Why I Signed Wizkid Instead of Drake - Akon Pg.33

World Cup: Nigeria Spanish fans Cash Out From Argentina's Crash Pg.40

Got A Story?
Call
08032178602

To Place Adverts,
Call
08025378799

www.echonews.ng

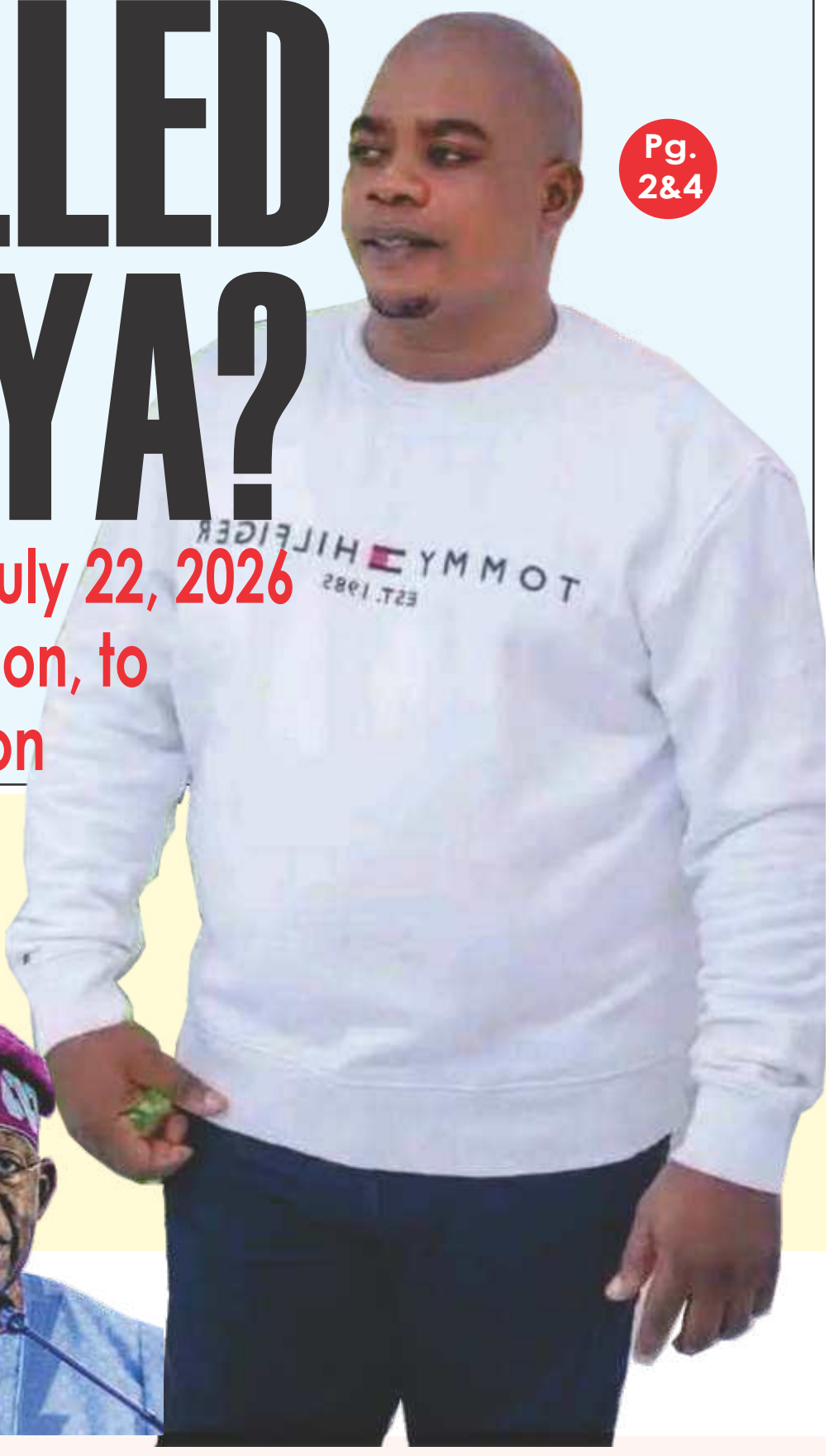
Echonews

A publication of Echonews Newspapers Limited

Monday 20th July- Sunday 26th July 2026

WHO KILLED TOBA IJAYA?

Pg. 2&4



....To be buried on Tuesday July 22, 2026

....police continue investigation, to release autopsy report Soon

Citizens Waiting To Benefit From $3.05bn Programme For The Poor Pg.12

CAC Gives 100,000 Companies 90 Days to Avoid Deregistration Pg.11

How New Tricycles Are Changing the Game in Lagos Island East Pg.26

Glasgow 2026: Commonwealth Champion, Didih, Confident In Team Nigeria's Medal Push Pg.40

Customs CG, 11 Senior Officersto Receive MARCON Honours Pg.10

WHO KILLED TOBA IJAYA?

....To be buried on Tuesday July 22, 2026
....police continue investigation, to release autopsy report Soon

By Kunle Awosiyan

Mixed reactions have continued to trail the killing of Comrade Toba Ajiboye, popularly known as Ijaya, the Organising Secretary of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Lagos State Council.

Echonews gathered that while investigations into the July 13, 2026 killing are ongoing, different accounts have emerged regarding possible motives behind the attack.

Some residents and union members who spoke with our correspondent during condolence visits to Ajiboye's office on Ereko Street, Fadeyi, speculated that the murder could have been connected to his political activities or his past involvement in violent clashes.

Others suggested it may have been a reprisal attack linked to longstanding rivalries. None of these claims has been confirmed by the police.

Many mourners described Ajiboye as a generous and approachable man who used his influence to assist people in his community.

Speaking anonymously, one of his associates said: "Ijaya shouldn't have died now. He made me what I am today. He paid the rent of the house I'm living in presently."

The mourner urged the police to carry out a thorough investigation. "This should not end like the case of the former NURTW chairman in Ipaja, Saka Saula. We want the killers of Ijaya brought to justice," he said.

Another associate, Mr. Kabir Ajani, wrote in the condolence register: "Ijaya Idi Oro, your killers will not have rest. They will all be apprehended and face the law."

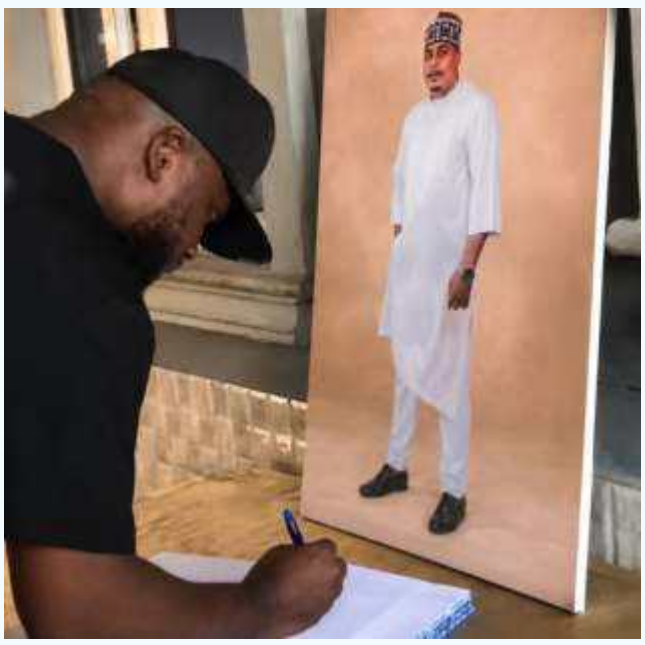
Ajani described the deceased as a good man, although he acknowledged his reputation for toughness.

"He was a strong man. I doubt if anyone within the union was responsible," he said.

Some union members, who requested anonymity, expressed the opinion that the killing could be linked to longstanding conflicts involving suspected cult groups that have operated in parts of Mushin, Fadeyi and Somolu.

They also recalled Ajiboye's previous role as a leader of the Oodua People's Congress (OPC), where he was known for confronting armed robbery and cult-related activities.

Late Toba Ajiboye

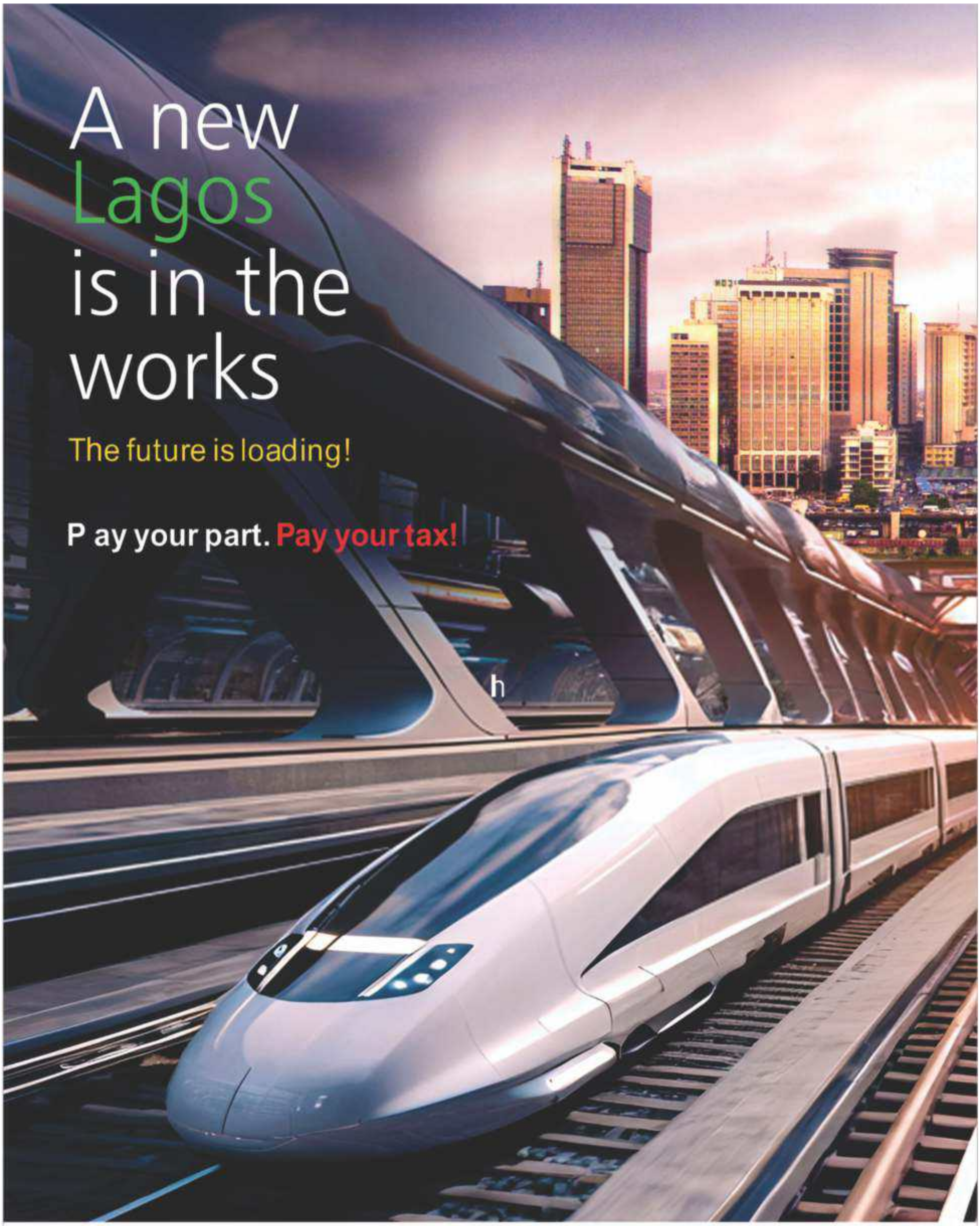


Sympathizers filling the condolence register

Believed to have the largest followership of young tough boys on the street in Lagos State today, Toba was known to protect many of them, often getting them released from police detention and putting them into regular employment.

