at the Oba Elegushi Modern Market, as part of its emergency welfare response and ongoing commitment to grassroots economic recovery.

According to a public notice issued by the council, the presentation

exercise will be held on Thursday, 16th April, 2026, at the Eti-Osa Local Government Secretariat, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The initiative is being spearheaded by the Executive Chairman of Eti-Osa Local Government, Omo'Oba (Dr.) Adeola Alimot Adetoro, who has consistently emphasized responsive governance,

especially in times of crisis affecting traders and small business owners within the local government area. Market fire incidents remain a recurring challenge across parts of Lagos State, often resulting in significant losses for traders and disrupting local commerce. In response, local authorities typically collaborate with state emergency and relief structures to provide immediate

Atume Terfa

palliatives, rebuild confidence, and support affected families and business owners in restarting their livelihoods.

The Oba Elegushi Modern Market, a key commercial hub within Eti-Osa, serves as a vital economic centre for residents and traders in the area. The planned cash support initiative is expected to provide relief to victims as they begin the process of recovery

following the incident.

The council noted that the intervention reflects its broader commitment to strengthening social welfare systems, supporting micro-entrepreneurs, and ensuring that no resident is left behind in moments of hardship.

Under the leadership of Dr. Adeola Alimot Adetoro, Eti-Osa Local Government has continued to prioritize

community-focused programmes, particularly in health, social protection, and small business support—reinforcing its position as a responsive and people-centred administration.

The forthcoming event is expected to bring together market stakeholders, community leaders, and beneficiaries as the council moves to provide immediate financial relief and restore stability to affected traders.

OSHODI NEWS

Residents Celebrate as Oshodi-Isolo Council Reopens Aswani-Emzor Road

Kehinde Adeleye

Residents and motorists in Oshodi-Isolo LCDA can now enjoy smoother movement as the Aswani-Emzor Road has been officially opened to traffic by the council chairman, Olasaju Adebayo, two years after reconstruction work began.

The project, which commenced in December 2024, followed sustained calls from residents and stakeholders for

rehabilitation of the road, which had been in poor condition for several years. The completion marks a major milestone in the council's ongoing infrastructure drive.

The commissioning ceremony was attended by notable figures, including a member of the Governance Advisory Council (GAC), Henry Ajomale, traditional rulers, and other

political stakeholders within the state.

Initially scheduled for completion in May 2025, the project experienced delays due to the presence of underground pipelines along the corridor, which required careful and manual excavation in some sections before work could continue.

Speaking at the event, Adebayo explained that despite the challenges

encountered, the administration remained committed to delivering a durable and safe road that meets the needs of residents and businesses within the axis.

He described the Aswani-Emzor Road as a critical economic route, serving traders, transport operators, commuters, and residents, adding that its completion would significantly improve travel time, safety, and commercial

activities in the area.

The council chairman also appealed to residents and business owners to take responsibility for maintaining the infrastructure by avoiding activities that could damage the road or disrupt its lifespan. He further urged road users to comply with traffic regulations to ensure smooth and safe usage.

Adebayo disclosed that similar infrastructure

projects are ongoing in Ilesa and Isolo as part of broader efforts to improve connectivity and development across the LCDA.

In his remarks, the Osolo of Isolo, Oba Ilsa Faronbi-Shekoni, commended the chairman for his developmental efforts, particularly highlighting ongoing initiatives aimed at improving community infrastructure, including the construction of a new palace.

Jubilation in Mafoluku as Oshodi-Isolo Council Moves to Fix Abayomi Road



Isolo, with similar rehabilitation works already ongoing in Hassan and Wahabi Larinde Streets. To ensure timely completion, the council has supplied all necessary paving materials to the site, while contractors have been directed to maintain quality standards and adhere strictly to project timelines. Residents and business owners have been urged to cooperate during the construction period, despite temporary disruptions, as the project is expected to significantly improve connectivity and support local economic activities once completed.

Residents of Mafoluku Ward in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area are set to experience improved access and easier movement as the council commences the rehabilitation of Sunmola Abayomi

Street. The project, initiated under the leadership of the Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Otunba Kehinde Oloyede-Almaroof, is aimed at easing transportation challenges and improving daily life for residents within

the community. Sunmola Abayomi Street serves as a key link road connecting Raliat Memudu, Makinde, and Rafiu Crescent, and extends towards Adeyemi Street. The road also provides access to Dolu Hospital, making it an important route for

patients, commuters, and business owners in the area. For many residents, the rehabilitation marks the first major intervention on the road in several decades, following years of neglect and deteriorating

conditions that made movement difficult, especially during rainy periods. The council described the project as part of its broader commitment to opening up communities and improving infrastructure across Oshodi-

Community members have expressed appreciation for the intervention, describing it as a long-awaited development that will bring relief to daily commuters and enhance access to essential services within Mafoluku.

Ikorodu Race Heats Up as Shittu takes on Benson

By Emmanuel Daniji

The political space in Ikorodu is gradually taking shape ahead of the next electoral cycle, as a new challenger steps forward to contest the House of Representatives seat currently held by Babajimi Benson, setting the stage for what is expected to be one of the most closely watched political battles in Lagos politics.

Abdulkareem Olugbenga Shittu, a former House of Representatives candidate and political figure known for his grassroots engagements, has officially declared his intention to contest the Ikorodu Federal Constituency seat under the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC). His declaration marks a notable political shift, having previously contested the same position under the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the last general elections before now realigning within the ruling party structure.

Shittu made his position known during a recent engagement with our correspondent



Abdulkareem Olugbenga

following a visit to the secretariat of the Renewed Hope Ambassadors (RHA), where he met with the Ikorodu Division coordinator, Comrade Japhet Odesanya, and also pledged support for the re-election of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Speaking confidently about his ambition, he confirmed his readiness to enter the race, stating that his decision is rooted in a desire to bring what he describes as a new

approach to representation in Ikorodu.

According to him, while acknowledging the performance of the incumbent lawmaker, he believes the time has come for a shift in leadership style and political direction.

He commended Benson's legislative record, describing his tenure as impactful and worthy of recognition, but argued that long stays in office naturally create space for fresh perspectives and

renewed energy. Shittu said his ambition is driven by what he calls the need for "new blood" and a different methodology in representation, suggesting that governance can be further strengthened through alternative ideas and approaches. In his words, Ikorodu deserves a new phase of leadership that builds on existing achievements while introducing innovative thinking to address emerging

challenges across the constituency.

Political observers note that Shittu's entry adds another layer to an already evolving contest, especially given Benson's long-standing incumbency and strong grassroots presence across Ikorodu Federal Constituency.

With the Ikorodu itself remains one of the most politically active constituencies in Lagos State, with a large voting population spread across Ikorodu Local Government and its adjoining local council development areas. Over the years, electoral contests in the area have often reflected a mix of party loyalty, candidate visibility and grassroots mobilisation.

