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How Epe Powerbrokers Silenced Obasa

By Kunle Awosiyan

The impeachment of the speaker, Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Mudashiru Obasa may not be unconnected with the powerbrokers from Epe Division.

These powerbrokers thought it is the turn of the division to produce the next state governor and must stop the plan of Obasa earlier.

Echonews authoritatively gathered that the Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat and a prominent member of the assembly, Hon. Abiodun Tobun representing Epe constituency 1, masterminded the removal of Obasa. They waited for the right time to strike and capitalised on the alleged excesses of the former speaker to nail him.

Obasa had thrown caution to the wind as soon as he became speaker at the expense of Tobun who also aspired for the position in 2023. "As a sitting speaker, he is uncontrollably eyeing the governor's seat in 2027. He is not hiding it," a source close to Tobun said.

Sensing that Hamzat also has governorship ambition, Obasa chose to disrespect the deputy governor at every opportunity he has to do so. During the 2024 budget presentation, Obasa publicly summoned and humiliated Deputy Governor Hamzat, delivering a veiled warning: "Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones." He followed



Dr. Obafemi Hamzat

this with a proverb, saying, "The god of iron recognises the swift ones. Anyone planning to interfere in this House should prepare for the same fate."

According to findings, Hamzat, having come from Epe was among those that backed Tobun against Obasa ahead of the election of house speakership in 2023.

Obasa may have had a cold relationship with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu in 2023 and 2024 over commissioner nominees, it was gathered that out of the 16 rejected by the house, three of them were from Epe Division and it was deliberate to frustrate Tobun and Hamzat.

Recall that there were four lawmakers who also eyed the Lagos speakership seat in 2023 but Tobun was the boldest to announce his ambition at an induction ceremony held for the lawmakers in Ikeja.

He told his colleagues at



Hon. Abiodun Tobun

the gathering that he would be contesting for the speakership position, which looked almost a no-go-area for any of the aspiring lawmakers.

Tobun is one of the longest serving members of the assembly as he returns for the fourth term and for him, Obasa should not continue as the

speaker, having served two terms. Tobun's argument never worked because he did not have the support of the Governor's Advisory Council, GAC.

Having crushed Tobun, the former speaker Obasa drew a battle line against Hamzat but the deputy governor approached Governor's Advisory Council, urging

the elders to call the speaker to order over the use of derogatory words against the executive arm of the government.

Obasa is a member of GAC, according to a prominent member of the All Progressives Congress, Fouad Oki. He said that the speaker had been warned to stop running

down the executive arm but instead of him to listen, he refused. He said that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in his capacity as the father of all, also tried to resolve the crisis in the assembly but the sacked speaker was not ready for peace.

Obasa's cup was half-full during governor's Sanwo-Olu presentation of the 2025 appropriation bill to the house. The speaker kept the governor, the deputy and GAC members on seat for hours before appearing late at the chamber for the ceremony.

"That was when he shot himself down. The GAC members themselves were not happy with the behaviour. His conduct at the presentation confirmed the reports from Hamzat and Tobun about his highhandedness. They also watched Obasa's statement and listened to his speech with rapt attention," the source said.

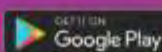
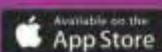


Hon. Mudashiru Obasa

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How Epe Powerbrokers Silenced Obasa

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In his speech, Obasa had emphasised on swiftness in the present political calculation ahead of 2027, describing it Yoruba language. "Eni bayara logun n gbe".

As he put it, "I have made it a personal task to mobilise people on the platform of Mandate, which has been misconstrued by some political detractors as being selfish aspiration on the ground for me to become governor of the state. There is the need, however, to correct this wrong impression. My concern is about building our party, and whatever we do is mainly for this cause.

Not hiding his governorship ambition even in the presence of GAC and the governor, Obasa described as blackmailers those on the

mission to distort and redefine his mission.

He said, "Let me state it unequivocally here, our intention is promote our party on the platform of Mandate. Also, becoming governor is secondary; it is something that I have not given a serious consideration. Nevertheless, that does not mean I am too young or lack experience to run; whereas, those who have been before me are not better of.

He continued, "it is also important to correct the impression from some naysayers who have been insinuating that I made payment to seek for blood relation in Ojoo to validate my candidacy to run as governor. Of course, I have never denied the fact that I am OBASA. But rather, I have never claimed to be related to Onikoyi, Oniru, or any of the other popular Lagos

families as the case may be. I can indeed never run from the fact that I am related to my Obasa family in Ojoo. But I do not need local validity to contest or run. If eventually I am contesting, I will do so from Agege!

After the budget presentation ceremony, GAC changed its position, having read in between the line, the plan of Obasa. It was gathered that they invited Obasa, Hamzat and a few strong members of the house, including Tobun but the former speaker was not around. He left the country.

At the meeting, Tobun presented various petitions sent by stakeholders over Obasa's alleged financial recklessness but instead of the former speaker to defend himself, he tagged the petitioners as

blackmailers.

The plot to impeach Obasa thickened and on Monday January 13, 2025, he was impeached by 34 out of the 40 members of the house.

Reacting to his impeachment, Tobun said members of the parliament in the state sacked Obasa to uphold the "sanctity" and "integrity" of the House. According to him, the decision to impeach Obasa was unanimously agreed by lawmakers in the 40-member Assembly.

"The Constitution makes it clear that the House has the powers to regulate its proceedings. So, the members of the House felt that they've had enough of the Rt Hon Mudashiru Obasa and we have unanimously agreed that Rt Hon Mojisola Meranda Lasbat become the new Speaker of the

House.

"So, it was a resolution concurred to by all members of the parliament and so be it. We cannot open our House and allow this parliament to dwindle. We owe our constituents a duty and we owe Lagos State a duty of ensuring that the sanctity of the House and the integrity of this House are restored." Obasa's deputy, Mojisola Lasbat Meranda, was immediately elected the new Speaker, becoming the first female to take charge of the legislative body in the South-West state.

Among the reasons for his impeachment include is the alleged N17bn gate scandal at the Lagos Assembly complex. While he denied the accusations, he never disclosed the actual cost of the controversial project. Critics

questioned the necessity of the gate, especially since the Assembly already had three gates. Allegations also surfaced about 200 million being spent on a thanksgiving event that never took place, further tarnishing his reputation.

Another offence is his attempt to abrogate 37 Local Council Development Areas in what many saw as a miscalculated political move,

Obasa was also accused of financial mismanagement involving 44 billion allocated for vehicles and capital projects over two years. This development has generated concerns and raised questions about transparency and accountability in the Assembly's financial operations from critics, including lawmakers and residents.



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Lagos Outsources Facility Management of Fire Service Buildings

In a significant move to enhance the operational efficiency and sustainability of the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service (LSFRS) facilities, the Lagos State Infrastructure Asset Management Agency (LASIAMA) has outsourced the maintenance of fire service buildings to Facility Management (FM) companies.

This marks the first time the state government will undertake such an

initiative on the maintenance of critical infrastructure, following substantial investments in retooling, upgrading, and renovating the facilities.

The Agency's General Manager, Ms. Adenike Adekanbi, during a Stakeholders' meeting held on Monday at the LSFRS conference room in Alausa, introduced SuperCleaning and Facility Management Company as the FM contracted for

maintaining the fire service headquarters in Alausa while Xtrostag Limited was also unveiled as the FM partner for the Mobolaji Johnson Fire Station.

Adekanbi, represented by Mr. Adekunle Adesanya, Head of LASIAMA's Facility Management Unit, stated that the decision to engage FM companies followed the approval of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu. She explained that the initiative would help

ensure proper maintenance and prolong the lifespan of the buildings.

"The Governor's approval last year marked the beginning of a new chapter in maintaining the critical infrastructure of our fire service," said Adesanya. "Today, we are introducing the facility managers and discussing the scope of work they will be responsible for", Adekanbi added.