His activities endeared him to many influential business and political leaders across the country.

The sources further alleged that Ajiboye had previously had disagreements with a local socialite, Adedipe Adeyinka, popularly known as Agali.



Lagos State Internal Revenue Service

Lagos Revenue House, Assbifi Road, Central Business District, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos State

Tel: 0700-CALL-LIRS (0700 2255 5477)

Lagos State Internal Revenue Service (LIRS) | www.lirs.gov.ng | @lirsgovng | @lirs_govng | info@lirs.net

WHO KILLED TOBA IJAYA?

....To be buried on Tuesday July 22, 2026
....police continue investigation, to release autopsy report Soon

Continued From Page 2

They claimed both men belonged to different political camps and had been rivals over the years.

Adeyinka was shot dead on April 11, 2026, near the National Stadium Bridge in Surulere while driving a white Mercedes-Benz GLE 350. He later died at Mainland General Hospital, Yaba.

Police have not publicly established any connection between the two killings, and investigations into both cases remain ongoing.

Another union member said the circumstances surrounding Ajiboye's death appeared complex.

"The police must uncover the truth. If they do a thorough job, those responsible will be arrested," he said.

In her condolence message, Mrs. Adijat Adekola described the deceased as a kind-hearted man.

"Good night, Ijaya. May God rest your soul in peace. I'm not a member of NURTW, but I knew him. He was generous and cared for people around him. I'm still shocked."

Reacting to the killing, the Chairman of the NURTW Lagos State Council, Mustapha Adekunle, popularly known as Sego, described Ajiboye as a loyal ally, trusted friend and committed union leader.

"The news of the sudden passing of Comrade Toba Ajiboye has left me deeply saddened and heartbroken. It is difficult to come to terms with the loss of such a loyal, dependable and committed ally," he said.

Adekunle added that Ajiboye's years of service and loyalty to the union and its political structure would never be forgotten.

Meanwhile, the Lagos State Police Command has yet to release the autopsy report on Ajiboye. A source at the state Police command said there had been no arrest but a few close associates of the deceased were invited to help in the investigation.

The command has launched a manhunt for the gunmen responsible for the killing.

The Commissioner of Police, Fatai Tijani, has also held a peace meeting with leaders of the NURTW and the Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN), urging members to remain calm and refrain from any retaliatory action while investigations continue.

CP Tijani Fatai

Additional security personnel have been deployed to strategic locations to maintain law and order as the investigation progresses.

Meanwhile, the family and NURTW have announced that the body will be buried on Tuesday July 21st, 2026 at number 22, Ereko Street, Fadeyi, Odi-Olowo, Lagos.

Mourners Seated At His Ereko Office

Lagos Reaffirms Support For Sustainable Destination Development At NATOP's 10th AGM

The Lagos State Government has called for stronger collaboration with tour operators to unlock Nigeria's vast tourism potential and accelerate the growth of domestic tourism, while reaffirming its commitment to creating an enabling environment for the sector to thrive.

The Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, made the call through the Executive Secretary of the Lagos State Film and Video Censors Board, Mrs. Bukola Agbaminoja, at the 10th Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Nigeria Association of Tour Operators (NATOP), held at the Senator Oluremi Tinubu Hall, Alausa, Ikeja, on Thursday, 9th July 2026.

Addressing stakeholders at the conference themed "Unlocking Nigeria's Tourism Potential: Strengthening Tour Operators for Sustainable Destination Development," the Commissioner emphasised that tour operators remain critical to transforming Nigeria's tourism assets into viable economic opportunities.

According to her, although Nigeria is richly blessed with cultural heritage, historical landmarks, festivals, beaches, wildlife and a vibrant creative industry, these resources can only deliver economic value when professionally packaged, effectively marketed and made accessible to visitors.

She described tour operators as the vital link between tourism destinations and travellers, stressing that their role is indispensable in driving destination marketing, attracting investment and creating employment.

The Commissioner reaffirmed the commitment of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's administration to tourism development through the THEMES+ Agenda, noting that the State Government continues to invest in infrastructure, security, accessibility and tourism assets to improve visitor experiences.

She highlighted landmark tourism projects including the J. Randle Centre for Yoruba Culture and History, JJT Park, heritage sites in Badagry and the Senator Oluremi Tinubu Industrial Leather Hub in Mushin as strategic investments aimed at strengthening Lagos' position as Africa's leading tourism destination.

Mrs. Benson-Awoyinka also noted that Lagos hosts more than 200 festivals and tourism-related events annually, including the Eyo Festival, Lagos Fanti Carnival, E1 Boat Regatta, Lagos Seafood Festival and Art X Lagos, all of which continue to attract local and international visitors.

She urged NATOP to embrace professionalism, certification, continuous capacity development, digital transformation and innovative tourism products such as agro-tourism, medical tourism, culinary tourism and diaspora heritage tours.

The Commissioner further advocated improved access to finance, stronger public-private partnerships and greater adoption of digital platforms to enhance the competitiveness of Nigerian tour operators in the global tourism market.

She disclosed that Lagos State remains committed to working closely with development partners, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to strengthen digital connectivity while promoting the "Made-in-Lagos" and "Made-in-Nigeria" tourism brands.

Benson-Awoyinka also reiterated the State Government's readiness to deepen collaboration with NATOP through festivals, trade missions, destination marketing initiatives and other strategic programmes, while encouraging stakeholders to intensify the "See Nigeria First" campaign to boost domestic tourism.

She challenged participants to move beyond dialogue by implementing practical strategies capable of translating Nigeria's enormous tourism potential into measurable economic growth.

Congratulating NATOP on its 10th Annual General Meeting, she commended the Association for its consistency in promoting Nigeria's tourism industry and thanked it for choosing Lagos as host for the landmark conference.

Earlier in her welcome address, NATOP President, Mrs. Bolaji Mustapha, described the conference as a celebration of the Association's resilience and contributions to tourism development over the past decade.

She noted that Nigeria possesses extraordinary tourism assets but stressed that unlocking their full potential requires stronger institutions, empowered tour operators, innovation, strategic partnerships and sustainable destination management.

Mrs. Mustapha described tour operators as storytellers, destination ambassadors and key drivers of economic development whose activities contribute significantly to job creation, cultural preservation and community development.

She encouraged participants to leverage the conference to exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships and develop practical solutions that would promote innovation and sustainable growth within the tourism sector.

The three-day conference featured panel discussions, workshops and networking sessions focusing on destination development, digital transformation, access to finance, professionalism and strategies for advancing domestic tourism through the "See Nigeria First" campaign.

The Nigeria Association of Tour Operators (NATOP), established in 1993 by Mr. Eboboje Da Silva, is the umbrella body for tour operators and allied tourism service providers in Nigeria and has remained at the forefront of promoting tourism development across the country.

Lagos Begins Sale of Forms For 2027/ 1448 A.J Hajj

LAGOS STATE
Muslim Pilgrims' Welfare Board

The Lagos State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board has commenced the sale of application forms for intending pilgrims for the 2027/1448 A.H. Hajj and Ramadan Umrah exercises in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Board Secretary, Mr. Abdul-Hakeem Ajomagberin disclosed this in a statement. He urged intending pilgrims to register early and commence payment of fares in line with the timetable released by Saudi Arabian authorities and the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON).

According to Ajomagberin, the Hajj application form costs 20,000 while the Umrah form costs 10,000. Both are payable at the Accounts Department of the Board.

For Hajj, intending pilgrims are to pay an initial deposit of 7 million via bank draft drawn from any commercial bank in favour of the Lagos State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board. He noted that any increase or reduction in the final fare would be communicated once NAHCON announces the approved Hajj fare. The deadline for payment of the initial deposit is September 2026.

For Ramadan Umrah, intending pilgrims are also required to pay an initial deposit of 5.7 million through bank draft. The Board Secretary further advised all pilgrims to collect official receipts for every payment made at the Accounts Department.

Ajomagberin said the early registration aligns with NAHCON's directive to state boards to conclude pilgrims' registration and financial commitments ahead of the Hajj season.

'Timely compliance will enable NAHCON to effectively coordinate visa processing, accommodation, airlift arrangements, and other logistics with Saudi authorities to ensure a seamless pilgrimage experience for Nigerian pilgrims", he said.

He added that both Hajj and Ramadan Umrah packages have been structured to combine spiritual fulfilment with comfort and safety.

Pilgrims are to enjoy: Accommodation within walking distance to the Haram, Reliable local transportation, Daily breakfast and dinner featuring local delicacies, Medical support and spiritual counselling, and Organised Ziyarah to historical and monumental sites in Makkah and Madinah

In a related development, Ajomagberin announced that enrollment in the Lagos State Health Management Agency, LASHMA, Ilera Eko Health Insurance Scheme is now mandatory for all intending pilgrims.

He said the initiative, in line with the state government's priority on citizens' health, is designed to guarantee access to quality healthcare before departure, during the pilgrimage, and upon return to Nigeria. Registration fees are 15,000 for individuals and 55,000 for families.

The Board Secretary reaffirmed the Board's commitment to transparency, accountability, and excellent service delivery, noting that these values have consistently distinguished Lagos in Hajj operations.