Shittu's background in politics and his previous experience as a parliamentary candidate place him among familiar names within the local political space. His recent alignment with the APC also signals a strategic repositioning ahead of the party's primaries, where delegate influence and ward-level structures will play a decisive role.

While details of his broader policy

agenda are still expected to be fully outlined, his early messaging has focused on continuity balanced with change — acknowledging existing progress while advocating for a refreshed approach to governance.

With the incumbent lawmaker widely credited by supporters for infrastructure development, constituency outreach and legislative engagement, the challenge ahead is expected to revolve around competing narratives of experience versus renewal.

As the political atmosphere gradually intensifies, attention will soon shift to party structures, delegate alignments and grassroots mobilisation efforts that will ultimately determine who secures the APC ticket.

For now, Shittu's declaration signals the beginning of a familiar Ikorodu political cycle — one where incumbency is tested, loyalty is negotiated, and ambition reshapes the landscape ahead of the ballot.

Ikorodu Residents Rally Behind Benson Amid Fourth-Term Debate

By Emmanuel Daniji

What started as a report suggesting growing opposition to a fourth-term bid has quickly transformed into a groundswell of public support in Ikorodu, as residents openly counter claims that Babajimi Benson is facing political resistance within the constituency. The reaction followed a publication by The Punch titled "Forum opposes Lagos rep's fourth-term bid, cites zoning equity concerns," which suggested that tensions were building within the All Progressives Congress in Ikorodu over Benson's continued stay in the House of Representatives. The report referenced a position allegedly put forward by a party figure in Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA. However, within hours of the story going live, the response from residents across



Benson

Ikorodu told a markedly different story. In what appeared to be a spontaneous and coordinated wave of reactions, over 200 respondents took to the comment section and other

platforms, overwhelmingly rejecting the narrative of opposition and instead reaffirming support for the lawmaker. Among the earliest voices was Hon. Ola Animashaun, a former member of

the Lagos State House of Assembly, who argued that legislative continuity often translates into greater influence and developmental benefits for constituents.

Drawing from his own experience, he maintained that Benson's time in office has positioned him to deliver more effectively than a first-time legislator. Beyond political figures, residents from different parts

of Ikorodu also weighed in, each offering personal perspectives shaped by their experiences within the constituency. Patricia Okosodo described Benson as a leader who has demonstrated empathy in governance, adding that his approach to representation has changed perceptions about what effective leadership should look like. Hameed Olaniyi Ganiyu took an even broader view, suggesting that Benson's performance qualifies him for higher responsibility, including a potential governorship role, while still affirming that he deserves to return to the House of Representatives if that opportunity does not materialise. For Asoro Abubakar Olatunji, the issue was credibility. He questioned the legitimacy of the forum cited in the report, arguing

Continues on page 28

Ikorodu Residents Rally Behind Benson Amid Fourth-Term Debate

Continued from page 27

that the reactions from actual residents clearly show that the so-called opposition does not reflect the true mood within Ikorodu. Adeola Oyewoga echoed similar sentiments, insisting that Benson's achievements speak for themselves. He highlighted the lawmaker's consistent delivery of what he described as the "dividends of democracy," particularly in youth development and access to opportunities within and beyond Ikorodu. Kehinde Adeola, in his response, went further by listing specific infrastructure projects attributed to Benson's tenure. According to him, roads such as Erunwen Road, Laketu Road, Igbe Road, Offin Road in Igbogbo, Olu Odo Road, Agbala to Benson

Garage, and the ongoing Agbede to Ita Oluwo Road project are clear examples of tangible development facilitated by the lawmaker. He also referenced improvements around Sabo Market and Ikorodu Grammar School axis, as well as Lambo Lasunwon and Adamo-Araromi Road, stressing that these projects cut across different communities and have had direct impact on residents. In addition to roads, Adeola pointed to the general hospital in Imota, which recently commenced operations, describing it as a major milestone in improving healthcare access within the constituency. Tairu Olamilekan framed his support around youth empowerment, noting that many young people in Ikorodu have

benefitted from initiatives tied to Benson's office. According to him, the lawmaker's consistent investment in human capital development has strengthened his connection with the electorate. Olamilekan Idris also questioned the authenticity of any group claiming to speak against the lawmaker, stating that the visible impact of projects across Ikorodu — from infrastructure to education support — contradicts the idea of widespread opposition. For Oluwaseun Salami, the support was even more emphatic. He described Benson's record as "superlative," arguing that his achievements over more than a decade in office have set a benchmark that would be difficult for any challenger to match. Across these responses, a clear pattern emerges — one rooted in

lived experiences rather than abstract political arguments. Residents repeatedly referenced roads, healthcare, youth programmes and educational support as the basis for their positions, suggesting that their support is tied to what they can see and feel within their communities. At the same time, the reactions also reveal a deeper political sentiment — a growing insistence that representation should be judged by performance rather than internal party arrangements or

z o n i n g ultimately rest within party structures, where delegate selection, internal dissent within APC structures, the public pushback highlights a disconnect that often exists between elite conversations and grassroots opinion. Analysts note that such dynamics are not unusual, particularly in constituencies where incumbents have built strong local relationships through visible projects and sustained engagement. However, the final decision on Benson's candidacy will

ultimately rest within party structures, where delegate selection, internal negotiations and political alignments play decisive roles. For now, though, the response from Ikorodu residents has shifted the narrative. What was framed as a growing opposition has instead sparked a public affirmation — one that is loud, detailed and rooted in the voices of individuals who say they have directly experienced the impact of representation. As the political season gradually unfolds, one thing is becoming increasingly clear: in Ikorodu, the debate over leadership is no longer confined to party rooms. It is playing out in the open — in comments, conversations and community voices — where names are known, experiences are shared, and opinions are strongly held.



Ogbe Returns with Fresh Push for Ikorodu Assembly Seat

By Emmanuel Daniji

In Ikorodu, where political ambitions are gradually taking shape ahead of the next electoral cycle, a familiar face is stepping forward once again — this time with deeper experience and a message rooted in governance, policy and grassroots impact.

Ayoyinka Adebola Ogbe has declared his intention to contest for the Lagos State House of Assembly seat representing Ikorodu Constituency I, returning to a race he first entered three years ago.

For many who have followed his journey, Ogbe is not coming from the usual angle of political popularity alone, but from years spent working within the legislative system itself — a background that supporters say gives him a different kind of understanding of governance.