The General Manager emphasised that the decision to outsource facility management was driven by the need for long-term sustainability of the buildings. She pointed out that the initiative is part of the administration's broader vision to upgrade public infrastructure, providing not only a conducive working environment for the Fire and Rescue Service but also a sustainable model for building maintenance.

In her words, "This is part

of our commitment to positioning the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service as a model firefighting organization, ensuring that it is well-equipped to handle emergencies effectively".

"Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration has made substantial investments in upgrading the state's fire services. The new outsourcing strategy is also expected to create additional job opportunities, as facility management companies take on the responsibility of maintaining the fire stations. This will not only ensure the proper upkeep of the infrastructure but also support the state's ongoing focus on job creation and economic growth", Adekanbi added.

Engr. Yemisi Aderibigbe, Head of the Project and Monitoring Unit at LASIAMA, outlined the comprehensive scope of work that the FM

companies would undertake. This includes electrical maintenance, routine upkeep of ventilation and air conditioning systems, plumbing and drainage maintenance, upkeep of water treatment plants, fire prevention systems, painting, cleaning, gardening, and landscaping, among others.

She explained that the outsourcing comes after the completion of major renovation and upgrades to fire stations across the state, including the headquarters of LSFRS in Alausa, which saw the construction of a new multi-story building in place of the old bungalow.

Other fire stations that will benefit from the new FM arrangements, according to her, include those in Mobolaji Johnson, Isolo, and Lekki Phase II.

The Engineer averred that the Agency always ensures that facilities are at least 80% efficient before being handed over to FM companies for maintenance, stressing that the proactive approach is expected to reduce the financial burden on the state while ensuring that the facilities remain in top condition.



LNSA, Police Arrest Six For Assaulting Employee

Following the viral post on social media concerning a lady assaulted by her employer, the officers of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency (LNSA) and men of the Nigeria Police have arrested six suspects connected to the incident.

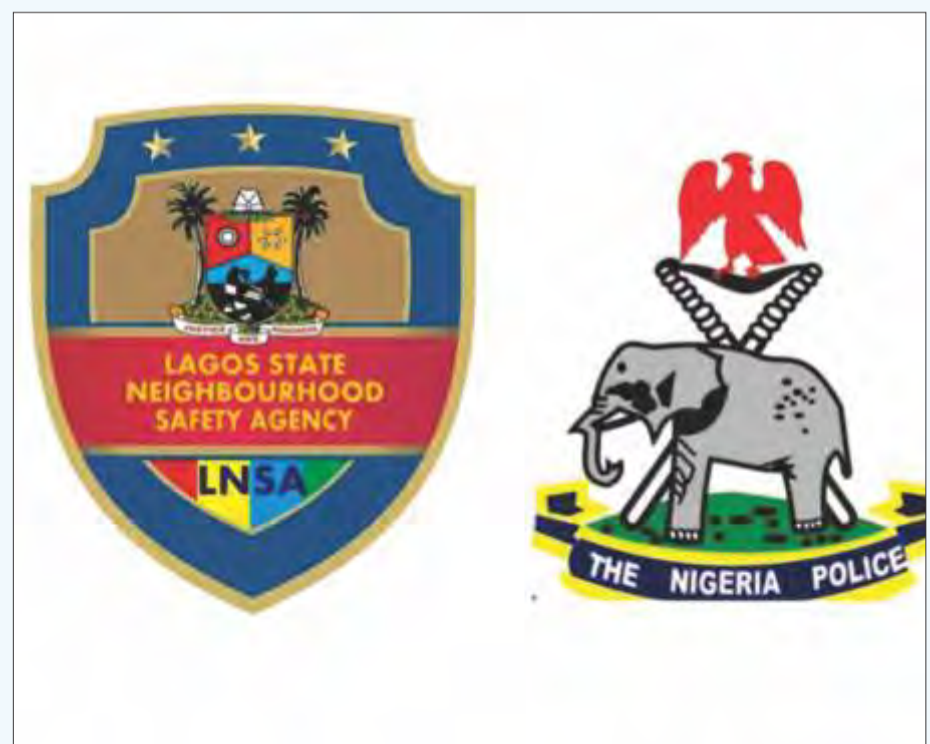
According to the viral post, the employee, a lady, who is a staff in a shop was seriously assaulted and injured by her boss and some of his staff for allegedly stealing from the shop.

In a swift response,

operatives of the LNSA, in collaboration with the Police commenced a preliminary investigation and surveillance into the incident which ultimately led to the arrest of six suspects, including the Employer of the Lady who led the assault on her. They were later handed over to the Lion Building Police Command for further investigation and possible prosecution.

Speaking on the development, the General Manager of the Lagos State

Neighborhood Safety Agency, Prince Dr Ifalade Oyekan warned citizens to stop taking laws into their own hands and allow the justice system to work. He said, "The Lagos Government has evolved a responsible and responsive judicial system that will assuage the desires of the citizens. The Government of Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has prioritised the security of lives and properties, and we should all let it work."



National Board For Technical Education Lauds LSEB Energy Academy



The National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) has lauded the Lagos State Electricity Board (LSEB) for the creation of the Lagos Energy Academy, noting that it will create more employability in the Energy sector. The NBTE made this known when it paid a courtesy visit to the Lagos State Electricity Board (LSEB) at its Old Works Yard facility, Old Secretariat Road, GRA, Ikeja. Dr. John Onyebuchi, the Deputy Director of the South West Zonal

Office, NBTE while emphasising the importance of skill acquisition and formal certification in empowering individuals and reducing unemployment, added that registering with NBTE would formalize and upgrade the Lagos Energy Academy (LEA), ensuring its graduates are better equipped for local and international opportunities. In his remarks, the General Manager, LSEB, Engr. K.A.T. Balogun noted that the academy aligns with Governor

Babajide Sanwo-Olu's THEMES Plus Agenda, which aims to transform Lagos into a 21st-century economy. "Our goal is to equip participants with globally competitive skills, making them employable not only in Lagos but internationally," he added. According to him, Skill acquisition has taken many people off the streets and the labour market. Lagos State is leading the charge in creating employment opportunities for its residents, irrespective of their

degrees or certifications. The event included a tour of the academy's facilities led by Engr. Balogun. The Lagos State Energy Academy, a key arm of the LSEB, focuses on training and developing skilled professionals in the electricity and energy sector. The NBTE's visit marks a significant step toward formalizing the academy's programmes and enhancing its impact on youth empowerment and employment creation in Lagos State

Y2025 Promotion Exercise: TESCOM Chairman Charges Eligible Officers on Good Conduct

The Chairman, Teaching Service Commission, accompanied by Board members and the Permanent Secretary of TESCOM paid a working visit to the venues of the Y2025 Promotion Exercise, Revised Structured Training Programme (RSTP) for Eligible Officers on Grade Levels 7-10, in the Lagos State Teaching Service Commission, held at Ikeja Senior Grammar School Bolade Oshodi and Government College Hall, Agege. During the visit, The Chairman, Mrs. Victoria Mopelola Peregrino charged eligible officers to be confident, diligent, proactive and passionate about the teaching profession. While wishing them success in the promotion exercise,

Peregrino urged them to pay attention to details and allow the knowledge gained from the training programme to reflect positively on their students. The Permanent Secretary, TESCOM, Mrs Adebopo Oyekan-Ismaila, who accompanied the Chairman wished all the eligible officers resounding success in the promotion exercise. While imploring the facilitators to give their best to the participants, the Permanent Secretary advised the eligible officers to be focused and set positive goals for themselves. The Reversed Structured Training Programme (RSTP) was held simultaneously in five different centres across the education



Lagos Partners SMEDAN On Data Collection

... Seeks Informal Sector Cooperation

The Lagos State Government, through the Lagos Bureau of Statistics (LBS) and in partnership with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), has called for the cooperation of the informal sector in providing factual data that would mirror the true Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the state.