He expressed confidence that with the support of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, Deputy Governor (Dr.) Kadiri Obafemi Hamzat, and the regulatory oversight of NAHCON, the 2027/1448 A.H. spiritual exercises would rank among the most successful in recent years

Lagos Harps on Infrastructure Safety and Standard

Living in Lagos, we've all seen the headlines that nobody wants to read—another building collapse, another road failing shortly after being paved, or a new estate showing cracks before the paint is even dry. It's been exhausting to watch, and frankly, a bit terrifying to think about the safety of the structures we work and live in every day.

That's why I was genuinely encouraged to hear about the Lagos State Government's recent move to finally get serious about what lies underneath our buildings: the *Subsurface Geological and Geotechnical Investigation Regulation.*

Why This Matters to Us

For too long, it feels like the "ground" has been a bit of an afterthought. We hear a lot about building designs and aesthetic finishings, but as we've learned the hard way, if the foundation isn't resting on scientifically sound soil, the rest of the building is just a disaster waiting to happen.

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources is now pushing to make sure that before any shovel hits the dirt, a proper, professional assessment is done. From my perspective as a citizen, here is what this change actually looks like:

No More "Quacks": It sounds like they are finally putting a stop to unqualified people cutting corners. Only certified professionals with the right equipment and technical capacity will be allowed to handle these ground investigations.

A "Seal of Approval" for Safety: They are introducing a standardized process. Reports will no longer just be pieces of paper; they will have to be vetted against specific, rigorous scientific standards before a project even gets the green light.

Recognizing Our Reality: We live on reclaimed land, wetlands, and soft marine clays. It's high time the regulations matched our specific geography rather than using generic standards that don't account for Lagos' unique, shifting soil.

The Hope for Real Change

The government says this is about "building a resilient, safe, and sustainable Lagos," and for once, this initiative feels like it's targeting the root cause rather than just reacting to disasters after they occur.

It's one thing to have a policy, but the real test will be the enforcement. We need to see these "Certificates of Competence" becoming a standard requirement for every construction site, big or small. If this means that when I walk into a new office or visit a friend in a high-rise, I can be more confident that the building is sitting on solid science rather than guesswork, then this is a massive win for all of us.

It's a small, technical-sounding step, but it might just be the most important one taken for our safety in a long time. Now, we just have to watch to see if they follow through and keep the standard high.

Lagos is Open for Business: What the New Investment Vision Means for Us

If you've been feeling like things are shifting in Lagos, you're not alone. Whether you are an entrepreneur looking for a loan, a creative artist dreaming big, or just someone who wants to see our city grow, there is a lot happening right now at the Ministry of Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment (MCCTI).

In a recent update, the Honourable Commissioner, Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem, laid out a bold vision: *making Lagos the official "Gateway to Africa" for global investors.*

While the talk of "Foreign Direct Investment" and "automated terminals" might sound like boardroom language, what it actually means for us on the ground is pretty exciting. Here is why this matters to the average Lagosian:

1. More Jobs and Better Industry

The Commissioner shared that the state has already attracted over N50 billion in investments. A major part of this is the Lekki Economic Zone and the new deep-sea port. For those of us living and working here, this means new manufacturing hubs are opening up, creating jobs—not just in the factories, but for distributors, logistics experts, and everyone in the supply chain.

2. Easier Access to "Serious" Loans

If you run an SME, you know that finding capital is usually the biggest headache. The Ministry's *LASMECO* program is a game-changer. By partnering with banks, they are offering loans of up to N10 million at a 9% interest rate for businesses in sectors like agriculture, creative arts, and manufacturing. This is a real, practical way for small business owners to grow without being crushed by impossible interest rates.

3. Lagos as the Global Creative Capital

It's not just about shipping and manufacturing. The government is finally giving our entertainment industry the "real estate" it deserves. The *Lagos Film City* in Epe is being built to bring film, music, gaming, and fashion all under one roof. For the thousands of talented young people in Lagos who are already creating amazing content, this could be the stage that takes our work to the rest of the world.

4. A Smoother Way to Do Business

Ever been frustrated by the "red tape" of registering a business? Lagos now ranks first in the country for "Ease of Doing Business." With the move toward digitizing and automating business registrations, the goal is to stop wasting our time in lines and let us get back to the work that actually matters—building our businesses.

The Bottom Line: We're Aiming for the Global Stage

The Commissioner said something that really stood out: "If you intend to do business at scale on this continent, you cannot do it without Lagos."

For us as citizens, this represents a new level of accountability. The ministry isn't just launching projects; they are trying to institutionalize them so they last, regardless of who is in office.

It's an ambitious goal, but it feels like the city is finally aligning its policies with the hustle and spirit that Lagosians have always had. We are no longer just participating in the economy; we are being positioned as the absolute heart of it.

ADVERTISE IN

Echonews

DIGITAL NEWSPAPER

ADVERT RATES

COLOUR PAGE		BLACK & WHITE	
FULL PAGE	N250,000	FULL PAGE	N200,000
HALF PAGE	N145,000	HALF PAGE	N115,000
QUARTER PAGE	N70,000	QUARTER PAGE	N55,000

Subsribe | Advertise | Partner

www.echonews.ng | www.facebook.com/EchonewsNG

Got A Story? Call / Whatsapp 0803 217 8602 **To Place Adverts,** Call 0810 568 4363

Ready to Level Up? Here's How to Get Trained for Free in Lagos

Who can apply: If you're a Lagos resident between 18 and 45, you're eligible.

The Requirements: Keep it simple—you just need your LASRRA ID. If you're a graduate, have your NYSC certificate handy just in case.

The Deadline: You've got until Friday, July 31, 2026. Don't wait until the last minute and risk the site crashing or missing the window.

How to Apply

Don't overthink the process. It's built to be accessible:

Click here: tinyurl.com/lsesp-phase3

Scan: If you see the official flyer around town or on social media, just scan that QR code to jump straight to the form.

This is a solid opportunity to gain industry-relevant training that actually moves the needle on your resume or business. Whether you're looking for your first big break or trying to take your side hustle to the next level, it's worth getting your application in before the clock runs out.

If you were to pick one of these paths—Digital, Leather, CNG, or Business Scaling—which one do you think would have the biggest impact on your career goals this year?

Why Professionalism in Our Public Service Matters to All of Us

We often talk about the "government" as a distant entity, but in reality, our daily lives—the state of our roads, the efficiency of our clinics, and the quality of our schools—all depend on the people working behind the desks at our public institutions.

That's why a recent "Knowledge Sharing Session" held by the *Lagos State Audit Service Commission* caught my attention. It might sound like an internal meeting, but it's actually a sign of something much bigger for us as citizens: a push for higher standards.

Why This Matters to You

The Audit Service Commission is responsible for ensuring that public funds are managed properly and that the government stays accountable. When they focus on training their own staff on discipline and ethics, they aren't just following a rulebook—they are strengthening the foundation of our public services.

During the session, two key leaders—Mrs. Oluwole Gloria Olamide and Mr. Gbotesho Kazeem—dug into what it actually means to be a public servant. Here's what they highlighted:

Integrity is Non-Negotiable: Discipline isn't just about showing up on time; it's about upholding ethical values and accountability. When civil servants act with integrity, we get better service and more transparency in how our money is spent.

Clear Rules for Everyone: The team reviewed the "Public Service Rules," covering everything from professional conduct to the serious consequences for misconduct. By clearly defining what is expected, the commission is ensuring that the "bar" for performance is set high.

Accountability in Action: We often hear concerns about inefficiency in government offices. By holding these training sessions, the Commission is actively working to build a workforce that is more professional, efficient, and, most importantly, ready to serve the public effectively.

A Culture of Excellence

It's encouraging to see a government agency take the time to focus on its internal culture. It sends a message that the state government is not just interested in projects and infrastructure, but also in the *people* who run the systems that make Lagos function.

As citizens, we rely on these public servants to be the gatekeepers of our community's resources. Seeing them prioritize training on discipline and ethics gives me more confidence that the system is being built to be more professional and more responsive to our needs.

At the end of the day, an efficient, disciplined public service makes for a better city for all of us. It means that when we interact with a government office, we can expect fairness, respect, and a commitment to doing things the right way.

What has been your experience with public service in Lagos lately? Do you feel like you're seeing more professional and efficient service? Let's share our thoughts!

Customs CG, 11 Senior Officers to Receive MARCON Honours

NSC Comptroller General, Bashir Adeniyi

The Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, and 11 senior Customs officers will be honoured by the Maritime Correspondents' Organisation of Nigeria (MARCON) in recognition of their contributions to customs administration, revenue generation, trade facilitation, anti-smuggling operations and Nigeria's economic development.

MARCON said the awards celebrate exemplary leadership, professionalism, innovation and operational excellence that have strengthened the nation's maritime, trade and border management system.

Adeniyi will receive the MARCON Lifetime Achievement Award for what the organisation described as his transformational leadership of the Nigeria Customs Service. It credited him with driving unprecedented revenue growth, institutional reforms and technology-driven customs operations.

According to MARCON, key milestones recorded under Adeniyi's leadership include the implementation of the B'Odogwu Unified Customs Management System, support for the National Single Window initiative, expansion of the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Programme, strengthened anti-smuggling operations, the Customs Cares Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative, and his re-election as Chairperson of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Council.

Among the award recipients is Comptroller Gambo Aliyu, Controller of the Federal Operations Unit (FOU) Zone A, who will receive the MARCON Excellence Award in Anti-Smuggling Operations and Economic Protection for intelligence-led enforcement operations and sustained suppression of smuggling activities across the South-West.

Comptroller Abdullahi Kaila, Customs Area Controller of the Seme Area Command, will receive the Trade Facilitation and Border Security Excellence Award for successfully balancing border security with seamless trade facilitation, while Comptroller Bishir Abdullahi Balogun of FOU Zone C will be honoured for his anti-smuggling enforcement efforts and contributions to protecting national revenue.

Comptroller Hauwa Abubakar, Customs Area Controller of the Lagos Free Trade Zone Command, will receive the Revenue Generation and Trade Facilitation Excellence Award for improving revenue collection and facilitating trade at the Lagos Free Trade Zone and Lekki Deep Sea Port.

Also recognised are Comptroller Aliyu Alkali of the Port Harcourt Area II Command, who will receive the Excellence Award in Revenue Generation and Industrial Trade Facilitation, and Comptroller Salamatu Atuluku of Port Harcourt Area I Command for promoting trade facilitation and non-oil exports.

Other recipients include Comptroller Usman Yahaya of the Ibeto Area V Seaport Command, Comptroller Olusola Akingbade of Ogun II Area Command, Deputy Comptroller Oladapo Afeni, Acting Customs Area Controller of Ogun I Command, Deputy Comptroller Usman Adamu, Acting Controller of Kano/Jigawa Area Command, and Deputy Comptroller Wale Adewole, Acting Customs Area Controller of Oyo/Osun Area Command.