Before stepping into the political arena, Ogbe spent eight years at the Lagos State House of Assembly as a Principal Legislative Officer, working behind the scenes on processes that shape laws and policies. His role exposed him to legislative drafting, public hearings, budget analysis

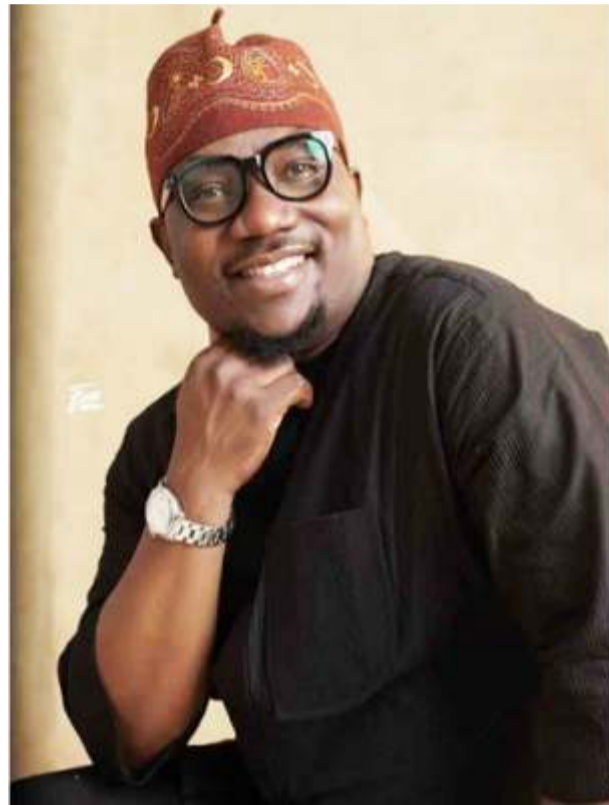
and oversight functions — responsibilities that many voters rarely see but which define how government decisions are made.

Colleagues and observers say those years were formative, placing him at the centre of key committees such as Budget and Economic Planning, Judiciary and Human Rights, Information Strategy and Security, Health Services and House Services. Through these roles, he contributed to policy conversations and governance decisions that directly impact residents across the state.

For residents in Ikorodu, this experience is becoming part of the conversation around his candidacy — a shift from the typical political narrative to one focused on technical competence and institutional knowledge.

Ogbe's story also carries a strong local identity.

Born into the family of Barrister (Rev.) and Mrs. S.F.O. Ogbe, he traces his roots to the Odujumo Araba Oba branch of the Lasunwon Royal Family in Isele, Ikorodu — a heritage that



connects him deeply to the community he now seeks to represent.

His educational journey reflects a blend of local and international exposure. From Ola-Olu Primary School in Somolu to Maryland Comprehensive Secondary School in Ikeja, and later to Lagos State University where he earned a degree in History Education, Ogbe's path has been shaped by both academic and professional growth.

He later obtained a Master's degree in International Relations from London Metropolitan University in the United Kingdom, expanding his perspective beyond Nigeria's borders.

Beyond academics, his career has extended into

finance and regulatory practice, including certification as a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist and licensing in financial advisory services in Canada. These experiences, his supporters argue, position him as someone who understands both governance and financial discipline — two areas often highlighted in discussions about public accountability.

But beyond credentials, the real question among residents is impact.

Ogbe's campaign is built around what he describes as people-centred priorities — youth empowerment, education, security, economic growth

and infrastructure development. His "YES WE CAN" agenda attempts to translate these ideas into a structured framework, touching on areas such as digital economy, environmental sustainability and access to healthcare.

For younger residents, particularly those concerned about employment and opportunities, his emphasis on skills development and wealth creation is drawing attention.

Others are more interested in his focus on accountability and financial discipline, especially at a time when public trust in governance remains a key issue. Those close to his campaign say his approach is shaped by his belief that effective representation goes beyond visibility — it requires a deep understanding of how policies are formed and how resources are managed.

Still, the road ahead is competitive.

Ikorodu Constituency I remains a politically active district, with established figures, party structures and voter expectations all playing a role in

determining outcomes. For Ogbe, the challenge will be translating his experience and ideas into grassroots support that can stand against more traditional political machinery.

Yet, for some residents, his candidacy represents something different — a blend of insider knowledge and outsider ambition, someone who understands the system but is now seeking to lead within it.

As political activities gradually intensify in Ikorodu, his return to the race adds another layer to the unfolding narrative — one that reflects not just ambition, but a growing demand among voters for competence, clarity and credible representation.

For now, Ogbe's message is simple: experience, when matched with purpose, can deliver results.

Whether that message resonates widely enough will be decided in the months ahead, as Ikorodu prepares once again to choose who speaks for it at the state level.

Kosofe 2027 Race Heats Up as Two Aspirants Step Forward

By Emmanuel Daniji

The political mood across Kosofe is beginning to shift from quiet calculations to open ambition, as residents and party faithful brace for what is shaping up to be a defining contest ahead of the All Progressives Congress primaries in May 2026.

In different parts of the constituency, conversations are no longer just about possibilities — they are now about names, faces and track records, following the formal declaration of two familiar political figures, Abiodun Owoyola and Toyin Balogun.

For many grassroots supporters, the re-emergence of Abiodun Owoyola, popularly known as Abbey Cheche, feels like a continuation of an unfinished journey. Having contested for the House of Representatives ticket in 2023, Owoyola returns with deeper visibility and an even wider network built through years of community engagement. Across Kosofe, especially among

youths and local groups, his name is often linked to empowerment initiatives and outreach programmes that have kept him connected to the streets beyond election cycles. For supporters, this consistency is part of what defines his appeal — a politician whose presence is felt not just during campaigns, but in everyday community interactions.

His renewed bid for the House of Representatives seat is being viewed by many as a strategic second attempt, one that builds on previous structures while tapping into a growing base of loyalists who believe his time may be closer than before.

In Ikosi-Isheri and surrounding communities, a similar sense of familiarity trails Toyin Balogun, whose political journey has seen him repeatedly step forward for leadership roles within the constituency.

Balogun's declaration for the Lagos State House of Assembly seat in Kosofe

Constituency II comes after earlier attempts in both legislative and local government contests, including the 2023 assembly primaries and the 2025 Ikosi-Isheri chairmanship race. For many residents, his persistence signals a long-term commitment rather than a one-off ambition.

Those who have worked closely with him describe a grassroots politician deeply embedded in party structures, someone who understands the internal dynamics of the APC at ward and local levels. His message, centred on improved representation, better social services and stronger synergy with the state government, resonates with constituents who are increasingly interested in practical outcomes rather than political rhetoric.

Kosofe Federal Constituency, which spans Kosofe Local Government and Ikosi-Isheri LCDA, remains one of the most politically vibrant zones in



Abiodun Owoyola

Toyin Balogun.

Lagos East, with a large and active voting population. Within it, Kosofe Constituency II stands out as a key battleground, covering communities such as Ikosi, Isheri, Olowo-Ira and Shangisha — areas where political loyalty is often shaped by direct engagement and visible impact. For residents, the early declarations are already

setting the tone for what is expected to be a competitive and closely watched primary season. In markets, community meetings and informal gatherings, discussions are beginning to centre on who truly understands the needs of the people and who has the structure to translate ambition into victory. With party ward

congresses and delegate selection processes approaching, attention is gradually shifting to the internal mechanics that will ultimately decide who emerges as the APC flagbearers. For now, however, the message from Kosofe is clear — the race has begun, the players are stepping forward, and the people are watching closely.