The call was made at a two-day Stakeholders' Forum with the Informal Sector on the performance of Economic Data in Lagos, organised by the Lagos Bureau of Statistics, under the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget held recently at LCCL, Ikeja,

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, Mrs. Olayinka Modupe Ojo, in her remarks, said the informal sector has been playing an integral role in the economy with the provision of livelihoods for many, thereby adding to the GDP but has not been well captured in the computation.

Her words, "The informal sector plays a critical role in our economy, providing livelihoods for millions and contributing substantially to GDP. It is a sector marked by resilience, ingenuity, and adaptability, often thriving even under challenging

circumstances.

"Despite its undeniable importance, the informal sector remains underrepresented in economic data and planning, limiting its potential for growth and integration into the broader economic framework", she added.

According to her, capturing accurate data on the informal sector has been a persistent challenge because of the diverse, decentralized, and often undocumented nature of the sector,

stating that the forum provides a unique opportunity to address the gap by engaging stakeholders from across the spectrum - government, academia, civil society, and the informal sector itself.

Dr. Olubunmi Kole-Dawodu, the Lagos State Manager, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), in his paper presentation, said lots of affairs occur in the informal sector that could enhance the economic progression

of the State, urging the government to harness the full opportunities in the sector.

He said, "We know that a lot of activities run within that sector, a lot of value including employment creation, revenue generation, income generation for their employees and all that. We want to harness all the blessings that come with that sector. This is a whole sector that the government has not been looking at completely.

"The number of

informal businesses in Lagos alone is above 50 million which means that some people run two or three businesses informally. Some are not registered officially, some do not have tax identification numbers, and so whatever they do is just informal or semi-formal in some cases".

Kole-Dawodu added that the informal sector faces challenges like 'lack of formal recognition and limited access to resources' as a result of inaccurate data on the sector,

therefore, the event provides an avenue to call on the government to cater for intervention for the sector.

A Retired Director at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Chief Emeka Ofili said, "The entire economy is made up of both the formal and informal sector. However, the GDP that is being compiled is significantly from the formal sector. While the informal sector, which contributes a substantial part of it, is not being covered".

The Ex-Bureau Chief noted that Lagos State will show the correct size of its economy with this giant step to incorporate the informal sector data into the computation of the State's GDP.



Lagos Set To Integrate “Korope, Danfo” On Lekki-Ajah Corridor

The Lagos State Government has reiterated its readiness to integrate mini and midi buses, popularly known as Korope and Danfo, operating along the Lekki-Ajah axis into the State's Bus Reform Initiative. The Special Adviser to the Governor on Transportation, Hon. Sola Giwa, disclosed this on Wednesday during a meeting with relevant stakeholders in Alausa. He explained that the project is in its planning phase and will commence once all arrangements are finalized.

Reviewing the progress made so far, Hon. Giwa revealed that the documentation process for bus operators interested in the scheme is ongoing, with 10 operators having submitted letters of intent to the Ministry of Transportation of which six have already been confirmed. He further stated that all participating buses will undergo physical verification by the Vehicle Inspection Service (VIS) and Motor Vehicle Administration Agency (MVAA) to ensure their

roadworthiness and proper documentation, adding that once verified, the buses will be branded in the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) colours and will be equipped with validators. Hon. Giwa noted that a framework is being developed to integrate union dues deductions into the e-ticketing system, while also addressing the activities of hoodlums who extort transporters along the axis, stressing that the initiative will be test-run for three months before full

enforcement. He emphasised that once the programme is implemented, minibuses (Korope) will no longer be allowed to operate along the Lekki-Ajah expressway but will be deployed to inner routes and communities. Present at the meeting were the Permanent Secretary of MVAA Mr. Rasheed Muri-Okunola; General Manager of LASTMA, Mr. Olalekan Bakare-Oki, Representatives from LAMATA, LASDRI, VIS, and Directors from MOT amongst others.

Youth Empowerment: Lagos Inaugurates Eko Digital Training In Badagry, Yaba



The Lagos State Government, through the Ministry of Tertiary Education, has announced the commencement of the Eko Digital training programme in Badagry and Yaba as part of its efforts to promote education and entrepreneurial skills development among youth in the State.

The training, which will take place from 20th to 24th June, 2025, at the Public Library in Badagry and Yaba respectively, aims to provide participants with access to digital and entrepreneurial skills, emotional and artificial intelligence, as well as high-quality education and training.

Addressing journalists in Lagos on Monday, the Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Hon. Tolani Sule said the state government is committed to maintaining excellence in all tertiary institutions, and this digital and entrepreneurial skills training is a testament to her commitment. The training will offer a range of programmes and courses designed to equip youth with the skills and knowledge required

to succeed in their chosen fields.

The Badagry and Yaba training centres will provide students with access to state-of-the-art facilities, experienced instructors, and a supportive learning environment, enabling them to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to compete in today's fast-paced world.

He said the Lagos State Government believes that investing in education and skills development is crucial to creating a more prosperous and competitive economy and improving the quality of life for youth and residents in general.

The Ministry of Tertiary Education, therefore, invites the youth of Badagry and Yaba to take advantage of this opportunity and participate in the programmes and courses on offer free of charge.

This training is a continuation of the Eko Digital skills training which took place at the Public Library, Agege, four weeks ago and part of the state government's efforts to make Lagos a hub for educational excellence.



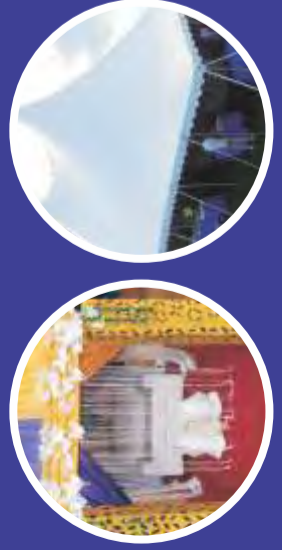


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Commissioner Charges Newly Recruited Town Planners on Dedication

The Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Oluyinka Olumide has charged newly recruited Town Planners in Lagos State Public Service to be dedicated and upright in discharging their duties to the state. The Commissioner made this call on Monday during the induction ceremony of the newly recruited officers at the Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Authority (LASPPPA) Headquarters, First Secretariat, Ikeja. He enjoined the officers to get acquainted with the focus of the State Government and the

mandate of the Ministry and apply themselves to the service of the state while ensuring diligent and lawful conduct at all times. "You should make the Lagos State Government that has given you this rare opportunity to serve proud by being good ambassadors and representing her well before the people whom you are to serve. You should take your time to learn, understand, and apply the rules and regulations as well as the noble culture of the Lagos State Public Service," he said. Counselling further, the Commissioner urged the new officers to be

resilient, punctual, time conscious, and respectful as these are qualities of highflyers in the system. The Permanent Secretary, Office of Physical Planning, Engr Olumide Sotire, urged the new officers to be prepared for the familiarisation tour of the ministry's departments and agencies to familiarise themselves with the workings of the ministry and be in good stead to give their best to the Lagos State Service. He advised them to be calm and attentive and be ready to deliver at any given time while the General Manager, Lagos State Planning and Environmental

Monitoring Authority, Tpl. Daisi Oso spoke on the need to dress and comport themselves well as representatives of the State Government. The General Manager,

Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Authority, LASPPPA, Tpl. Kehinde Osinaike called for a prompt and accurate report of observations on the field as he urged the

new officers to embrace technology and shun all forms of compromise in the discharge of their responsibilities. Also, at the event were directors in the Ministry and its Agencies.



The Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary, Education District II, Mrs. Anike Adekanye has celebrated the winners of the Year 2024 Insurance quiz competition organised by the Nigeria Council of Registered Insurance Broker (NCRIB), Lagos Area Committee. The celebration, which took place recently at the District Headquarters, Maryland, according to the TG/PS, was to further encourage the students to continue in their quest for higher successes and also, to inspire others to emulate such prowess. "We will always celebrate the excellence and great achievement of our students in Education District II. This, I believe, will be a source of encouragement and motivation for both winners and other students to continue to strive harder in their educational pursuit and improve their

TG/PS, Education District II Celebrates Winners of Insurance Quiz Competition

performances", she said. The TG/PS further expressed satisfaction at the way the organisers conducted the competition and also commended their

contributions and collaboration with the State Government in the development of education in Lagos State. 12 Schools from across the six Education

Districts participated in the grand finals of the competition, which had Eva Adelaja Senior Girls' Grammar School and Government Senior Model College, Ikorodu,

both in Education District II, claiming the first and third positions, respectively. Adekanye applauded the education policies of Governor Babajide

Olusola Sanwo-Olu, which gave room for Public Private Partnership in moving education to greater heights, while commending the Great support of the Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadiri Obafemi Hazmat, the Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Jamiu Tolani Ali-Balogun and other stakeholders. The Chairman of the NCRIB, Lagos Area Committee, Mr. Ademola Olutusin, remarked that this year's competition was the second edition and was designed to promote insurance awareness and education among Lagos State Students aimed at encouraging them to pursue a career in Insurance in future.



KNOW YOUR LAWMAKER

Focus: Honourable Mojeed Fatai

Honourable Mojeed Fatai is the newly appointed Deputy Speaker at the Lagos State House of Assembly to replace Mojisola Meranda who has taken the position of the Presiding Speaker.

He represents Ibeju-Lekki Constituency 01 and also doubles as the Vice Chairman, Committee of House Services at the Assembly.

The lawmaker was born on February 20th, 1973. He attended Roman Catholic Mission School, Bogije in Ibeju-Lekki spanning through at the school. He proceeded to Iwerekun Community High School in Lakowe area, Ibeju-Lekki from years 1985-1991.

His tertiary institutional education began in 1998 to 2001 at Kwara State Polytechnic where he obtained a Higher National Diploma in Accounting. He also bagged a Masters' in Business Administration from Ladoké Akintola University of Technology in 2013.

The parliamentarian is a member of several professional bodies such as; The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria,



Honourable Mojeed Fatai

ICAN, and Chartered Institute of Management Accounts of Nigeria,
POLITICAL JOURNEY

Prior to being a lawmaker at the Lagos Assembly, Fatai was a Supervisor for works at Ibeju-Lekki Local

Government in the years of 2003 to 2007. He also served as a Secretary to the council from 2008 to 2010.

He won a seat at the Assembly contested and won in the 2011 House of Assembly election.

Police Arraign Man For Possession of Fake Dollar Notes

By Felix Kuyinu

One Idowu Ajewole has been held for trial for allegedly possessing fake dollar notes.

Ajewole, is facing prosecution on a two-count charge of conspiracy and possession of fake currency.

At the Ikeja Magistrates' Court, the 48-year-old defendant was said to have committed the offence on December 17, 2024, at Ijilshaga area, Lagos.

According to the Prosecutor, Inspector



John Iberedem, the defendant was in possession of 17

pieces of \$100 fake bank notes. Iberedem added that

Ajewole used the unsuspecting forged notes to persons, hence, defrauding contravening the

provisions of Section 370 and 411 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. According to reports, Section 370 stipulates seven years imprisonment as punishment for perpetrators of the unlawful act.

The defendant, however, pleaded not guilty.

The Presiding Magistrate, Lateef Owolabi, granted the suspect bail in the sum of N100,000 with two sureties in like sum.

The matter is to be revisited in court on January 24.

Man On Trial For Allegedly Raping Daughter

By Felix Kuyinu



The Badagry Magistrates' Court is prosecuting a man,

Patrick Onyegbule, over accusations of raping his daughter. Onyegbule, 41, is on

trial on a two-count charge bordering on defilement and unlawful penetration.

At the court, Police Prosecutor, Inspector Ayodele Adeosun, said that

the litigant committed the offence between August and November 2024 at Shapview Plaza, Alaba International Market in Ojo, Lagos.

Ayodele also mentioned that the suspect and his wife had an altercation which led to the wife separating from him, leaving the survivor, a toddler with him.

"The defendant sexually assaulted the infant," the prosecutor submitted.

"He had issue with his wife which made the wife to pack out of her matrimonial home leaving her daughter behind.

"It was during her visit that she discovered

that her daughter had been defiled.

"The offence contravenes the provisions of sections 137 and 261 of the Criminal Code, Law of Lagos State, 2015."

The suspect pleaded not guilty.

The Court Magistrate, Patrick Adekomaiya, granted the defendant bail in the sum of N500,000 with two sureties in like sum.

Adekomaiya ordered that the sureties must reside within the court's jurisdiction and must also be gainfully employed.

He adjourned the case till March 5.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT: Lagos Judiciary Trains Magistrates, Registrars, Sheriffs

In a step toward enhancing access to justice, the Lagos State Judiciary recently convened a one-day training workshop for Magistrates, Registrars, and Sheriffs.

The workshop focused on the operations, history, and purpose of the Small Claims Court while emphasizing the recently amended Magistrates' Practice Direction of 2023.

The Honourable Chief Judge of Lagos State, Hon. Justice Kazeem Alogba noted the critical role of the Small Claims Court in ensuring affordable, efficient, and accessible dispute

resolution, particularly for individuals and small businesses handling minor monetary claims.

Alogba, who was represented by Hon. Justice Yetunde Adesanya, revealed that the concept of Small Claims Courts dates back to the early 20th century when Harvard Law School Dean, Roscoe Pound championed the idea of a "People's Court" to address the complexities and high costs of traditional legal processes, prohibitive costs or administrative burdens, especially in a small financial



dispute.

The Hon. Chief Justice revealed that the success of the Small Claims Court in the US was what made several African nations like South Africa, Kenya, Rwanda, Togo, and

Nigeria adopt the practice.

Alogba further informed that the Small Claims Court provides an accessible forum where parties can resolve disputes

without the need for costly legal representation or the delays often associated with conventional court proceedings.

The legal luminary said that in Lagos State, the

establishment of the Small Claims Court reflects a commitment to modernising the judicial system and addressing the unique needs of its population. The workshop explored how the court has simplified the resolution of minor monetary disputes, ensuring that justice is available and affordable to all.

Furthermore, he made it known that the initiative underscores the Lagos State Judiciary's dedication to innovation and inclusivity in its legal processes by empowering judicial officers with the knowledge and skills needed to operate the Small Claims Court effectively.

An Arabic teacher has been

sentenced to prison for sexually assaulting a 13-year-old female pupil in Lagos.

Justice Rahman Oshodi, at the Ikeja Special Offences Court, sentenced the jailer, Oladosu Sakiru, following his guilty plea to the amended two counts of attempted sexual assault by penetration and indecent treatment of a child. Oshodi said that the prosecution submitted cogent evidences which proved that the offender perpetuated the unlawful act. He added that the transgressor breached

Arabic Teacher Jailed For Raping 13-Year-Old Pupil

By Felix Kuyinu

the trust the parents of the survivor had in him by enrolling their child in the Islamic school.

The judge also added that the evidence tendered deduced a pattern of predatory behaviour as the convict subjected the survivor to inappropriate touching and forced himself on the minor. "When you {Sakiru} were confronted with your action, you sought refuge in the

often-repeated phrase, "It was the work of the devil", Justice Oshodi told the offender. He continued: "As an Imam and an Arabic school teacher, you occupy a position of significant trust, that trust extended not only to the 13-year-old child, the one you victimised but also to her parents and the entire community who look to you for spiritual and moral guidance.