Chairman of the MARCON 2026 Conference Planning Committee, Paul Ogbuokiri, said the awardees were selected based on measurable achievements in revenue generation, trade facilitation, anti-smuggling operations, border security and institutional reforms.

"We are honouring officers whose leadership has produced measurable results in revenue generation, trade facilitation, border security, anti-smuggling operations and institutional reforms.

Through their commitment to professionalism, innovation and public service, they have strengthened the Nigeria Customs Service and contributed significantly to Nigeria's economic development.

"MARCON believes that recognising excellence will inspire even greater service and reinforce the culture of accountability, integrity and outstanding performance within the maritime sector," Ogbuokiri said.

The awards will be presented during the MARCON 2026 Annual Conference scheduled for July 30 at Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

The conference is expected to attract top officials from the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, the Nigeria Customs Service, the Nigerian Ports Authority, the Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority, the Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority, and other major stakeholders in Nigeria's maritime and trade sectors.

Customs Foils N26.57bn Drug Smuggling Bid at Apapa Port

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Apapa Area Command, has intercepted 4,143.5 kilograms of Cannabis Indica with an estimated street value of N26.57 billion at the Apapa Port in Lagos, preventing one of the largest drug smuggling attempts recorded at the nation's busiest seaport.

The illicit consignment was uncovered during a joint examination by officers of the Nigeria Customs Service and the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) following credible intelligence that prompted the Customs Area Controller, Comptroller Emmanuel Oshoba, to order a detailed inspection of a 40-foot container marked FANU1933352.

The examination, carried out on July 10, 2026, revealed that the container, which had been declared to contain three imported used vehicles, was being used to conceal large quantities of narcotics.

The shipment comprised a 2015 red Nissan Micra, a 2019 black Toyota Corolla S, and a 2015 grey Toyota Corolla.

A painstaking search led to the discovery of 162 bags containing 8,287 parcels of Cannabis Indica, each weighing 500 grams, bringing the total weight of the seized drugs to 4,143.5 kilograms.

Investigators found four bags concealed inside the Nissan Micra, while the remaining 158 bags were hidden beneath the container floor and within concealed compartments between the three vehicles. No illicit substances were discovered inside the two Toyota Corolla vehicles.

Speaking with journalists after the operation, Comptroller Oshoba described the interception as a significant breakthrough in the ongoing fight against organised drug trafficking through Nigeria's seaports.

He reaffirmed the Command's commitment to preventing criminal syndicates from exploiting the nation's ports for illicit trade, adding that the seizure reflects the Nigeria Customs Service's resolve to strengthen border security and enforce compliance with the law.

According to him, the operation aligns with the zero-tolerance policy of the Comptroller-General of Customs, Dr. Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, against the importation of prohibited items and other forms of smuggling.

Following the discovery, the Customs Area Controller ordered the seizure of the container in accordance with the provisions of the Nigeria Customs Service Act, 2023, while investigations have been intensified to identify, arrest and prosecute all those connected with the attempted importation.

CAC Gives 100,000 Companies 90 Days to Avoid Deregistration

AtumeTerfa

More than 100,000 companies across Nigeria are at risk of being struck off the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) register as the agency intensifies efforts to enforce compliance with the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) 2020.The Commission has launched a fresh nationwide compliance exercise targeting firms that have failed to fulfil key statutory obligations, including the filing of Annual Returns and the disclosure of Persons with Significant Control (PSC) — a requirement aimed at identifying the true owners or controllers of registered companies.According to the CAC, the enforcement action is being carried out under Section 692 (3) and (4) of CAMA 2020, which empowers the Commission to remove inactive or defaulting companies from the official register.Affected businesses have been given a 90-day grace period to regularise their status by submitting all outstanding returns, updating their corporate records and meeting beneficial ownership disclosure requirements. Companies that fail to comply within the stipulated timeframe face deregistration without further notice.To ensure transparency, the Commission has published the names of the affected companies on its official website, allowing business owners and members of the public to verify whether any organisation has been listed for possible removal.The latest enforcement exercise, known as Batch 6, forms part of the CAC's broader initiative to clean up Nigeria's corporate registry by eliminating dormant and non-compliant entities while maintaining an accurate database of active businesses. The Commission believes the exercise will strengthen corporate governance, improve regulatory compliance and boost investor confidence in the country's business environment.The move builds on previous compliance campaigns. In 2025, the CAC removed more than 400,000 inactive and defaulting companies from its register in one of the largest corporate sanitisation exercises in the country's history.The Commission has therefore advised all registered companies to remain up to date with their statutory filings and other regulatory obligations, warning that failure to do so could result in the loss of corporate status, financial penalties and other legal consequences.

Citizens waiting to benefit from $3.05bn programme for the poor

AtumeTerfa

It's easy to feel like economic reforms and "macroeconomic statistics" are just numbers on a screen that don't change our daily reality. But hearing about this new $3.05 billion investment—the largest social package this administration has put forward so far—feels different because it's finally focusing on the *"ward-centric" approach*.

As a citizen, here is what this actually means for our communities:

What Is This Investment?

Instead of just being one giant fund, this is a coordinated strategy across five key areas meant to reach the grassroots level—every ward, every family. The government is calling it a "Renewed Hope" initiative, and the goal is to make sure that as the country's economy grows, we actually feel it in our pockets, schools, and hospitals.

The 5 Focus Areas

NG-CARES AF ($1.25 billion): This is all about resilience for small businesses and smallholder farmers. If you're a trader or a farmer, this is the part that aims to keep your livelihood stable, especially when economic shocks hit.

SOLID ($300 million): This targets our displaced brothers and sisters and the communities that host them. It's meant to move beyond temporary "handouts" and actually build lasting infrastructure and services to help these communities get back on their feet.

HOPE-EDU ($552 million): This is massive for our schools. It's targeting nearly 30 million pupils and supporting 500,000 teachers to improve the quality of learning in our public schools.

HOPE-PHC:* This focuses on revitalizing primary healthcare centers. We've all seen the state of some local clinics; the goal here is to make them places where you can actually get reliable care.

HOPE-GOV: This is about transparency. It aims to fix how public money is managed and support the recruitment of essential workers, like teachers and health staff, in underserved areas.

Why This Could Be Different

What caught my eye is the government's admission that "positive results in statistics" aren't enough if households are still struggling. By aligning federal, state, and local governments to work at the *ward level*, they are trying to bridge the gap between policy in Abuja and the actual problems we face in our neighborhoods.

It's one thing to launch a programme with a big price tag, but the real test is going to be in the implementation—making sure the money actually reaches the schools, the clinics, and the vulnerable families it's meant for. If they can pull this off, it could finally be a turning point for the average Nigerian.

Sanwo-Olu Promises Lasting Flood Solution for Gbetu-Iwerekun

AtumeTerfa

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has assured residents of Gbetu, Iwerekun and neighbouring communities in the Lekki axis that his administration is implementing long-term measures to tackle recurring flooding and protect lives, property and critical infrastructure.The assurance came during an inspection tour of flood-affected communities in Ibeju-Lekki and Eti-Osa, where the governor assessed the impact of recent heavy rainfall alongside Deputy Governor Obafemi Hamzat, Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources Tokunbo Wahab, and other senior government officials.Addressing residents, Sanwo-Olu acknowledged the hardship caused by the flooding, which left several roads submerged and disrupted movement across parts of the Lekki corridor. He said the state government is committed to providing sustainable engineering solutions rather than temporary interventions.According to the governor, ongoing and planned projects include the expansion and desilting of drainage channels, construction of additional stormwater infrastructure, clearance of blocked waterways and improved water management systems to enhance the free flow of floodwater during periods of heavy rainfall.He explained that the recent flooding was triggered by unusually intense rainfall, which exceeded the capacity of some drainage networks despite existing flood-control infrastructure. He, however, assured residents that government engineers are reviewing the affected areas to implement permanent solutions capable of withstanding future weather events.Sanwo-Olu also urged residents to support the state's environmental efforts by avoiding indiscriminate waste disposal into drains, canals and waterways, noting that blocked drainage systems remain one of the major contributors to urban flooding.The governor reaffirmed his administration's commitment to strengthening climate resilience across Lagos through sustained investment in drainage infrastructure, regular desilting operations and strategic environmental management projects aimed at reducing the impact of seasonal flooding.Residents welcomed the governor's visit, expressing optimism that the planned interventions would provide lasting relief to communities that have repeatedly experienced flooding during the rainy season.

Eti-Osa Joins Lagos 2026 Tree Planting Campaign

AtumeTerfa

The Executive Chairman of Eti-Osa Local Government, Omo'ba (Dr.) Adeola Alimot Adetoro, has reaffirmed the council's commitment to environmental sustainability by leading residents and stakeholders in the 2026 Lagos State Tree Planting Exercise.Held under the theme "Trees for Lagos: Our City, Our Responsibility," the annual initiative forms part of the Lagos State Government's drive to increase the state's green cover, combat climate change, improve air quality and encourage environmental stewardship among residents.The exercise brought together government officials, environmental experts and community leaders in a collective effort to promote a cleaner, healthier and more resilient Lagos.Among those in attendance were the representative of the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab, Mr. Hafeez Shittu; the Special Adviser on Environment, Hon. Fidelis Odufala; the Head of the Environment Department, Eti-Osa Local Government, Sanitarian Mrs. Adegunju Gbemisola M., as well as other stakeholders who participated in the symbolic tree-planting exercise.Addressing participants, Dr. Adetoro described tree planting as a long-term investment in the future, stressing that every tree contributes to cleaner air, improved biodiversity and a healthier living environment. She noted that environmental protection is a shared responsibility and urged residents to embrace tree planting and other eco-friendly practices to preserve the ecosystem for future generations.She further reaffirmed the council's dedication to supporting initiatives that advance environmental conservation, climate resilience and sustainable development across Eti-Osa, adding that the local government will continue to partner with the Lagos State Government on programmes that improve the quality of life for residents.The annual Lagos State Tree Planting Exercise has become a cornerstone of the state's environmental agenda since its introduction in 2008. Through the initiative, thousands of trees are planted each year across public institutions, parks, schools, roadsides and communities to strengthen urban forests, mitigate the effects of climate change and promote sustainable urban development.

Cleared Ibonwon waterways relieves residents

AtumeTerfa

Living in Ibonwon, we know all too well what happens when the rains really start to pour. It's not just about getting wet; it's the constant anxiety of waking up to a flooded living room or seeing our local roads and farmlands submerged. For those of us in riverine and low-lying areas, flooding isn't just an inconvenience—it's a direct threat to our property and our livelihoods.