Underdog Bid Stirs Interest in Kosofe Race

By Emmanuel Daniji

In the evolving political story of Kosofe, where structures, loyalty and influence often shape outcomes long before ballots are cast, a different kind of candidacy is beginning to draw attention — one built less on traditional political machinery and more on enterprise, visibility and quiet grassroots impact.

Oluremi Oluwalogbon Odunsi is stepping into the House of Representatives race once again, but this time, those watching closely say something feels different. Across Kosofe, Ikosi-Isheri and Agboyi-Ketu, her name is gradually finding its way into everyday political conversations — not with the loud dominance of incumbency or long-established ward structures, but with a steady, growing curiosity about what she represents.

She enters the contest as an underdog, facing formidable figures like Kafilat Ogbara, the incumbent with legislative experience and federal visibility, and Dele Osinowo, whose grassroots network was built



Oluremi Oluwalogbon

over years of local government leadership.

Yet, in the unpredictable rhythm of Kosofe politics, where history has occasionally favoured unlikely winners, her candidacy is beginning to resonate with a segment of voters looking beyond the usual calculations.

For some residents, the appeal lies in her story.

Before politics, Odunsi built her identity in enterprise and development work, leading platforms focused on entrepreneurship, agriculture, real estate and human capital

development. Through initiatives tied to her organisations, she has trained thousands of residents in practical, income-generating skills — efforts that many beneficiaries say directly impacted their livelihoods.

In different corners of the constituency, from informal markets to youth clusters, there are quiet testimonies of people who passed through one training or the other — learning trades, gaining financial literacy or finding new pathways to economic survival. For beneficiaries like small business owners and young graduates, her

candidacy feels personal. It is not just about promises, but about someone they believe has already contributed in tangible ways.

Those close to her campaign say this forms the backbone of her message — a shift from dependency to empowerment, from political handouts to structured opportunities.

Her previous run in 2023 also plays a role in her current momentum. While she did not secure the ticket then, it introduced her to the political terrain, built name recognition and helped her understand the internal dynamics

of the party and the expectations of constituents.

Now, she returns with what supporters describe as a clearer message and a more defined identity — one centred on competence, accessibility and results-driven representation.

Within APC circles, opinions remain divided. Some party stakeholders still lean toward established structures and proven political machinery, while others are beginning to acknowledge the subtle but growing traction around her candidacy.

Among younger voters especially, her focus on innovation, digital inclusion, entrepreneurship and job creation is gaining attention, reflecting a shift in what parts of the electorate are beginning to prioritise.

Her campaign frames her ambition as a mission to rebuild trust between the people and government, expand economic opportunities and create a more inclusive system where youths and women are not just participants, but drivers of development.

Still, the road

ahead remains steep.

Without holding elective office or commanding a dominant political structure, her path to securing the APC ticket will depend heavily on how much of her grassroots goodwill can translate into delegate support when the primaries arrive.

But in Kosofe, political history offers reminders that outcomes are not always predictable.

From unexpected victories in past local contests to moments where lesser-known aspirants emerged against the odds, the constituency has shown that momentum can shift quickly when it connects with the mood of the people.

For now, Odunsi stands as the third force in the race — not the loudest, not the most entrenched, but perhaps the most watched wildcard. And as the primaries draw closer, one thing is becoming increasingly clear in Kosofe: this is no longer just a contest of structures, but a test of connection, credibility and the ever-present possibility of surprise.

Osinowo Joins Kosofe House Race

By Emmanuel Daniji

In Kosofe, where political conversations are growing louder by the day, the entry of a familiar grassroots figure has added new energy to an already unfolding contest.

Dele Osinowo, widely known as Mayor, has formally declared his intention to contest for the House of Representatives seat in Kosofe Federal Constituency, positioning himself alongside incumbent Kafilat Ogbara and aspirant Oluremi Oluwalogbon Odunsi.

For many residents of Agboyi-Ketu and surrounding communities, Osinowo's declaration does not feel like the arrival of a new face, but the continuation of a leadership journey they have witnessed closely over the years.

In his announcement, the former council chairman framed his ambition as a natural progression from local governance to national representation, pointing to his time in office as evidence of what he describes as a results-driven

approach to leadership.

He spoke with confidence about his record, recalling projects and interventions that, according to him, reshaped the narrative of governance at the grassroots level. From road rehabilitation to healthcare improvements and youth-focused initiatives, Osinowo maintained that his administration left visible footprints across the council area.

For residents who experienced his tenure firsthand, those years are of ten remembered through everyday changes — smoother roads in once-neglected areas, upgraded primary healthcare centres, and empowerment programmes that reached young people and vulnerable groups. Beyond infrastructure, his administration also pushed social welfare initiatives, including support for widows and elderly residents, efforts that earned him a measure of goodwill within parts of the community.

Within political



Osinowo

circles, Osinowo is also regarded as a strong mobilizer, with party leaders previously acknowledging his role in strengthening grassroots participation during elections — a factor that could prove significant as the race for party tickets intensifies. His declaration message carried a tone of continuity and ambition, suggesting that what was achieved at the local level can be expanded to deliver more impact at the federal stage. He emphasised the need for stronger and more effective

representation for Kosofe, promising to bring visibility, purpose and legislative influence to the role.

For supporters, his entry into the race represents experience meeting opportunity — a chance to translate executive performance into policy-making at a higher level.

However, the path ahead is far from straightforward.

With an incumbent already in place and another aspirant gaining traction through grassroots

engagement and development-focused initiatives, the contest is shaping up to be one of the most closely watched political battles in Kosofe.

Across the constituency, from Ikosi to Mile 12, Isheri to Agboyi-Ketu, conversations are beginning to reflect a mix of loyalty, expectations and strategic calculation. Voters and party stakeholders alike are weighing track records, influence and vision as they look toward the APC primaries.

For Osinowo, the challenge will be

converting past performance into present political capital — convincing delegates and stakeholders that his achievements at the local level can indeed translate into effective federal representation.

For now, his declaration has done one thing clearly: it has raised the stakes.

And in Kosofe, the race is no longer taking shape quietly — it is unfolding in full view, with each new entrant redefining the balance of power and possibility.

Onikosi Palace: Bada Pushes for Cultural Preservation

Kehinde Adeleye

The construction of the Onikosi Palace has taken centre stage in Ikosi-Isheri, as the Chairman of the LCDA, Samiat Abolanle Bada, performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the project.

Speaking at the event in Ikosi Lagos, Bada described the palace as a powerful symbol of the community's heritage, identity, and cultural legacy.

She noted that the project goes beyond infrastructure, representing a deliberate effort to preserve traditional values and strengthen the role of cultural institutions in society.

According to her, the palace will serve as a unifying structure that reinforces the importance of tradition as a foundation for community development.

"This is not just about building a palace; it is about preserving who we are as a people and ensuring that our heritage is protected for generations to come," she said.