"You betrayed this trust in the most deplorable manner."

Having listened to the judge's expression, the defence counsel, Nelson Onyejaka, prayed the court to temper justice with mercy, stating that Sakiru was a first-time offender and had two wives to take care of.

Onyejaka prayed to the court for leniency in sentencing his client.

However, the state prosecution counsel, Bukola

Okeowo, prayed the court to sentence the convict accordingly.

Okeowo, informed that the convict committed the offences between February and March 2022 at Odusanmi Street, Mushin, Lagos. The prosecutor held that the convict initially pleaded not guilty when he was arraigned on March 17, 2023. However, on September 6, 2024, he opted for a plea bargain which necessitated the amended charge. The prosecution called two witnesses (the survivor and her father) through whom compelling evidence

was given against the jailer.

Okeowo further disclosed that the the offences committed violated Sections 135 and 262 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2015.

Justice Oshodi sentenced Sakiru to 14 years imprisonment on count one and seven years jail term on count two.

He held that the jail terms should run consecutively and that the convict's name should be registered in the Lagos State Sexual Offences Register.

EPWA Congratulates Newly Deputy Speaker Of Lagos

By Mohammed Adekola

Epe Division Professional Women Association (EPWA), extends heartfelt

congratulations to Hon. Fatai Mojeed on his incredible emergence as the newly elected Deputy

Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly.

In a statement on behalf of the board of

trustees, executive committee, and members of the association, EPWA celebrates this monumental achievement, describing it as a milestone of immense significance for Ibeju-Lekki Constituency I, the Epe Division, and Lagos State as a whole.

Recognizing the pivotal role of lawmakers in driving social, economic, and political development, EPWA hailed Hon. Fatai's promotion to this critical leadership position as a beacon of hope for

transformative progress.

"Hon. Fatai's brilliance, bravery, and wealth of experience have made him a highly cerebral goal-getter and a steadfast advocate for development. His journey to this principal office is a testament to his dedication, resilience, and commitment to public service," Mrs. Oluyemi-Johnson stated.

As a body committed to the advancement of the Epe Division, EPWA expressed confidence in Hon. Fatai's ability to bring about more developmental strides that will uplift the lives of Ibeju-Lekki constituents and

contribute significantly to Lagos State's prosperity.

The association offered a heartfelt prayer for the Deputy Speaker, saying: "May God guide Hon. Fatai Mojeed in wisdom, courage, and integrity as he steers the legislative agenda for the good of Lagos State. May his tenure be marked by impactful achievements and lasting legacies."

EPWA urged all stakeholders and residents of Lagos State to support Hon. Fatai in his new role, emphasizing the collective responsibility of ensuring a brighter and more prosperous future for all.



Raji Tasks Livestock Minister to Address Farmers-Herders Clashes

By Mohammed Adekola

Federal lawmaker, Hon. Wale Raji has urged the Minister of Livestock Development, Idi Muktar, to leverage the newly created ministry to address the persistent clashes between farmers and herders across Nigeria.

Wale Raji, representing Epe Federal Constituency and Co-chairman of the Joint Committee, stressed the need for increased funding to enable the ministry to achieve its mandate in line with the

Federal Government's renewed focus on the livestock sector.

"It is critical that the ministry receives adequate financial backing to tackle pressing challenges in the sector. Advocacy and public awareness campaigns are equally important to broaden understanding that livestock development is not limited to cattle but includes other areas such as poultry, piggery, and sheep and goat

production," Raji said.

Chairman of the Joint Committee, Senator Musa Mustapha, highlighted the need for the ministry to prioritize value chain development, infrastructure, climate resilience, and women and youth empowerment as part of its agenda.

Wale Raji, called for an awareness campaign on the benefits of ranching to address misconceptions. He emphasized that ranching is a viable solution to the frequent clashes between farmers and herders.

In his budget presentation, Minister Muktar revealed a 10 billion allocation for

capital expenditures and 1.8 billion for overheads, with projects distributed across Nigeria's six

geopolitical zones to provide essential infrastructure for animal husbandry. He also disclosed that President Bola Tinubu had directed the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike, to rehabilitate and furnish a ministry complex to ensure smooth operations.

Epe Lawmaker reiterates his expectations for the ministry to serve as a catalyst for economic growth while fostering peace and stability in rural communities.



Driver, Two Others Escape Death As Tanker Explodes In Epe

By Mohammed Adekola

Three persons escaped death when fuel tanker exploded in Epe-Ijebu Ode expressway.

The explosion resulted in confusion in the locality as nearby passers-by scampered for safety. The fuel tanker explosion occurred on the Lagos State end of the road.

Two persons including the truck



driver were reported to have escaped from the ill-fated tanker before exploding on the road.

Emergency reports indicate that at least two individuals, including the tanker driver, narrowly escaped before the vehicle burst into flames around 4 p.m. The tanker was reportedly transporting fuel out of Lagos when the explosion occurred.

The incident forced motorists to seek alternative routes, leading to traffic congestion along the expressway.

Margaret Adeseye, Director of the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service, confirmed the explosion and reassured the public that swift measures were underway to control the blaze and prevent further damage.

Epe Attracts Over 100 Local, Foreign Tourists in 2024

By Mohammed Adekola

A tourism expert, Mr Sultan Teslim, said that more than 100 local and foreign tourists visited Epe for sightseeing in 2024. Teslim disclosed this in an interview with Newsmen in Epe. Teslim, who is also the Managing Director of Teslim Adventure, stated that the influx of tourists was driven by the town's rich history and cultural heritage. The heritage, he said, included the famous Epe Fish Market and the over 400-year-old sacred Iroko tree located in Ibonwon village in the Epe Division.

According to Teslim, the tourists, both local and

international, visited various ancient communities in Epe Division from January to December 2024.

"The tourists came in large numbers from far and near. The community benefits from their visits through their purchases of arts and crafts, lodging in hotels, care hire, and local food consumption among others. "Some tourists stay between three to five days, they spend millions exploring the Epe Division and discovering its unique offerings.

"They eat the local delicacies, utilised car hire services, enjoyed the hospitality treats, and expressed great

satisfaction with the tourism destinations they visited," he said.

He noted that some tourists raised concerns about the condition of the tourism sites, urging the Lagos State government to upgrade the facilities to international standards.

He listed the prominent attractions

visited by tourists, The sacred Iroko tree in Ibonwon, Epe Fish Market, Odoragushin Waterfall, The Film House at Ilara, The three sacred trees in Ibeju, Omu Resort in Ibeju in Bogije, Lekki Free Trade Zone, Dangote Refinery, Ejirin Market, The first Post Office in Nigeria, located in Ejirin in Epe Division, Waterfronts, and

aquatic splendor experiences.

They also visited, Traditional rulers' palaces, and the mangrove forests along the waterside in Epe.

Teslim said there was a need for increased government investment in the tourism sector to boost earnings and enhance visitors' experience. There are untapped opportunities in the tourism sector that need to be harnessed.

If the government can upgrade the existing heritage sites and tourism edifices to modern standards, It will attract even more local and international tourists, thereby significantly boosting Internally Generated Revenue of the area," he said. He noted that the government could explore public-private partnerships to develop and maintain tourism sites across the state. The Managing Director of Teslim Adventure unveiled his company's plans to collaborate with local government and local council development area chairmen to develop, explore, and maximize the tourism potentials of Epe Division for revenue generation.



Epe Local Government Area of Lagos State

Crisscrossing bamboo poles combine with woven raffia mats to form this pavilion built by architecture studio HTL Africa in Lagos, Nigeria.

Site Office was installed at the Ecobank Pan African Centre on Victoria Island for the inaugural Ecobank Design and Build Expo back in November, but will now serve as a community reading room.

HTL Africa – a studio with offices in Lagos and Dubai – designed the structure to highlight the greater potential of a common material in Nigerian construction.