That's why seeing Hon. Ismail Monsuru Akinloye, the Eredo LCDA Chairman, out there leading an emergency operation to clear our waterways has been such a massive relief for the community.

Why This Intervention Hits Home

For a long time, it felt like we were just waiting for the next big storm to undo everything. Seeing the clearing of silt, water hyacinths, and years of accumulated trash from our canals and drainage channels is a sign that the council is finally tackling the "bottlenecks" that keep the water from flowing where it's supposed to go.

Proactive vs. Reactive: It's refreshing to see the government move during the peak of the rainy season rather than just waiting for a disaster to happen. Removing the debris now makes a tangible difference in how quickly the water drains after a heavy downpour.

Addressing the "Trash" Factor: We have to be honest with ourselves—the Chairman's warning about dumping refuse in drains is a hard truth we need to hear. It's a vicious cycle: we block the drains with trash, the water backs up, and then we suffer the consequences. Hopefully, this physical cleanup serves as a wake-up call for all of us to be more responsible with our waste.

The "Big Picture" Support: It's comforting to know that this isn't just a local patch-up job. Knowing that this is linked to the wider Lagos State efforts—bringing in the heavy-duty equipment like swamp buggies to handle the major canals—gives me more confidence that the flood resilience in our area is actually being taken seriously.

Moving Forward Together

This cleanup has definitely lifted the mood in Ibonwon. We're already seeing better access within the community, and there's a sense of optimism that we might actually make it through the rest of the rainy season without the kind of devastating floods we've seen in the past.

But as a resident, I know this is a shared responsibility. The government is doing its part by clearing the arteries of our community; our part is to keep them clean. I really hope we can turn this from an "emergency" operation into a culture of maintenance. If we keep the channels clear, we protect our homes, our crops, and each other.

It's good to see the leadership on the ground, and I'm hopeful that this will lead to a much drier and safer season for all of us.

Olowa Receives Sanwo-Olu as Lagos Intensifies Flood Response in Gbetu

AtumeTerfa

Executive Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government, Abdullahi Sesan Olowa, received Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu during an inspection tour of flood-ravaged Gbetu and surrounding communities as the state government stepped up efforts to address the impact of recent heavy rainfall.Governor Sanwo-Olu, accompanied by Deputy Governor Obafemi Hamzat, Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources Tokunbo Wahab, and other members of the State Executive Council, visited Gbetu, Ogombo, Monastery Road–Sangotedo, Iwerekun and other affected areas to assess the extent of flooding and engage directly with residents. During the visit, Olowa welcomed the governor and senior government officials, expressing appreciation for the swift response to the flooding that has disrupted movement, displaced families and damaged property in parts of the Lekki corridor. He reiterated the local government's commitment to working closely with the state to implement both immediate relief measures and long-term flood control solutions.The inspection team waded through flooded streets and drainage channels to obtain a first-hand assessment of conditions on the ground. Residents used the opportunity to highlight the challenges posed by submerged roads, damaged infrastructure and recurring floods, while appealing for lasting interventions to prevent future occurrences. Speaking during the tour, Governor Sanwo-Olu said the visit was aimed at understanding the situation firsthand rather than relying solely on official reports. He explained that although many drainage channels remained operational, the unusually intense rainfall recorded in recent weeks had overwhelmed parts of the drainage network, resulting in widespread flooding across several communities. The governor assured residents that the state government would implement a combination of emergency and permanent measures to improve stormwater management. These include clearing blocked drainage channels, expanding waterways where necessary and accelerating ongoing flood mitigation projects across the Lekki axis. The visit forms part of Lagos State's broader response to seasonal flooding, with authorities pledging closer collaboration with local governments and communities to strengthen drainage infrastructure, improve environmental compliance and build greater resilience against future flooding incidents.

Residents hail Swamp Buggy Clearing Ogombo Canal

AtumeTerfa

Living in Ogombo, the recent rains have been nothing short of a nightmare. For those of us who have had to watch our streets turn into rivers—some even resorting to using canoes just to get around—it has been an incredibly difficult time. It's hard not to feel anxious when the sky turns dark, knowing the toll the flooding takes on our homes, our businesses, and our daily routines.

Seeing the Lagos State Government finally deploy a swamp buggy to clear the Ogombo canal is a relief, but it's also a reminder of how much work remains to be done.

Why This Matters

From a resident's perspective, this isn't just about a machine showing up; it's about finally seeing action on the ground where it counts:

Addressing the "Bottlenecks: We've known for a long time that the drainage channels weren't doing their job. Seeing the swamp buggy—which can actually get into those marshy, waterlogged areas where normal machines fail—gives us hope that the canal will finally be widened and deepened enough to actually handle the volume of water we see during these intense downpours.

Visible Leadership: It was significant for many of us to see Governor Sanwo-Olu and his team wading through the water to see the situation firsthand. When you're dealing with floodwaters in your living room, it feels isolating; having the leadership acknowledge the severity of the situation is the first step toward feeling like we aren't being ignored.

The "Big Picture" Reality:* The government's promise to review the master plans for areas like Lekki and Eti-Osa is a welcome long-term goal. While we need the immediate cleanup, we also need to know that the state is looking at why these floods keep happening—whether it's illegal building, poor drainage design, or the sheer pace of urbanization.

Our Shared Burden

The government keeps stressing that we need to stop dumping refuse in the drains, and as residents, we have to own that. It's frustrating to see canals blocked by trash when we know that just makes the flooding worse for everyone. If we want this canal clearance to actually work, we have to change our habits, too.

It's been a tough few days, and while the swamp buggy is a start, we are all watching closely to see if these interventions will finally give us some peace of mind during this rainy season. We just want to be able to go to work, get our kids to school, and sleep at night without checking the water levels every hour.

Agbaje Calls for Regular Fumigation in Ayobo-Ipaja

Kehinde Adeleye

Owners and managers of schools, hotels and other public facilities in Ayobo-Ipaja Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have been urged to prioritise routine fumigation and environmental sanitation as part of efforts to prevent the spread of diseases and promote a healthier community.The Chairman of Ayobo-Ipaja LCDA, Hon. (Dr.) Agbaje Lukmon Abiodun, made the call during a meeting with heads and representatives of schools, hotels and other public facilities held at the council secretariat.The engagement focused on the importance of regular fumigation, environmental hygiene and other public health measures needed to ensure safe learning, working and recreational environments across the council area.Addressing stakeholders, Agbaje said maintaining clean and healthy environments is a shared responsibility, stressing that institutions that provide services to the public must prioritise preventive health measures."We provide services for our people and we must ensure the environments where they learn, work and access public services are safe, clean and disease-free. Regular fumigation is non-negotiable if we must prevent health hazards in our communities," he said.The meeting was also attended by the Supervisor for Environment, Hon. Olabode Samson Okeowo, and the Head of the Department of Environment, Mrs. Rachael, who educated participants on environmental health best practices and the council's monitoring framework to ensure compliance.Agbaje called on proprietors and managers of schools, hotels, markets, worship centres, offices, recreational centres and other public spaces to work closely with the council's Health and Environment Department, assuring them of continuous sensitisation, technical guidance and support.Stakeholders at the meeting commended the chairman for his proactive approach to public health and pledged to implement the resolutions reached, particularly those relating to routine fumigation and improved sanitation in their facilities.The council reiterated its commitment to promoting quality healthcare, environmental sustainability and safer public spaces for residents across Ayobo-Ipaja.

Agbado Oke-Odo Residents Urged to Embrace Tree Planting

Agbado/Oke-Odo Local administration Council Development Area (LCDA) has joined the Lagos State Government in commemorating the 2026 Tree Planting Day, with a renewed call on residents and stakeholders to embrace environmental conservation through tree planting.The Chairman of the council, Hon. Abiodun Jimoh Isola (Ejigbadero), led the tree planting exercise held as part of the statewide campaign themed, "Trees for Lagos: Our City, Our Responsibility."Speaking during the exercise, Isola described tree planting as a long-term investment in the future rather than an annual ritual, stressing that the legacy of any administration should be measured not only by physical infrastructure but also by the environment it preserves.According to him, every tree planted today represents a commitment to cleaner air, healthier communities and a more sustainable future for generations to come.The chairman noted that trees play a vital role in improving air quality, mitigating the effects of climate change, preventing soil erosion, supporting biodiversity and beautifying communities, while also contributing to healthier living.He reaffirmed his administration's commitment to implementing policies and programmes that promote environmental sustainability, assuring residents that the council would continue to champion initiatives aimed at keeping Agbado/Oke-Odo clean, green and climate resilient.Isola also called on residents, schools, community development associations, market associations, faith-based organisations and private sector stakeholders to actively participate in tree planting and proper environmental management, describing environmental protection as a shared responsibility.The Vice Chairman and Supervisor for Environment, Hon. Kehinde Yusau Shobayo, also reiterated the council's commitment to environmental sustainability, noting that the LCDA has consistently prioritised tree planting, environmental sanitation and other eco-friendly initiatives to improve the quality of life of residents.Also speaking, the Head of the Department of Environment, Sanitarian Okeowo, urged residents to see every tree planted as a lasting gift to future generations and encouraged them to nurture trees as part of efforts to preserve the environment.The council reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the Lagos State Government's environmental agenda by promoting initiatives that encourage sustainable development and ensure a greener, healthier and more resilient Agbado/Oke-Odo.

Over 300 MSMEs to Receive N15,000 Monthly Electricity Support in Onigbongbo

Kehinde Adeleye

Residents and small business owners in Onigbongbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) are set to benefit from a new economic empowerment initiative as the council prepares to launch MOYO LIGHT UP, a programme designed to ease the burden of rising electricity costs on businesses.The initiative, introduced by the Chairman of Onigbongbo LCDA, Hon. Moyosore Adebanjo, will provide more than 300 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with a 15,000 monthly electricity token support to help reduce operating costs and improve business productivity.According to the council, the intervention is aimed at addressing the challenges many entrepreneurs and create a more residents and face due to enabling business increasing energy environment for costs, which have businesses to thrive continued to within the council affect the daily area.The operations and programme aligns sustainability of with the chairman's small FINE Agenda, businesses.The particularly its monthly electricity focus on fostering support is economic growth expected to and nurturing ideas reduce financial and enterprise pressure on through practical, beneficiaries, people-centred encourage initiatives that enterprise growth directly impact owners.Interested entrepreneurs and eligible business owners have been encouraged to register for the programme through the council's online application portal.