Bada also acknowledged the support of the Lagos State Government under Babajide Sanwo-Olu, praising his commitment to

grassroots development. She further commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, describing his Renewed Hope Agenda as

instrumental in driving development initiatives at the local level. Reaffirming her administration's dedication to progress, Bada

assured residents of continued efforts to promote development while preserving cultural identity. The event attracted community

leaders, traditional rulers, and residents, marking a significant milestone in strengthening the cultural heritage of Ikosi-Isheri.

Aruwe Justifies Drains Desilting



The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe has stated that the desilting of drainages across the community is a deliberate and timely intervention to protect residents from flooding as the rainy season draws near. Speaking on the commencement of the desilting

exercise at Kekereowo Street, Aruwe explained that his administration is taking proactive steps to ensure all drainage channels remain functional and free-flowing. "This exercise at Kekereowo Street is part of our sustained effort to keep our drainage systems working effectively. We are not waiting for the

rains to come before we act. Flood prevention is a top priority for this administration because we cannot afford to lose lives or property to avoidable flooding," he said. The Chairman noted that the desilting involves the systematic removal of silt, sand, and waste materials that have blocked the drains

over time. The exercise is being carried out by competent and accredited service providers to guarantee quality and efficiency. Aruwe emphasized that the move is part of a broader environmental management strategy aimed at building a cleaner, healthier, and flood-resilient

Mushin. "We have engaged experienced hands to ensure the job is done thoroughly. Our goal is clear to reduce flooding to the barest minimum and create a safer environment for all residents," he added. The Chairman appealed to residents to support the government's

efforts by stopping the indiscriminate dumping of refuse into drainage channels. "Government cannot do it alone. We need the full cooperation of our people. Let us all develop the habit of keeping our surroundings clean and avoiding actions that block the drains. Together, we can sustain a flood-free Mushin," he urged.

Chairman of OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Mr Seyi Jakande has urged security operatives to ensure the lives and businesses of residents are safeguarded against criminals. In a move to protect community peace, Jakande held a strategic security meeting with the Council's Peace and Security Committee. The high-powered meeting brought together top security chiefs and community leaders to address emerging threats and reinforce collaborative efforts aimed at

Jakande Charges Security Operatives To Safeguard Residents

By Saheed Afolabi

sustaining the relative peace currently enjoyed in the area. In attendance were the Area Commander, Area D Command; Divisional Police Officers from Mushin, Ilupeju, and the Railwayline corridor; the Director of the Department of State Services (DSS); Divisional

Heads of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and Nigerian Immigration Service; and the Commanding Officer of the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC). Also present were the Oba of Odi-Olowo, the Chairman of the Community Development Committee (CDC),

the Iyaoloja General of the community, as well as the Council's Secretary to the Local Government (SLG), Council Manager, and Legal Officer. Deliberations at the meeting centred on recent activities of individuals and groups suspected of attempting to disturb public peace. Stakeholders

reviewed current security architecture and agreed on more robust, coordinated strategies to tackle potential threats. Dr. Jakande, while addressing the gathering said the safety and security of residents remain a top priority of his administration under the HEWA Agenda. "The safety of our people is non-negotiable," he said. "We must ensure

that no individual or group succeeds in scuttling the peace we have worked so hard to build." The Chairman urged all security agencies and community leaders to intensify vigilance, improve intelligence sharing, and maintain close collaboration to safeguard lives and property in Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA.



Two Suspects In Court Over Theft Of N2M Cows

By Felix Kuyinu

The police in Lagos have arraigned two suspects in court over allegations of stealing three cows worth N2.2 million in Badagry. The litigants: Adamu Abdulahi and Bachari Muhammed were held for trial at the community's Magistrates' Court on charges of conspiracy and stealing, both a contravention of the state's enshrined laws, as

told by the prosecutor, Friday Maneh. Maneh held that 30-year-old Abdulahi and Mohammed, 23, stole the livestock belonging to one Kehinde Odumuyiwa on March 15 at the Shofoluwe Junction and unlawfully converted the proceeds to their personal uses. The policeman added that the alleged offence is

a violation of Sections 287 and 411 of the Criminal Law of Lagos, 2015, which the duo pleaded not guilty of. The court granted them bail in the sum of N1 million each with two sureties in like sum, ordering that the one of the guarantors must be a community leader. The matter was adjourned till May 12.



47yr Old Tennant Remanded For Assaulting Landlord

By Felix Kuyinu



On the Temitope Elegbede has been remanded in prison custody over a reported assault on his landlady. The Police brought Elegbede before the Badagry Magistrates' Court on charges bordering on assault and breach of peace in the environment. The prosecutor,

Edet Ekpo, held that the defendants, on April 7, at about 9.20 am at PanusaAjobuwe St. in Ilogbo, Badagry, hold his landlady, one Oluwabunmi Otokiti, by grabbing her neck inside his apartment after which he was held by neighbours who handed him over to the police. Though the accused pleaded not guilty to the charges, the

policeman mentioned that his action contravene the provisions of sections 168 and 172 of the Criminal Law of Lagos, 2015. The Magistrate Nurudeen Layeni granted the defendant bail in the sum N500,000 with sureties in like sum. He held that one of the surety must be a community leader before adjoining the case until May 14.

Fela Kuti Becomes First African Artist Honoured at Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

Legendary Nigerian musician Fela Anikulapo-Kuti has made history as the first African artist to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Fela will be honoured in the "Early Influence" category this year, alongside Queen Latifah, rapper MC Lyte, country rock musician Gram Parsons, and Cuban singer Celia Cruz. The announcement was made on Monday night in the United States during a broadcast of American Idol, where the 2026 inductees were officially unveiled.