Bamboo scaffolding is typically used on small-scale construction projects in the country, particularly in rural areas, but often discarded after use.

The studio's ambition

HTL Africa Installs Bamboo Scaffolding In Lagos

By Mohammed Adekola

was to reimagine bamboo, "the unsung hero of African construction", as a "sustainable and innovative architectural element".

"We wanted to highlight bamboo scaffolding's quiet yet vital contribution to modern architecture," said architect James Inedu-George, founder and head of design at HTL Africa.

The pavilion suggests how bamboo could be used to create structures that are built to last rather than disposed of.

Bamboo rods were pinned and tied together to create an imposing three-dimensional lattice.

Inedu-George hoped to change perceptions of bamboo to be "both a historical artefact and a symbol of sustainable innovation", creating a space that felt "both ancient and futuristic".

It follows other examples of Nigerian architects and designers exploring new uses for bamboo, from Nifemi Marcus-Bello's Waf Kiosk to Kunlé Adeyemi's Floating School.

"The project aims to inspire reflection on how traditional materials can inform contemporary practices, making a case for sustainability in architecture that is both functional and beautiful," said Inedu-George.



IKORODU

Egbin Power Plc Empowers 190 Ijede Residents

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Egbin Power PLC, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, empowered 190 residents of Ijede over the weekend, disbursing funds from the first batch of its N30 million 2024 Empowerment Programme.

The initiative aims to support economic development within its host communities by providing financial assistance to petty traders, widows, fishermen, artisans, elderly persons, and youths.

The disbursement ceremony, held at D'jos Hotel, Ijede, was attended by prominent community leaders

and stakeholders, including Mr. Bayo Daudu, representing Egbin Power PLC; Hon. Motunrayo Gbadebo-Alogba, Chairman, Ijede LCDA; High Chief Allu Musediq, Regent/Olisa of Ijede; High Chief

Babatunde Ogunmuyiwa, Odofin of Ijede; High Chief Adedayo Aba Ajanaku, Otunba Alajede; High Chief Rasaan Oyebanj, Aro of Ijede; Sheikh Fadhila Sulaimon, Chief Imam, Ijede LCDA; Revd. Kolawole Peters, Chairman, CAN, Ijede LCDA; and

Hon. (Alhaja) Kehinde, CDC Chairman, Ijede LCDA.

Speaking at the event, High Chief Babatunde Ogunmuyiwa, Odofin of Ijede and Chairman of the Alajede Powerlift Empowerment Committee, clarified

misconceptions regarding the funds' release. According to him, the empowerment funds for the 2024 programme were released by Egbin Power PLC in November 2023, contrary to rumors that the funds had been misappropriated since 2021.

"We are here today to actualize what began in 2021, when rumors circulated that traditional chiefs had collected and shared the N30 million.

This caused significant unrest within the community," Ogunmuyiwa stated.

He explained that the unrest prompted protests to NEPA, leading to discussions with Alhaji Tope Sonubi, Mr. Tola Adeshina, and other

representatives of Sahara Group, who reassured the community of their commitment to fulfilling the pledge.

The empowerment programme is expected to significantly boost the local economy and improve the livelihoods of beneficiaries, strengthening ties between Egbin Power PLC and its host community.

Community members expressed gratitude to the company for the initiative, with many emphasizing its positive impact on their businesses and families. The event reinforced Egbin Power PLC's dedication to fostering sustainable development in Ijede and beyond.



Relief in Oshodi Isolo as LG Boss Delivers Over 30 Boreholes

Kehinde Adeleye

In a significant stride towards addressing the chronic water challenges faced by residents of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area, Chairman Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede has successfully delivered 31 boreholes across the council area.

Echonews reports that this initiative forms part of his steadfast commitment to enhancing the quality of life for residents and fulfilling his electoral promises.

The boreholes have been strategically constructed in various streets and wards, providing residents with much-needed access to clean and potable water. This development has brought significant relief to the community, as it addresses a pressing need for improved water infrastructure. Below are the locations of the completed projects: Aremu Olatunbosun Street, Adisatu Street, Fagbola



Street, Mosaku Street, Old Ewu Road, Oluyeye Street, Aduke Thomas Street, New State Primary School, Araromi Street, Shogunle, Ajibulu Primary Health Center, Hassan Street, Dipeolu Street, Fabukade Street,

Shogunle, Mukandasi Street, Boladale Street, Folorunsho Street, Ariori Street, Alade Street, Rafiu Credence, Omilade, Alimioke, Olori, Sadiku, Oyetayo, Adeyemi, Raji Abayomi, Raji Abayomi 2,

Yinusa, Dosunmu, Ajisegiri, Ogunwemimo. Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede's relentless dedication to service delivery, community development, and the welfare of

Oshodi-Isolo residents is undeniably evident through the successful implementation of 31 boreholes and the ongoing plans for additional water projects. These initiatives

have directly addressed the water supply challenges faced by the community, providing much-needed relief and resources. The LG administration urges residents to utilize these valuable facilities responsibly and offer their continued support.

Bigfoot Cares Boosts Isolo LCDA's Healthcare Sector

Kehinde Adeleye

Bigfoot Cares a Non Governmental Organization has complimented the effort of Isolo Local Council Development Area by supporting and donating hospital equipment to Ilasama primary health care center. The NGO donated essential hospital equipment, demonstrating their commitment to

improving healthcare services in the community.

Isolo LCDA Chairman Olasaju Adebayo, along with other officials, warmly welcomed the visiting NGO and expressed gratitude for their charitable contribution. He noted that the donation would significantly enhance ongoing efforts to elevate the 24/7 operational healthcare facility to the standard of a 21st-century primary healthcare centre.

Commending the founder of Bigfoot Cares, Mr. Babatunde Adu, for his dedication to giving back to society, Olasaju emphasized the importance of partnerships between government and well-meaning individuals in making a positive impact on people's lives.

He reaffirmed his administration's tireless efforts across various areas of governance, pledging not to rest until the #IsoloOfOurDreams

vision is fully realized for the benefit of all residents.

"This is a laudable initiative that we are proud to benefit from. We are pleased that Bigfoots Cares found Isolo LCDA worthy of this gesture owing to the importance we place on the healthcare of our constituents. We can assure you that this equipment will be put to effective usage and we will

sustain our programs and activities aimed at making life more abundant for the good people of Isolo LCDA. Thank you so much," Olasaju said.

On his part, Adu who doubles as the CEO of Bigfoot Homes Ltd hinted that his NGO has more in store to give to Isolo community as he expressed his delight to have contributed to the healthcare system. "Isolo means a lot to

me and this donation is part of our ongoing projects aimed at affecting life positively. It feels good to have supported the government. This is what we do. This is what we stand for. We can't leave everything to the government, as citizens we need to step in as well. We are working on youth empowerment and Isolo should expect more," Adu said.

The equipment donated included a delivery bed, an episiotomy set and oxygen gauge, and drip stands among others.



Adegoke Free JAMB Form Births Five LASU Students

Kehinde Adeleye

The free JAMB Form by Mr. Adegoke Waheed Lawal in Ward A of the Orile Agege has given birth to newly five admitted students to the Lagos state university.

Lawal who has been demonstrating his unwavering commitment to the development and empowerment of Orile-Agege's youth, is a young politician and philanthropist and has recently extended a helping hand to students and senior citizens.

Known affectionately as #GOKS, Lawal presented 13 free JAMB UTME forms to



resident students and sought assistance from OKO-OBA ELITE FORUM members to facilitate the application process. Lawal emphasized the importance of giving back to the community that has

played a significant role in shaping his life, stating, "This is not the first time I will be donating Free JAMB Forms to students resident in the community that produced me. I think it's also my responsibility to give

back to such community." In addition to providing the JAMB forms, Lawal also arranged for a commuter bus to transport the students to Alufem Edu LTD's Ijaiye

office for capturing, further demonstrating his dedication to supporting the educational aspirations of Orile-Agege's youth. He continued "Following up on the progress of the JAMB beneficiaries, it is

heartening to learn that five out of the 15 students who selected Lagos State University (LASU) as their first choice have successfully gained admission into their preferred courses".