Registration Link https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/i8TNt2ipfg

Residents to Access Zero Interest Loan at Ojodu LCDA

Kehinde Adeleye

Residents of Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have been invited to participate in a stakeholders' engagement on zero interest loan opportunities aimed at supporting entrepreneurs, artisans, farmers and small business owners.The programme, organised by the council in partnership with the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF), is designed to educate residents on available government backed financing and business support initiatives that can help expand existing businesses and encourage entrepreneurship. According to the organisers, participants will receive information on farmers' loan opportunities, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) zero interest loans, loan readiness and application procedures, business support services, as well as enterprise development programmes.The stakeholders' engagement is scheduled to hold on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at the Ojodu LCDA Council Secretariat, beginning at 10:00 a.m.Interested residents have been advised to attend with the required documents, including a Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASSRA) ID card, Lagos Internal Revenue Service (LIRS) Tax Identification Number, Bank Verification Number (BVN), a recent passport photograph and a vocational training certificate issued by a Lagos State recognised training institution.The council said the engagement presents an opportunity for residents to gain practical knowledge about accessing government-backed financing, strengthen their businesses and take advantage of empowerment programmes aimed at promoting economic growth and job creation.Residents seeking additional information have been encouraged to visit the Ojodu LCDA Council Secretariat.

Obasa Meets PSP Operators, Intensifies Fight Against Indiscriminate Waste Dumping

Kehinde Adeleye

Living in Agege, we have all dealt with the frustration of blocked drains, piles of refuse appearing where they shouldn't, and those massive waste trucks clogging up our streets. It's been a constant battle for a cleaner environment, so I was really interested to see the recent meeting between the Chairman of Agege Local Government, Hon. Vinoid Obasa, and the PSP operators.

It feels like the local government is finally acknowledging what we've been dealing with daily: our streets are not junkyards.

What This Means for Us

From a resident's point of view, this crackdown touches on a few things that have been major pain points in our community:

Tackling the "Truck Problem": Seeing waste compactor trucks parked indiscriminately on our roads has always been an eyesore and a hazard. Beyond just the smell and the dirt, it creates this "magnet effect" where, if a truck is parked there, people assume it's an okay place to dump their own trash. By ordering these trucks off the public roads, the Chairman is cutting off one of the biggest drivers of illegal dumping.

Holding the PSPs Accountable: It's good to hear the government calling out the need for more professionalism. We pay our bills and expect a service; hearing the council tell the operators that they need to step up their game is a welcome change.

Enforcement over Excuses: The directive for environmental officers to stop being passive and start enforcing the laws is the missing piece of the puzzle. Rules are only as good as the people making sure they are followed. If the council is truly ready to monitor and penalize those who disregard sanitation standards, we might actually see a shift in the cleanliness of our neighborhoods.

A Collective Responsibility

The Chairman mentioned that keeping Agege clean is a "collective responsibility," and honestly, he's right. While it's the government's job to set the rules and the PSPs' job to collect the waste efficiently, it's also on us as residents to stop the indiscriminate dumping in the first place.

That said, the government's role is to make it easy for us to do the right thing. If they can get these trucks off the streets and force the PSP operators to be more reliable and professional, it will be much easier for us to take pride in our environment.

I'm hopeful that this isn't just another meeting that ends with a press release. We want to see results—cleaner corners, clearer roads, and a local government that doesn't just promise a healthier environment, but actually delivers one.

Obasa

Cleaner Streets, Happier Workers: The New Vision for Agege's Street Captains

Kehinde Adeleye

If you live in Agege, you've definitely seen the Street Captains working hard to keep our neighborhoods clean. They are the ones out there every day, working on the front lines to manage sanitation and keep our local environment looking sharp.

For a long time, the initiative has been the backbone of our community's hygiene, but like any big project, there have been bumps in the road. That's why it was so encouraging to hear that our Local Government Chairman, Hon. Vinoid Obasa, recently sat down with the team to have a real, honest conversation about how to make things better.

Why This Matters to Us

You might be wondering, "Why does a meeting about staff welfare affect me?" The answer is simple: *when the people working to clean our streets are treated well and given the right tools, our neighborhoods win.*

A frustrated or unsupported team can't be effective. By promising reforms, Chairman Obasa is aiming for a two-way street—better conditions for the workers, and in return, cleaner, better-maintained streets for all of us.

What's Changing?

The meeting wasn't just a formality. The focus was on real, practical improvements:

Valuing the Workers: The Chairman made a key point: our sanitation goals can't be met unless the people doing the work are treated with dignity, fairness, and respect. A happy workforce is a productive one.

Stricter Accountability: It's not just about welfare; it's about results. The reforms aim to strengthen how the initiative is run, ensuring that everyone knows their role and is held to a high standard of professionalism.

Better Service Delivery: By ironing out operational challenges and creating a more supportive framework, the council expects the Street Captains to be more efficient. That means fewer excuses, better coverage, and a much cleaner Agege.

Building a Stronger Agege

It is refreshing to see the local government moving toward a more professional and disciplined approach. We all want to live in a clean, healthy environment, and the Street Captains Initiative is our most direct way of getting there.

If these reforms live up to the promise, we should start seeing more consistent sanitation services and a team that feels empowered to do their best work. It's a win-win for the workers who keep our streets clean and for the residents who get to enjoy a more beautiful community.

We're keeping our eyes on this—let's hope these changes lead to the cleaner, more efficient Agege we all deserve!

Have you noticed any changes in how sanitation is being handled in your neighborhood lately? Share your observations or thoughts on how we can all work together to support our Street Captains!

FRS
FATTI
RENTAL SERVICES

Tables • Chairs • Canopies • Drums

- 1 Plot Canopy
- 1/2 Plot Festival Canopy
- 20X40 Festival Canopy
- 15 X 30 Festival Canopy
- 12 X 20 Canopy
- Bridal Canopy
- Banquet Tables
- Normal Tables & Chairs

21 Ona Iwa Mimo Street, Ori Oke Bus Stop, Ejigbo Lagos
+234 802 905 4032

Our Future, Our Skills: Why Now Is the Time to Level Up

Kehinde Adeleye

This year's World Youth Skills Day felt different here in Egbe-Idimu. Instead of just talking about the future, our local government chairman, Hon. Dr. Prince Idris Balogun (Oluomo Kaafata), is putting the focus right where it belongs: on us.

In a message to the youth of our community, Chairman Balogun highlighted something we all know to be true—that we aren't just the leaders of tomorrow; we are the ones with the energy and creativity to change things today.

Why Skills Are Our New Superpower

We're living in a digital, fast-paced world, and let's be honest: the traditional ways of doing things are changing. The Chairman's message was a reminder that if we want to be independent and really make a mark, we've got to get hands-on.

Whether it's mastering new tech, picking up a trade, or starting a small business, learning a skill is our shortcut to:

Economic Independence:* Stop waiting for someone else to give you a job and start creating your own path.

Solving Real Problems:* We see the challenges in our neighborhood every day. With the right skills, we are the ones who can build the solutions.

Global Competition:* We're not just competing with our neighbors anymore; we're part of a global economy. Being skilled means we can stand our ground anywhere.

What's the Goal?

Chairman Balogun made it clear that his administration is committed to making sure we have the tools we need—from better vocational training to digital innovation support. The goal is simple: to make sure that no young person in Egbe-Idimu feels stuck or left behind.

But here is the catch—and the Chairman was firm on this—it's up to us to show up. It's up to us to stay curious, keep learning even after school hours, and be ready to work hard for what we want.

The Takeaway

It's not every day that we hear our leaders explicitly saying that our success is the key to a better Nigeria. It's a huge boost of confidence to know that our local government is backing our hustle.

So, let's take that energy. Let's sign up for that workshop, learn that new coding language, or polish that business idea we've been keeping on the back burner. The opportunities are there—let's make sure we're the generation that grabs them.

114 New Roads Across Lagos: Is Your Neighborhood on the List?

By Saheed Afolabi

For anyone who spends a significant part of their life navigating Lagos traffic, the state of our roads is more than just a logistical issue—it's a daily frustration. That is why the recent meeting of the technical committee overseeing the massive *114 road projects* across our Local Government Areas (LGAs) and LCDAs is worth paying attention to.

Led by Mr. Muibi Folawiyo, the Chairman of Lagos Island East LCDA, the committee recently met at the Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA Secretariat. While committee meetings often sound like bureaucratic procedure, the goal here is something we can all relate to: *getting better roads built, and getting them finished on time.*

What This Means for You

The committee, which includes the chairmen of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye, Ikorodu West, and Eti-Osa, is tasked with the high-stakes job of making sure these 114 projects don't just get started, but actually get completed to a standard that lasts.

Here is what the committee is currently reviewing:

The Timeline: They are drilling down into delivery dates to ensure these roads aren't abandoned halfway through.

Quality Control:* The focus is on "engineering standards," which is official-speak for "making sure the asphalt doesn't wash away after the first major downpour."

Connectivity: The ultimate goal is to improve how we move between our communities, which is essential for our daily commute and for small businesses that rely on moving goods across the state.

Why Quality Matters More Than Quantity

We've all seen road projects that start with great fanfare only to stall, or roads that look good for a month before the potholes return. The committee's pledge to focus on "transparency and quality assurance" is the part that should matter most to us as citizens.

Mr. Folawiyo noted that these roads are about more than just paving; they are intended to stimulate local commerce and bring the "dividends of democracy" to our doorsteps. If these 114 roads are delivered correctly, it could significantly ease the bottleneck pressure we feel during our daily commutes and make local economic activity a lot smoother.

Keeping the Pressure On

The state government is framing this as a key move toward a "Greater Lagos," but as residents, our role is to keep an eye on these projects in our specific areas. When infrastructure is built well, it changes the quality of our lives—shorter travel times, less wear and tear on vehicles, and safer journeys for our families.

As the committee pushes forward with their monitoring and coordination, the hope is that these 114 roads will provide the relief we've been waiting for.

With these 114 roads planned across the state, what is the single biggest "bottleneck" or bad stretch of road in your neighborhood that you hope is included in this project?

How New Tricycles Are Changing the Game in Lagos Island East

By Saheed Afolabi

Lagos Island East is getting a major upgrade, and it's happening on three wheels.

If you've lived here for a while, you know the struggle: those massive waste disposal trucks just can't squeeze into our tight, winding streets. It's led to too much trash piling up in places it doesn't belong. But things are finally shifting. Our Council Chairman, Mr. Muibi Folawiyo, just launched a new *Tricycle Waste Disposal System* specifically designed to navigate our unique, packed neighborhoods.

For those of us living and moving through these streets every day, this is a breath of fresh air—literally. Here's why this initiative is a big deal:

Unlike the giant trucks that have to stay on main roads, these tricycles can actually roll right up to our doorsteps, even in the narrowest lanes.