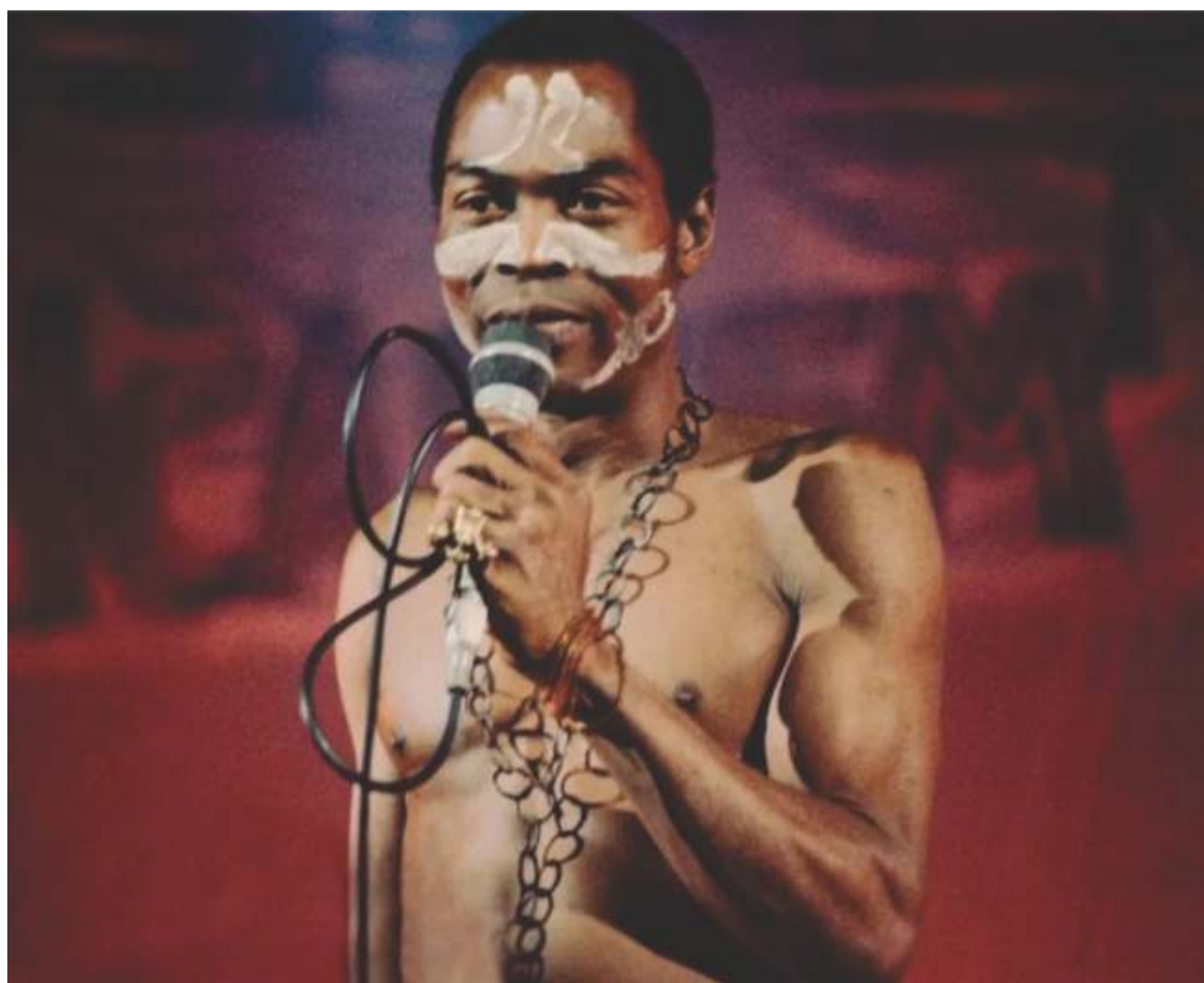
Also recognised this year is Nigerian-born British singer Sade Adu, who will be inducted in the "Performance" category.

Meanwhile, several high-profile nominees, including Shakira, Mariah Carey, Lauryn Hill, New Edition, and Pink, did not make the final selection.

According to organisers, more than 1,200 artists, historians, and music industry professionals participated in the voting process that determined this year's inductees.

The induction ceremony is scheduled to take place on 14 November at the Peacock Theatre in Los Angeles.

This latest honour adds to Fela Kuti's growing global legacy. Earlier this year, he also became the first African musician to receive the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.



Fela Anikulapo Kuti

Veteran Nollywood Actor Kola Oyewo Opens Up on Battle With Prostate Enlargement

Veteran Nollywood actor Kola Oyewo has spoken openly about his health challenges, revealing that he has been battling prostate enlargement which has affected his ability to take on acting roles as he once did.

The 80-year-old actor made the revelation during a visit by fellow actor Kunle Afod to his residence, where he shared details of his health journey and gradual recovery.

Oyewo explained that the condition began after he experienced symptoms such as sleepless nights, frequent urination, and discomfort that later worsened over time. According to him, the

illness significantly slowed down his career, limiting the type of roles he could accept in recent years.

"Before now, I could go from one location to another and play any role, but the illness has laid me back. I can no longer play certain roles except for some minor roles," he said.

Despite the setback, the veteran actor expressed gratitude for life and recovery progress, noting that many people his age are facing different health struggles.

"I thank God because I'm getting better now. You can't go through some kind of sickness and go back to how you've been before, but I thank God," he added.

He further narrated that he personally drove himself to the hospital after experiencing worsening symptoms, including sleepless

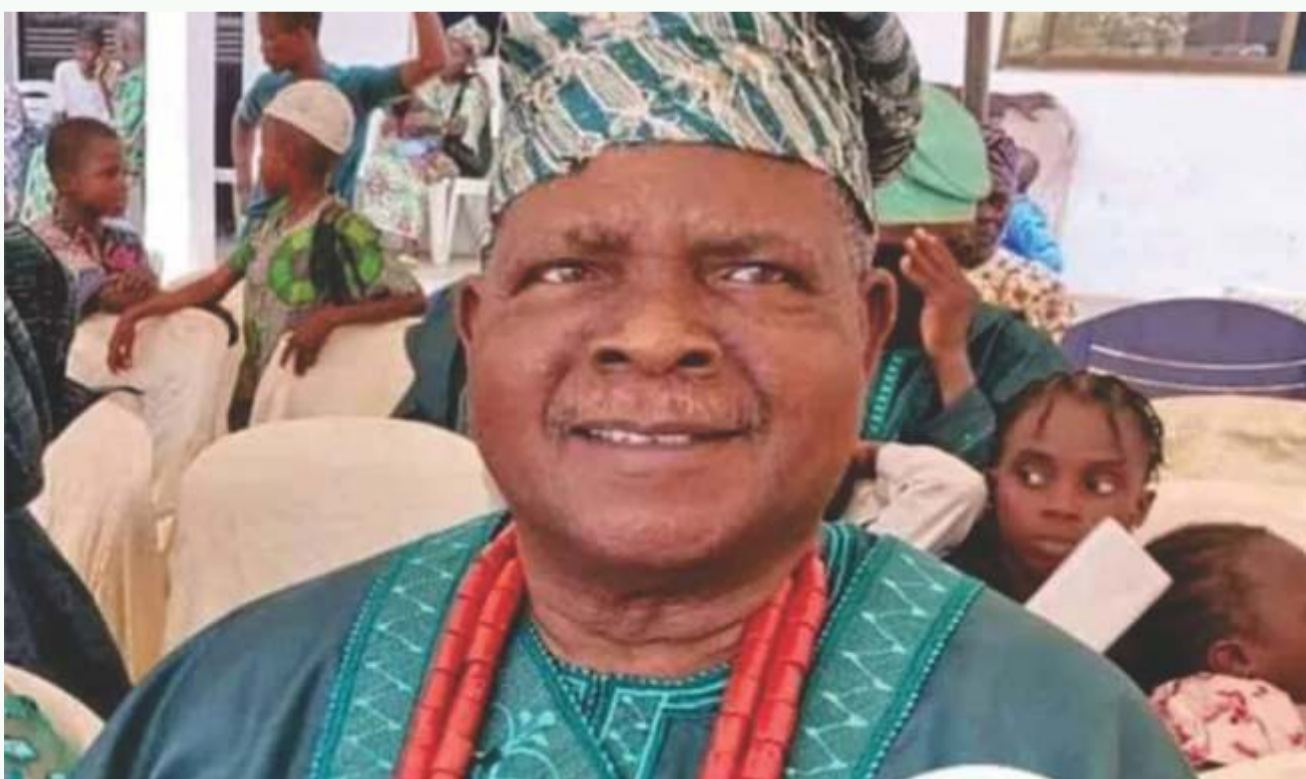
nights and frequent urination, before medical tests confirmed prostate enlargement.