This achievement is particularly noteworthy considering the stringent admission process at LASU this year.

With their admission requirements now complete, all five students have embarked on their academic journey this January 2025, marking an exciting new chapter in their lives Adegoke said.

Agege LG Establishes CBT Centre

Kehinde Adeleye

Agege Local Government has made history by becoming the first local government in Nigeria to establish a Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) Accredited Computer-Based Test (CBT) Centre.

Echoneews reports that this pioneering feat is attributed to the visionary leadership of Mr. Ganiyu Kola Egunjobi, the Chairman of Agege Local Government. The CBT centre

stands as a testament to Egunjobi's dedication to education and youth development, providing convenient access to JAMB registration and examination services since last year.

This facility, being one of only three approved JAMB CBT centres in Agege, saves students the inconvenience of traveling to distant locations.

High Chief Egunjobi's administration has demonstrated a steadfast focus on improving education

and creating opportunities for youth development in Agege Local Government. The CBT centre is a substantial investment in the future of Agege's youth, equipping them with access to modern technology and resources that will enrich their educational experience.

In addition to the CBT centre, Egunjobi has also founded an e-library in Agege Local Government, further exemplifying his commitment to education and youth

development. These progressive initiatives have

propelled Agege Local Government to the forefront of

educational innovation and distinction.



Odunmbaku Inspects Road and Drainage Projects in Aguda

Kehinde Adeleye



In line with the Infrastructural Development pillar of the Olusegun Odunmbaku H.E.Y.S Agenda, the

Chairman of Ojodu LCDA, Lagos State, Mr. Segun Odunmbaku, recently conducted an inspection of the ongoing road and

drainage construction at Ahmudatu Street in Ward B, Aguda. The project, designed to enhance accessibility, mitigate flooding, and improve

the quality of life for residents, reflects the administration's commitment to addressing critical infrastructural needs in the area. The inspection, which involved a thorough assessment of the construction site, allowed the Chairman to evaluate the progress of the project and engage with the contractors to ensure adherence to the set timeline and standards. Echonews reports that The hands-on approach has been

a hallmark of Odunmbaku's leadership, emphasizing transparency and accountability in project implementation. Mr. Odunmbaku alongside the SLG, Mr. Olaide John Bello, Mr Lekan Peters, Mr Kazeem Iyanda with S.A on Youth and Sports, Mr. Femi Fadeyi emphasized the administration's commitment to delivering durable and timely projects, noting that such initiatives drive sustainable development and economic growth. The entourage, which also had APC Ojodu

LCDA Vice Chairman, Hon Gbemi Ololade and Ward B Chairperson, Mrs Soremekun, also inspected road rehabilitation project by the LSPWC starting from the County Gate through Tunde Gabby Street to Oluyemi Erinosh Street and Osaye Junction behind County Hospital, Aguda, underscoring the administration's effective collaboration with the State Government and engagement with community stakeholders for the betterment of Ojodu LCDA.

KOSOFE

Kosofe LG Celebrates Retirees

Kehinde Adeleye

In a remarkable display of leadership and camaraderie, the Chairman of Kosofe Local Government, Mr Moyosore Adedoyin Ogunlewe, hosted a dual celebration at the Council premises. The event commemorated the retirement of 2024 staff members and welcomed the new year with a thanksgiving ceremony. During the gathering, Ogunlewe shared three key commitments for



2025, which included enhanced

capacity building, improved community

engagement, and increased

technological integration in service delivery. These priorities align with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's revolutionary policies and Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's THEMES+ Agenda. The highlight of the event was the presentation of an Award of Recognition to the Chairman by the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) in recognition of his exceptional contributions to staff welfare. Ogunlewe's efforts have distinguished him as the most friendly

Chairman in Lagos State. The Chairman took the opportunity to praise the retiring staff for their unwavering dedication to public service, referring to them as "pillars upon which the progress of this local government has rested." The event was well-attended by Executive Council members, Legislative Council members, council staff, and friends of Kosofe Local Government, all of whom came together to celebrate the retirees and embrace the new year with hope and optimism.

Hon. Wasiu Adesina Gifts SUV to Ayangburen of Ikorodu

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Hon. Wasiu Adesina, on Monday, presented a brand-new Toyota Highlander SUV to His Royal Majesty, Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi, the Ayangburen of Ikorodu Kingdom, in a symbolic gesture of support for traditional institutions.



The presentation ceremony, held at the Ayangburen Palace, was graced by notable dignitaries, including council management staff, Councillors, Supervisory Councilors, Party Stewards, and members of the

WADESH Babes group.

In his address, Hon. Adesina reaffirmed his administration's commitment to upholding and empowering traditional leadership, emphasizing its

pivotal role in cultural preservation and community development. He described the gesture as part of his statutory responsibility, aimed at enhancing the palace's operational efficiency.

"Traditional institutions

are the custodians of our cultural heritage, and their support is critical to fostering unity and progress in Ikorodu," Adesina said.

He further expressed gratitude to the monarch, his

cabinet, and key political figures, highlighting the reconciliatory efforts of Bashorun Babatunde Rotinwa, former Chairman of the Lagos State Civil Service Commission, and Alhaji Amid Adekunle Oduborisa.

The duo was instrumental in resolving past disputes between the local government and the royal palace.

The SUV's ribbon was officially cut by Bashorun Rotinwa, who commended Hon. Adesina's inclusive leadership and dedication to Ikorodu's growth. He described the gesture as a testament to the

chairman's visionary governance.

Chief Saliu Awolesi (Akpesi), representing Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi, received the vehicle on behalf of the monarch. He lauded the council chairman's efforts, offering prayers for continued progress and prosperity under his administration.

The event concluded with celebrations marking the strengthened ties between the local government and the traditional institution.

The partnership is expected to drive sustainable development and foster unity across Ikorodu Local Government.

Adeshina Honours Alagura of Agura on 2nd Coronation Anniversary

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Hon. Wasiu Adeshina, has commended the exceptional leadership of the Alagura of Agura, Oba Ahmed Olakunle Ogunnaike Ogunderu, describing his reign as a beacon of wisdom and prosperity.

Hon. Adeshina made the remarks on Saturday during the celebration of the monarch's second coronation anniversary, a ceremony attended by royal fathers and dignitaries from within and outside the Ikorodu Division.

"It is with honour and admiration that I join the people of Agura Kingdom to celebrate the 2nd coronation anniversary of His Royal Majesty, Oba Ahmed Moroof Olakunle Ogunnaike, the Alagura of Agura," Adeshina stated.

"The enthronement of His Majesty two years

ago heralded an era defined by unparalleled wisdom, compassionate leadership, and a relentless drive for prosperity in the Agura Kingdom."

The council chairman further extended his best wishes to the monarch, saying, "On behalf of the good people of Ikorodu Local Government, I wish

you enduring health, boundless wisdom, and the resources to continue your noble journey. May Agura land experience even greater peace, prosperity, and unity during your reign."

Adeshina reiterated his administration's commitment to fostering cultural development and pledged unwavering support for the progress of the Agura Kingdom.

Oke Eri CDA Celebrates First Anniversary in Grand Style

The Oke Eri Community Development Association (CDA) marked its first anniversary with a memorable celebration, showcasing the spirit of unity and collective progress within the community.

The event, which featured a large turnout of members and dignitaries, highlighted the association's achievements over the past year.