No more waiting days for piles to be cleared. Faster, more frequent collection means our streets stay looking sharp.

We all know that cleaner streets mean fewer pests and a much healthier environment for all of us to grow up and thrive in.

Chairman Folawiyo is putting the tools in our hands, but he made it clear that keeping Lagos Island East clean is a team effort.

This isn't just about the council; it's about us, too. As the young generation, we are the ones who can set the standard. It's time to stop looking the other way when we see indiscriminate dumping and start taking pride in where we live.

By using these new collection points and being more mindful of how we handle our waste, we're not just cleaning up a street—we're helping to build the kind of Lagos Island East that we can be proud to call home.

The tricycle system is here to make our daily lives easier and our neighborhood cleaner. Let's make sure we show up and do our part to keep it that way.

The Aruwe Cup Is Here to Take Over Mushin

By Saheed Afolabi

The field is set, the whistle has blown, and Mushin is buzzing with energy! If you haven't heard yet, the Aruwe Under-15 Chairmanship Cup has officially kicked off, and it's the biggest thing to happen to our local football scene in a long time.

Last week, our Local Government Chairman, Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe, stepped onto the pitch to take the ceremonial first kick. The atmosphere was electric, with tons of us showing up to cheer on our neighborhood teams and see who's really got the skills to be the next big star.

For those of us who live and breathe football, this is a huge deal. It's not just about winning a trophy; it's about having a real stage to show what we can do.

Here is what makes this tournament special:

This is our chance to shine! Scouts and coaches will be watching, and who knows? Someone playing on our local pitch today could be the next superstar in the pro leagues tomorrow.

There's nothing like the feeling of pulling on a jersey and playing for your own neighborhood. It's about pride, unity, and showing everyone what our ward is made of.

Chairman Aruwe told us that football is just the beginning. He promised that more sports are on the way, including *boxing, judo, athletics, and even chess!* Whether you're a striker, a sprinter, or a strategist, there's going to be a place for you to compete.

Chairman Aruwe had some solid advice for us before the games started: play hard, but keep it clean. He's pushing for us to show discipline, fairness, and respect for our opponents. It's all about proving that Mushin youth have talent and class.

"This is our platform to channel our energy into something productive," and honestly, it's refreshing to see the local government putting so much focus on what we enjoy doing most.

So, grab your friends, head down to the pitch, and let's keep the energy high. Whether you're playing or just cheering from the sidelines, this is our time to represent.

Are you playing in the tournament, or are you cheering for your ward from the stands? Let us know which team you think is going to take the trophy home!

Why The Ilupeju Clean-up Matters For Our Neighborhood

By Saheed Afolabi

If you've ever been stuck in traffic or had to dodge flooded roads in Ilupeju during the rains, you know exactly how frustrating it is. It's a recurring headache, and it feels like the same problems pop up every single year.

Well, the Chairman of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA, Dr. Seyi Jakande, seems to be done with the excuses. Even with the rain pouring down this past Thursday, he was out on the streets of Ilupeju and Tinubu Road, personally calling out the shanties and illegal structures that are clogging up our drains and making our roads a mess.

Why This Is A Win for the Streets

It's easy to dismiss these things as "just a demolition," but if you look closer, this is actually about reclaiming our space. Here's why this matters for us:

Flooding vs. Flow:* Those shanties and illegal clamps over gutters aren't just ugly—they're basically dams. By clearing them out, the goal is to let the water actually flow where it's supposed to, which means fewer flooded streets for us to navigate.

Holding Businesses Accountable: The Chairman didn't just target the small guys; he went straight to the companies along the corridor. He's making it clear that if you want to operate in our community, you have to keep your frontage clean and follow the rules.

The "Habitable" Goal:* We deserve a neighborhood that doesn't feel like an obstacle course. By clearing these obstructions, the LCDA is trying to make Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye a place that actually looks and feels like it's being looked after.

It's About Accountability

For our generation, this is the kind of energy we want to see from local leadership. It's not about sitting in an office behind a desk; it's about getting into the rain, identifying the actual problems, and forcing a change.

The message to business owners is pretty clear: *Corporate citizenship is not optional.* You can't just set up shop and let your waste or illegal structures make life harder for the rest of us. You have to pay your dues and keep your environment clean.

What Comes Next?

Watching an official take action during a downpour is a start, but we know how these things go—maintenance is key. As young residents, we're the ones living with the results of these decisions. If the drains stay clear and the roads stay open, it changes how we move through our own neighborhood.

It's time to move toward a standard where our streets are clean, our drainage works, and businesses act like they're part of the community, not just tenants using the space.

If you had a say in how to improve our local streets after the clean-up, what's one thing (like better lighting, more parks, or paved walkways) you'd want to see next to make our neighborhood more "livable" for the youth?

Why Planting a Tree is the Ultimate "Main Character" Move for Our Future in Mushin

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe, has called on residents to actively participate in tree planting and environmental protection as part of efforts to combat climate change and build a more sustainable future.Aruwe made the appeal during the 2026 Lagos State Tree Planting Day celebration held at Ansar-Ud-Deen Primary School, Itire. The annual event was themed "Trees for Lagos: Our City, Our Responsibility."Representing Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu at the occasion, the Chairman emphasised the critical role of trees in mitigating climate change, reducing flooding, improving air quality, and creating a healthier living environment for all.He urged residents to take personal responsibility for the environment by planting and nurturing trees within their communities.Also speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Sulaimon Yunusa Ayodele, who represented the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab, described tree planting as a strategic tool for fighting climate change. He called for stronger collaboration from residents, private organisations, and all stakeholders.The event ended on a high note as Aruwe, along with other dignitaries and stakeholders, planted trees to symbolise Lagos State's renewed commitment to environmental sustainability and a greener future.

Ikorodu Peculiar Lions Club Trains 52 Students in Photography Skills

By Emmanuel Daniji

As part of its commitment to youth empowerment and skills development, the Ikorodu Peculiar Lions Club has organised a Youth Skills Project at the Oshodi Art Gallery, where 52 Information Technology (IT) students received practical training in photography.The initiative was designed to equip the participants with relevant technical knowledge and hands-on experience in the use of cameras, photography techniques and the practical application of camera equipment.Speaking during the training, the President of the Ikorodu Peculiar Lions Club, Lion Nuga Femi, said the project was aimed at empowering young people with practical skills that could prepare them for future opportunities in the creative and digital economy.He urged the students to make effective use of the knowledge acquired during the training, noting that relevant skills remain essential for personal development, innovation and self-reliance.The training featured practical sessions focused on the effective handling and use of cameras, as well as the application of basic photography techniques.Members of the Ikorodu Peculiar Lions Club who attended the event included the Club President, Lion Nuga Femi; Immediate Past President, Lion Dr. Seyi Paul Oshodi; First Vice President, Lion Oahomoji; Treasurer, Lion Ganiyat Oshodi; Lion Dr. Ogidi; Service Chairperson, Lion Aluko; and Lion Disu Yetunde.The project reflects the club's continued commitment to empowering young people through educational and vocational development initiatives, while promoting skills acquisition as a pathway to sustainable development and greater economic opportunities.

Oreta Primary School Wins Maiden Ward C3 Spelling Bee Competition

By Emmanuel Daniji

Oreta Primary School has emerged winner of the maiden edition of the Ward C3 Primary School Spelling Bee Competition organised by the Councillor representing Ward C3, Hon. Princess Saidat Adeoba Odeyemi.The competition was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at the Baale's Palace, Ofin-Ile, Igbogbo/Baiyeku Local Council Development Area (LCDA), and brought together pupils from four primary schools, alongside parents, teachers, community leaders and other stakeholders.The educational initiative was organised to promote academic excellence, improve literacy and encourage healthy competition among young learners in the ward.The competition featured keen contests as pupils demonstrated remarkable brilliance, confidence and resilience throughout the event. Their performances also reflected the level of preparation and support provided by their teachers and schools.At the end of the competition, Oreta Primary School emerged overall winner after a closely fought contest.In recognition of the efforts of the participating pupils, outstanding contestants were presented with school bags, dictionaries, notebooks, educational materials and other prizes to encourage them to pursue academic excellence.A major highlight of the event was the presentation of an Award of Excellence to Hon. Princess Saidat Adeoba Odeyemi by the Ofin-Ile Joint Community Development Association (CDA).The award was presented in recognition of her dedication, selfless service and commitment to educational development and community advancement in Ward C3.Community leaders and invited guests commended the councillor for investing in the future of young people through educational initiatives, describing the spelling bee as a valuable contribution to human capital development within the community.The successful hosting of the maiden edition of the Ward C3 Spelling Bee Competition marks another step towards promoting quality education and youth development in Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA, with expectations that the initiative will become an annual platform for discovering and nurturing academic talents among young learners.

HURMA Raises Alarm Over Alleged Plan to Install Parallel Baale in Ijede Community

By Emmanuel Daniji

The Human Rights Monitoring Agenda (HURMA) has called for calm and strict adherence to the rule of law amid an escalating chieftaincy dispute in Abule-Eko, Ijede, Ikorodu, Lagos State.The rights organisation raised the concern during its weekly radio programme, Labe-Ofin: Rule of Law, broadcast on Bond FM 92.9, following complaints from residents over an alleged plan by some individuals to install a new Baale in the community despite the recognised traditional ruler still being alive and on the throne.HURMA urged the Oba of the kingdom and all parties involved in the dispute to respect established traditional institutions and follow due process, warning that the creation of parallel authorities could trigger confusion and threaten peace in the community.The Executive Director of HURMA, Comrade Buna Olaitan Isiak, said the sanctity of traditional institutions must be protected to ensure stability at the grassroots."The rule of law must be supreme in all our communities. We cannot have parallel authorities in one locality. This is precisely how communal conflicts start. We strongly urge dialogue, patience and absolute respect for existing structures," Isiak said.He noted that unresolved chieftaincy disputes had historically resulted in prolonged legal battles and, in some cases, communal unrest, stressing that all parties must prioritise dialogue and lawful resolution.To prevent further escalation, HURMA announced plans to visit the Abule-Eko community in the coming days as part of an intervention aimed at mediating between the aggrieved parties.The delegation is expected to document the grievances and legal claims of the various factions, engage community elders and traditional authorities, and consult other relevant stakeholders in a bid to find an amicable resolution to the dispute.HURMA reaffirmed its commitment to promoting human rights, accountability, justice and sustainable peace across grassroots communities in Lagos State.