Oyewo, who joined the Nigerian film industry in

1964, is known for his roles in classic productions such as *The Gods Are Not to Blame* and *Sango*.

He also had a long

academic career as a lecturer at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, where he taught from 1996 until his retirement in 2011.



Kola Oyewo



Temí Otedola Reveals Mr Eazi Communicates Anger Through Emails

Kehinde Adeleye

Temi Otedola, wife of Nigerian singer Mr Eazi, has shared a lighthearted but revealing insight into their relationship communication style, saying her husband prefers to express anger through messages rather than direct conversations. The actress and

media personality made the revelation on their joint podcast, where she described the habit as "a bit childish," while acknowledging that it is how he chooses to communicate. According to her, she once discovered that Mr Eazi was upset with her after receiving a long email while they

were both at home in the same apartment. "The way I found out that Tosin was actually angry with me was that he sent me a long message. And bear in mind that we are sitting in the same flat. I was minding my business, responding to my emails, and I got a message saying everything he was upset about me

for," she said. She explained that the situation frustrated her further because she had previously asked him multiple times if anything was wrong, only for him to say everything was fine. Temi added that while she believes direct conversation would be better, she understands that her husband

finds it easier to express himself in writing. Responding, Mr Eazi admitted that he prefers typing when communicating sensitive emotions, noting that it helps him organise his thoughts better and avoid saying things in the heat of the moment. "I would prefer to sit down and talk things out, but

sometimes when we sit down, I don't hit the nail on the head," he said. He further explained that writing allows him to review his words and ensure his tone is appropriate before sending, adding that everyone should adopt the communication style that works best for them.

Katy Perry Under Investigation in Australia Over Alleged Historical Assault Claims

Australian police have confirmed an ongoing investigation into a historical sexual assault case reportedly linked to US pop star Katy Perry, following allegations made by actor Ruby Rose.

Rose, known for her role in *Orange Is the New Black*, had earlier made claims in a series of social media posts — now deleted — alleging that the singer assaulted her in a Melbourne nightclub nearly

two decades ago. Although Rose later said she had formally submitted reports to police and could no longer comment publicly on the matter, the allegations have continued to generate widespread attention.

Victoria state police, while declining to name the individual involved, confirmed that they are investigating “a historical sexual assault that occurred in

Melbourne in 2010.”

A police spokesperson said the matter remains active, adding that it would be inappropriate to provide further details at this stage. In response, a representative for Katy Perry strongly denied the allegations, describing them as “categorically false” and “dangerous, reckless lies.”

The representative also criticised the claims, stating that the accuser had a history of making

serious public allegations that have previously been denied by those involved.

Katy Perry, known for global hits such as *Roar*, *Hot N Cold*, and *I Kissed a Girl*, has recently also made headlines for her personal relationship with former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Authorities say investigations are still ongoing.



Nigerian comedian Okey Bakassi has offered a 5 million reward for information leading to the recovery of stolen phones and the arrest of a suspect who allegedly infiltrated a private football session in Ikoyi, Lagos.

Bakassi disclosed this in a video shared on Instagram, where he recounted how a young man joined their weekly Wednesday evening football game and later made away with several mobile phones belonging to participants.

According to him, the suspect was initially welcomed into the game out of goodwill but later exploited the situation.

“He played for a

Okey Bakassi Raises Alarm Over Phone Theft at Ikoyi Football Session, Promises N5m Reward

little bit and feigned injury, went to sit on the stands. While we were carried away playing football, he carted away people's phones,” he said, estimating that about eight handsets were stolen.

Bakassi explained that the victims included businessmen who rely heavily on their phones for daily operations, noting that the incident has already been reported to the police and investigations are ongoing.

He issued a 24-hour ultimatum to the suspect, urging him to return the stolen phones voluntarily.

The comedian also announced a 5 million reward for

anyone who can assist in tracking the devices or providing credible information that leads to their recovery.

“For everyone who knows how to track

phones, contact me. There's 5 million waiting,” he said.