In his welcome address, the Chairman of Oke Eri CDA, Alhaji Abdul-Razak AbdulLateef, expressed deep appreciation to members for their active participation and unwavering support. He praised the

executive committee for their dedication, which he credited as the driving force behind the CDA's accomplishments.

Executive Team Members

The association's leadership includes:

* Chairman: Alhaji Abdul-Razak AbdulLateef

* Vice Chairmen: Engr. Victor Adekunye and Mr. Adams Sulaimon

* Secretary: Mr. Ajisebutu Lukmon

* Other Members: Mrs. Ajani Funmilola (Treasurer), Mrs. Oregbesan Remilekun (Financial Secretary), Mr. Itasanmi John (Welfare Officer), and others.

The event welcomed Comrade Adeniyi Lasisi and his team as special guests of honor. In his address, Comrade Lasisi commended the CDA for its efforts in promoting community

development and encouraged members to continue their impactful work.

Other notable attendees included the Baale of Oke Eri, Prince Tajudeen Onakoya Badru Ogunderu; religious leaders such as Sheikh Aleshiloye Hussain and Pastor Oyenuga; and representatives from neighboring CDAs.

In his speech, the Baale applauded the community's dedication and promised his unwavering support for future projects.

Alhaji AbdulLateef concluded the event with prayers for continuous blessings and prosperity for all households in the community. He urged members to maintain their unity and commitment to communal growth.



Apatira Reiterates Commitment To Community Development

By Saheed Afolabi



Chairman of Itire Ikate LCDA, Dr Ahmed Apatira

Chairman of Itire Ikate LCDA, Dr Ahmed Apatira has reiterated his commitment to the development of the community. He revealed his administration has implemented a wide range of impactful initiatives, including road and drainage improvements, provision of medical equipment to healthcare centers, and empowerment programs for women and youth. Recognizing the current economic climate, the administration has distributed cash palliatives ranging from 15,000 to 100,000 to support small businesses and alleviate financial hardship. Other key achievements include food distribution to vulnerable groups, free school meals and educational materials, and renovations of schools and markets. Apatira emphasizes an inclusive, open-door approach, serving all residents regardless of background.

Residents Rejoice Over Rehabilitation of Arumeni Street

By Saheed Afolabi

Residents of Arumeni Street have hailed the chairman of Coker Aguda LCDA, Mr Rasaq Olamilekan for the timely construction of the street which has contributed to the development of the community. Olamilekan is overseeing numerous development projects across the area, including road construction on Muniru Street, culvert and road repairs on Alli Olanipeku Street,

drainage rehabilitation on Thomas Animashaun Street, and school renovations at Central Primary School.

The Arumeni Street which is nearing completion, brings much-needed relief and improved access to residents and businesses in the Aguda community.

The council boss assures of an improved infrastructure development throughout the local council area in 2025.



The almost completed Arumeni Street in Coker Aguda LCDA

Outreach: Residents Praise SOK Foundation's CBT Centre

By Saheed Afolabi



Cross section of the beneficiaries of the SOK Foundation outreach

Badagry management of SOK Residents Kuton (SOK) Foundation for their influential outreach. The Senayon Olufemi Foundation spread joy and support to 150 widows and

vulnerable individuals in Badagry at their 3rd annual outreach held at the Attah Complex.

The event drew beneficiaries from Badagry Central, West, and Olorunda. Mrs. Oluwakemi Wusu of Badagry West LCDA urged recipients to see the support as an opportunity for

sustainable income generation.

"This support is not just a gift; it's an opportunity. Invest the money in ventures that can yield more income, ensuring sustainable benefits for you and your families."

High Chief Fihento commended the foundation's consistent commitment to the less privileged.

"The SOK Foundation

has consistently demonstrated its commitment to supporting the less privileged. Their efforts have transformed countless lives, bringing hope and joy to our community."

Mr. Iroko Emmanuel, a beneficiary, expressed his heartfelt thanks, stating the aid would go a long way in alleviating our immediate challenges.

Ojelabi Assures APC Aspirants Of Fairness In Party Primaries

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of the APC in Lagos state, Cornelius Ojelabi has assured aspirants vying for positions in the forthcoming Lagos State Local Government elections of free and fair primaries.

He stated this at the Badagry Independent Campaign Council (ICC) event.

Ojelabi commended the governor for his infrastructure development efforts and the president for improving the economy.

He urged the people



Lagos APC chairman, Cornelius Ojelabi and other party leaders in Badagry

to keep praying for political office holders to continue leading well. Ojelabi also sought cooperation from Badagry residents to maintain unity and avoid segregation within the party.

Hon. Ibrahim Layode, Coordinator of the Badagry

Independent Campaign Council (ICC), recently hosted a victory celebration and thank-you event for APC members at the ICC Centre in Badagry. The event was attended by notable figures, including Hon. Cornelius Ojelabi, APC State Chairman, and Hon. Bonu Solomon

Saanu, Member of the Lagos State House of Assembly. Layode expressed gratitude to party members for their hard work and dedication, which led to the APC's victory.

He emphasized the importance of unity among party members, stating

that the ICC had become a movement in Badagry. Layode also encouraged members to maintain their dedication and teamwork, which he believed would lead to further success.

Furthermore, the APC leader assured the people that the forthcoming local government elections

would be free and fair. He stated that individuals with high integrity and commitment to the party's success would be featured.

Ojelabi emphasized that the party would provide a level playing field for candidate emergence and that primary results would be respected.

Hon. Bonu Solomon Saanu also spoke at the event, urging ICC members to build synergy and unity among themselves to achieve success in the forthcoming elections.

Oshinowo Gives Update On Agboyi Town Football Pitch

Chairman of Agboyi Ketu LCDA, Dele Oshinowo has revealed the extent of work done on the ongoing construction of the Agboyi Town elevated football pitch and recreational centre.

The sport complex is the cynosure of all eyes in the community as talented youngsters await the opportunity to foster their playing skills on a standard pitch.

Oshinowo said the Agboyi Town elevated football pitch and recreational centre is undergoing its last

By Saheed Afolabi

phase of construction which will be completed soon.

He disclosed the level of work done on the sports stadium while admitting the intensity of work done to actualize the project.

"At the Agboyi Town Elevated Football Pitch and Recreational Centre, we're nearing the finish line on this iconic project," he said.

"The safe netting solutions are currently being installed, and up



The ongoing construction of the Agboyi Town Elevated Football Pitch and Recreational Centre

next is the turf, after which this facility will be ready for delivery. It has been an activities as other recreational centers would be constructed

intense journey, but every step has been worth it." The council boss further said the Agboyi Town elevated football pitch and recreational centre has been earmarked to transform the community sporting

to foster sporting activities and growing in the community. "We approach every project with utmost seriousness, and this recreational centre is no exception. Designed to be a stand out development in Agboyi town, it's set to transform community recreation and sporting activities.

"This facility is one of three recreational centres currently under construction, underscoring our commitment to providing top-notch infrastructure for our people."

NWFL : Fatodu Confident On Dannaz Ladies, Robo Queens

By Saheed Afolabi

The Director General (DG) of the Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC) Lekan Fatodu is optimistic Dannaz Ladies and Robo Queens will excel in the Nigeria Women Football League (NWFL) Premiership 2024/2025 season. Both clubs represent Lagos State in the topflight of the Nigeria women's

football as the DG expresses confidence in their prowess to win laurels.

Fatodu said the Cedars and Lagos Landladies have shown dedication to their craft and he's optimistic they will achieve success this season.

"Robo FC and Dannaz Ladies have shown tremendous dedication, and I am confident they will

make Lagos proud this season. We expect them to set the pace with strong performances in their opening games."

The LSSC boss reiterated that the entire Lagos State is behind Dannaz Ladies and Robo Queens to achieve glory.

"The entire state is behind you, and we look forward to celebrating your successes throughout the season."



Chairman of the Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC), Lekan Fatodu



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