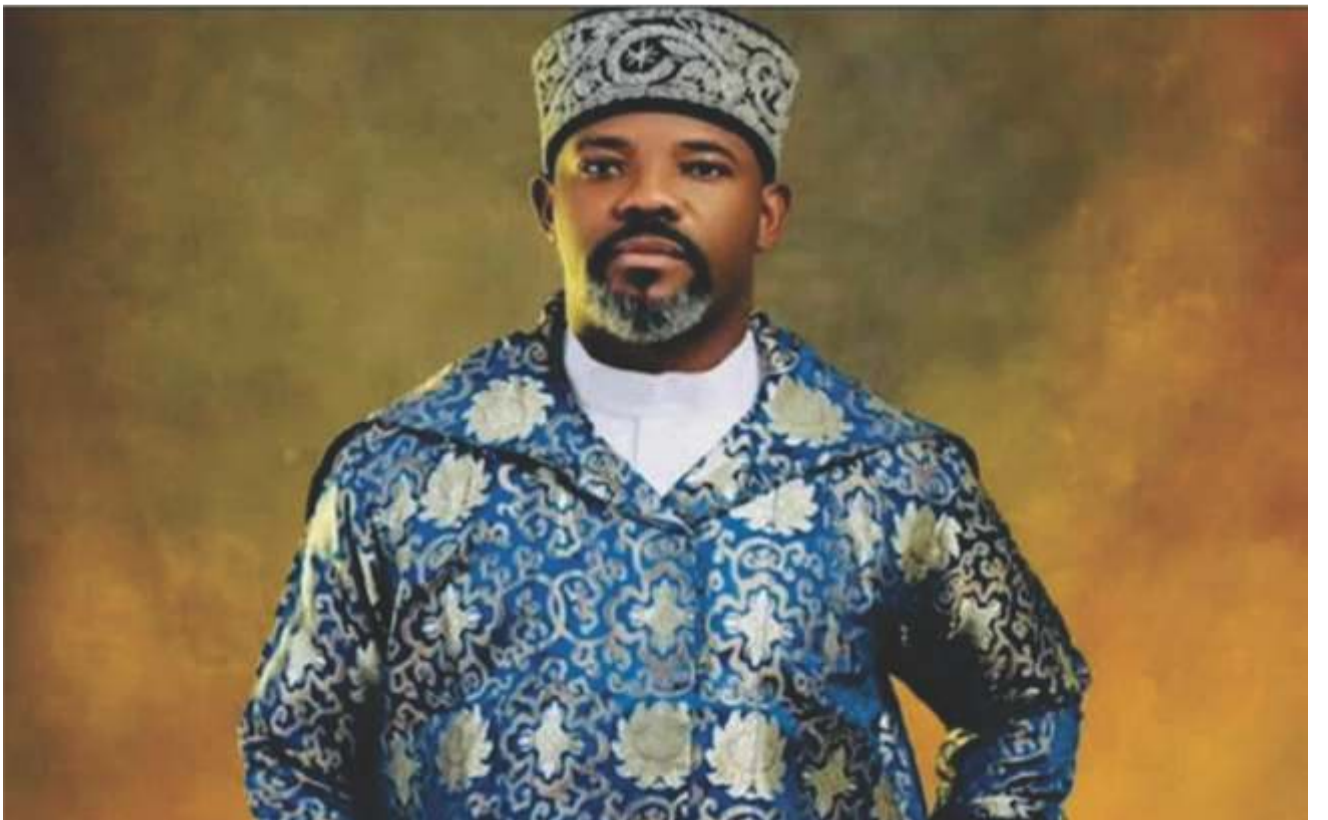
He further advised members of the

public to be cautious when

purchasing second-hand phones and to insist on proper identification to avoid buying stolen devices.

The incident has since generated

reactions online, with many expressing concern over security even in seemingly safe recreational environments.



Okay Bakasi

Shaibu Reveals Plans To Make NIS A Global Institution

By Saheed Afolabi

The Director General of the National Institute of Sport (NIS), Comrade Philip Shaibu has disclosed his plans to make the NIS a global world class institution. The National Institute for Sports (NIS) recently admitted 200 new students into its various academic programmes after a one-year suspension of admissions. The matriculation ceremony, which took place in Lagos marks the resumption of student intake following a comprehensive reorganization of the institute's admission process. Speaking at the event, Shaibu, explained that the decision to suspend admission last year was part of a deliberate effort to reposition the

institute in line with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda. "We have now completed the administrative phase of repositioning the NIS. This is why we have reopened admission for the next intakes. This first set of students is lucky because we have restructured everything from lecturers to the curriculum to transform the institute into a world-class sports institution," Shaibu said. The former Edo State Deputy Governor urged the newly admitted students to take their studies seriously and maintain the highest standard of discipline. He stressed that discipline is non-negotiable, as



Philip Shaibu

the institute is expected to produce well-trained, disciplined coaches and sports administrators who will contribute meaningfully to the development of sports in Nigeria.

Comrade Shaibu assured that the management is committed to providing a conducive learning

environment and maintaining high academic and moral standards going forward.

Lagos Sports Commission Introduces Measures To Attract Investments ... Says Opportunities Abound for Investors In Lagos

A deliberate push to formalise and unlock the economic value of sports in Lagos is gathering pace, as the Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC) rolls out a framework designed to attract, track, and sustain investments across the sector. The move signals a shift from episodic sporting activities to a more structured, investment-driven ecosystem with clear entry points for entrepreneurs, private capital, and community stakeholders. At the heart of the initiative is a coordinated effort to map sports assets, standardise engagement processes, and create visibility for investment opportunities spanning joint venture facility

development, streamlined operational processes for franchise-based local leagues, and institutional backing for startups in sports tech, fitness and well-being, media, and analytics. The Commission outlined plans to deploy data-driven tools that will capture participation trends, infrastructure gaps,

and commercial potential across different sporting disciplines in the State. Speaking further on the initiative, Director-General of the LSSC, Mr. Lekan Fatodu, described the framework as a necessary step in repositioning sports within Lagos' economic architecture. In his words, "We are deliberately transitioning the

Lagos sports narrative from mere recreation to serious economic value creation. Talent is abundant in this State, but talent without an underpinning business ecosystem is unsustainable. These new measures are engineered to de-risk the sector for institutional investors while creating highly fertile ground for

sports technology innovators, apparel manufacturers, and franchise owners to scale their operations within Lagos." The DG maintained that the institutional shift aligns with the broader economic direction of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration, where sports is positioned as a driver of youth engagement and enterprise.



Inter Lagos Crash Out Of Lagos FA Cup

By Saheed Afolabi



Head Coach of newly promoted NPFL side, Inter Lagos, Sakiru Giwa, has voiced his disappointment following his team's shock elimination from the Lagos State Challenge Cup (Lagos FA Cup). Inter Lagos, the defending champions, were knocked out 1-0 by G12 FC in the Round of 16

encounter played on Tuesday morning at the Inspire Stadium, Oshodi. A 52nd-minute strike from Babatunde Michael proved decisive, sending G12 FC into the quarter-finals and sparking wild celebrations among their supporters. The first half was a pulsating affair with both teams

creating and missing several scoring opportunities, ending goalless. However, G12 FC came out more determined after the break and capitalised on a well-executed through pass to secure the victory. Reacting to the defeat, Coach Giwa took full responsibility for the team's performance.

"It was a disappointing outing for us and I take the responsibility as a coach," he said. "My boys did not play to my expectations. They were heavy on the ball, which cost us the match." Giwa revealed that the late notification of the match schedule contributed significantly to the team's poor

showing. "I only got information about the Tuesday morning match late on Monday evening. Because of that, we trained heavily that evening. Had I known earlier, we wouldn't have done heavy training. You could see my players looked tired and heavy-legged during the game," he explained.

Despite the exit, Giwa wished G12 FC success in the remaining competition. Meanwhile, G12 FC Coach, Olutayo Olusoji, expressed delight at the victory, stating that his players deserved the win for strictly following his instructions. The defeat marks a bitter end to Inter Lagos title defence in the prestigious Lagos FA Cup.

N20 Million AFCON Bronze Windfall for Super Eagles

By Saheed Afolabi

The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has disbursed the Super Eagles' share of the prize money from the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco. According to reports, each player in the squad

received approximately N20 million (\$15,000) as their individual share following Nigeria's third-place finish at the tournament. The Super Eagles secured bronze after defeating Egypt on penalties in the third-place match. The team

earned \$2.5 million (about N3.36 billion) for reaching the semi-finals. In line with a pre-tournament agreement, the NFF allocated 30 per cent of the total prize money directly to the players. A senior NFF official confirmed that the payments were

made promptly and without delay, describing it as part of the federation's commitment to fulfilling an agreement with the players. The bronze medal finish represented a solid outing for the three-time African champions, even

as the team continues to build momentum after missing out on the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualification. Attention has now shifted to the team's upcoming assignments. The Super Eagles are expected to reconvene in late May 2026 to defend their title at

the Unity Cup in London, where they will face Jamaica, Zimbabwe, and India. They will also play international friendly matches against Portugal and Poland in June 2026 as part of preparations for future competitions.





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