Olayinka Appointed Rotary District 9111 Chairman, Intergovernmental Relations

By Emmanuel Daniji

The Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Works, Dr. Engr. Adekunle Olayinka, FSNE, has been appointed Chairman, Intergovernmental Relations for the 2026–2027 Rotary Year by Rotary International District 9111.The appointment, according to stakeholders, recognises Dr. Olayinka's longstanding commitment to public service, strategic leadership and humanitarian activities within and beyond the Rotary family.Dr. Olayinka joined other distinguished personalities at the installation ceremony of Rotarian Bukola Bakare as District Governor of Rotary International District 9111 on Saturday, July 11, 2026. The well-attended ceremony formally ushered in the 2026–2027 Rotary Year under the theme, "Create Lasting Impact."His participation in the ceremony further underscored his commitment to Rotary's ideals of Service Above Self, fellowship and community development.A renowned engineer, public administrator and humanitarian, Dr. Olayinka described the appointment as both a privilege and a call to greater service. He expressed appreciation to the leadership of Rotary International District 9111 for the confidence reposed in him and pledged to use his experience to strengthen partnerships between government institutions and Rotary while advancing the organisation's humanitarian mission."Service to humanity remains the noblest work of life. Whether in public administration or humanitarian service, my commitment has always been to positively impact lives and contribute meaningfully to society," he said.A distinguished Paul Harris Fellow and Charter President of the Rotary Club of Dideolu-Golden, Dr. Olayinka has held several leadership positions and contributed to community development through his public service and his capacity to foster productive partnerships between government institutions and humanitarian organisations.The installation of District Governor Bukola Bakare marked the formal commencement of her administration for the 2026–2027 Rotary Year. In her inaugural address, she reaffirmed her commitment to promoting growth, innovation, collaboration and impactful humanitarian projects across Lagos and Ogun States under the theme, "Create Lasting Impact."The ceremony attracted prominent personalities from within and outside the Rotary family, including Past District Governor Prince Julius Adelusi-Adeluyi, the Doyen of Rotary in the district; Rotary International President, Rotarian Olayinka Hakeem Babalola; members of the Council of Past District Governors; captains of industry; senior government officials; political leaders; traditional rulers and heads of professional organisations.Dr. Olayinka's appointment further reinforces his reputation as a leader committed to selfless service and strategic collaboration. It also reflects Rotary International District 9111's confidence in his ability to build enduring relationships between government and humanitarian institutions.As Rotary International District 9111 begins a new chapter under the leadership of District Governor Bukola Bakare, stakeholders are optimistic that professionals such as Dr. Olayinka will contribute significantly to the district's vision of creating lasting impact through service above self.

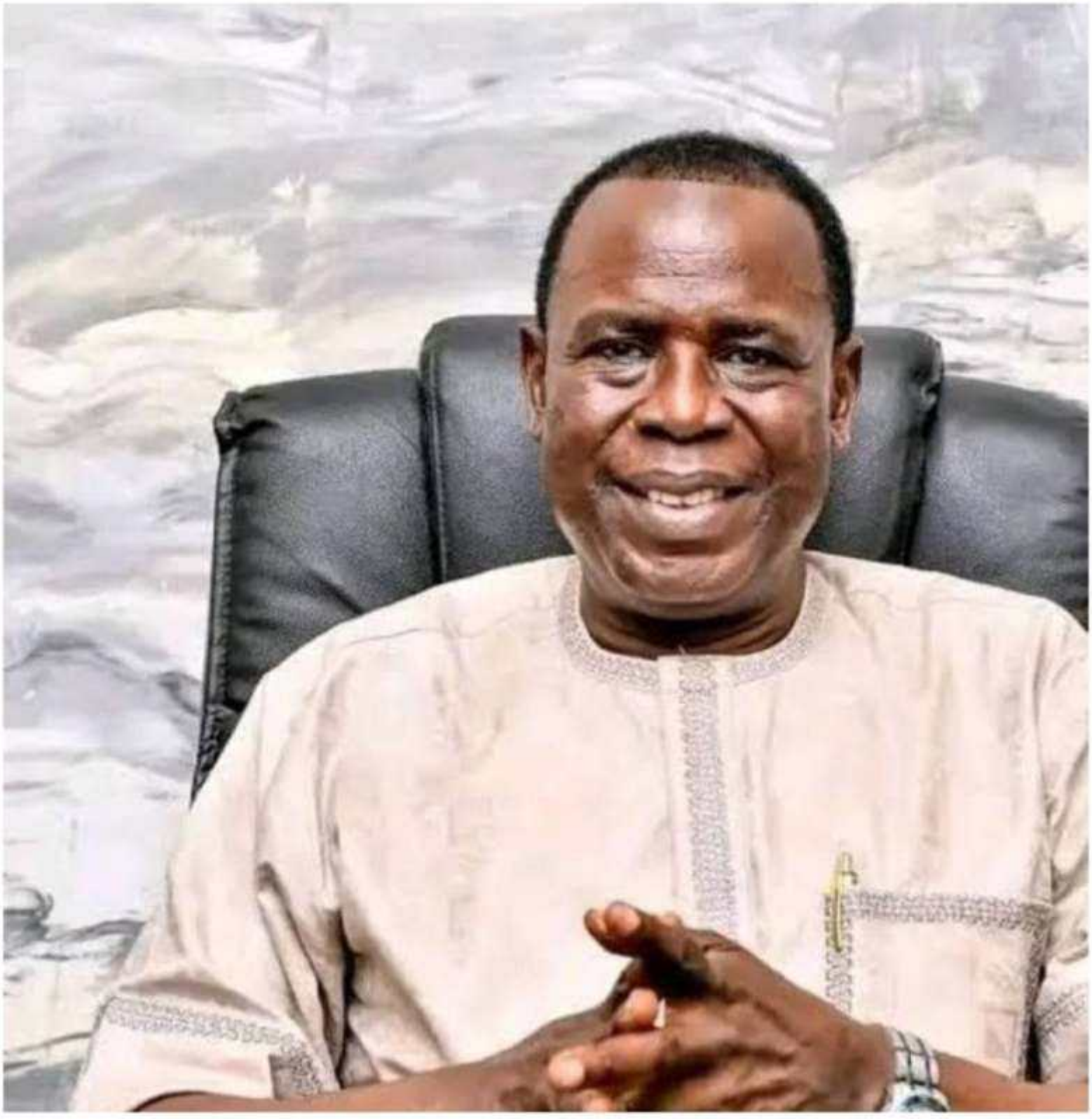
Okanlawon Collects INEC Nomination Form

By Emmanuel Danjji

Hon. Sanni Babatunde Okanlawon, the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate for Kosofe Constituency 1, has officially collected his Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) nomination form, expressing appreciation to constituents and party members for their continued support.Okanlawon, in a statement issued on Sunday, described the milestone as a collective victory for the constituency and the APC, rather than a personal achievement.He thanked the people of Kosofe Constituency 1, party leaders, elders, stakeholders and supporters for what he described as their unwavering love, trust and support throughout the political journey."Your encouragement, prayers, and confidence in my leadership continue to inspire me to do more in the service of our people. I remain committed to the ideals of peace, unity, progress, and inclusive representation," he said.The APC candidate also called on party members to close ranks following the conclusion of the party's primary elections."The primaries are over; now is the time to close ranks, strengthen our bonds, and work together for the success of our party and the continued development of Kosofe," he said.Okanlawon pledged to continue working towards greater milestones for the constituency, adding that the collective efforts of party members and constituents would drive further progress."Together, we have come this far, and together, we shall achieve greater milestones," he said.

Funmi Adelakun Calls Out Father, Alleges Years of Maltreatment

Kehinde Adeleye



Funmi Adelakun, daughter of veteran Nigerian gospel singer and televangelist Joseph Adelakun, has publicly accused her father of maltreatment and restricting her freedom.The 37-year-old made the allegations in a video shared on social media by Megatestimony, where she appealed to members of the public to intervene and plead with her father to allow her live independently.Funmi, who was reportedly said to have left her family's residence in Lagos, claimed she had been subjected to constant monitoring and denied the freedom to make personal life decisions."I need my freedom. They should stop monitoring me," she said.In the

she appealed for public support, saying the situation had persisted for a long time."Good day everyone, my

Adelakun. What I need is your help. Please help me beg my father to set me free. I need my freedom because what is

very deep. I need my freedom. They should stop monitoring me and trying to have access to things about me."This has

a long time. I need my freedom and this is the height of it. I will explain better soon," she said.As of the time of filing this report,

had not publicly responded to the allegations, and there has been no official reaction from the gospel singer.

Why I Signed Wizkid Instead of Drake - Akon

Kehinde Adeleye

Senegalese-American singer and music executive, Akon, has revealed why he chose to sign Nigerian music star Wizkid instead of Canadian rapper Drake in 2008.Speaking during a recent interview with The Shade Room, Akon said Drake, who was still an emerging artiste at the time, demanded a $1 million signing fee, making the deal financially unrealistic.According to Akon, Drake had not yet developed the signature sound that would later propel him to global stardom.He explained that his decision ultimately led him to partner with Wizkid through Banky W's Empire Mates Entertainment (EME).Akon also credited singer and music executive Banky W with discovering and nurturing Wizkid's talent before introducing him."Banky W discovered Wizkid. That's how that collaboration went. I went to Nigeria, and Banky brought me Wiz, and I'm like, 'Bro! This kid is a star,'" he said.The music executive added that signing Wizkid helped open doors for the Nigerian singer in the United States."They had limited resources, so when I signed Wiz, that was what broke him into the United States," Akon stated.Wizkid has since grown into one of Africa's biggest music exports, earning global recognition through several chart-topping songs and international collaborations.

Akon

Funke Akindele Urges Nigerian Youths To Shun Get Rich Quick Mentality

Kehinde Adeleye

We all know Funke Akindele as the queen of the screen—a woman who has built an empire from the ground up. But in a recent chat with BellaNaija, she took a break from the glitz to get real with us about something we see all over our timelines: the pressure to blow overnight.

In an era where "shortcuts" and "quick wins" are constantly being glamorized, her message is a much-needed reality check for every young Nigerian hustling to make it.

It's easy to look at where she is now and assume it was all smooth sailing. But she reminded us of her days at the University of Lagos, where she wasn't chasing clout; she was busy selling bed spaces just to make ends meet.

She could have taken the "easy" route, but she chose the long game. For those of us currently in the thick of the struggle—juggling side gigs, internships, and school—hearing that she walked the same path is a major motivator. It's a reminder that *the hustle is real, and the grit you build today is the fuel for your success tomorrow.*

Funke isn't just preaching; she's giving us a blueprint for survival in this economy. Here's why her perspective is resonating:

your certificate is great, but in this economy, Whether it's tech, tailoring, content creation, or trade, she's urging us to make ourselves indispensable by learning things that actually pay the bills.

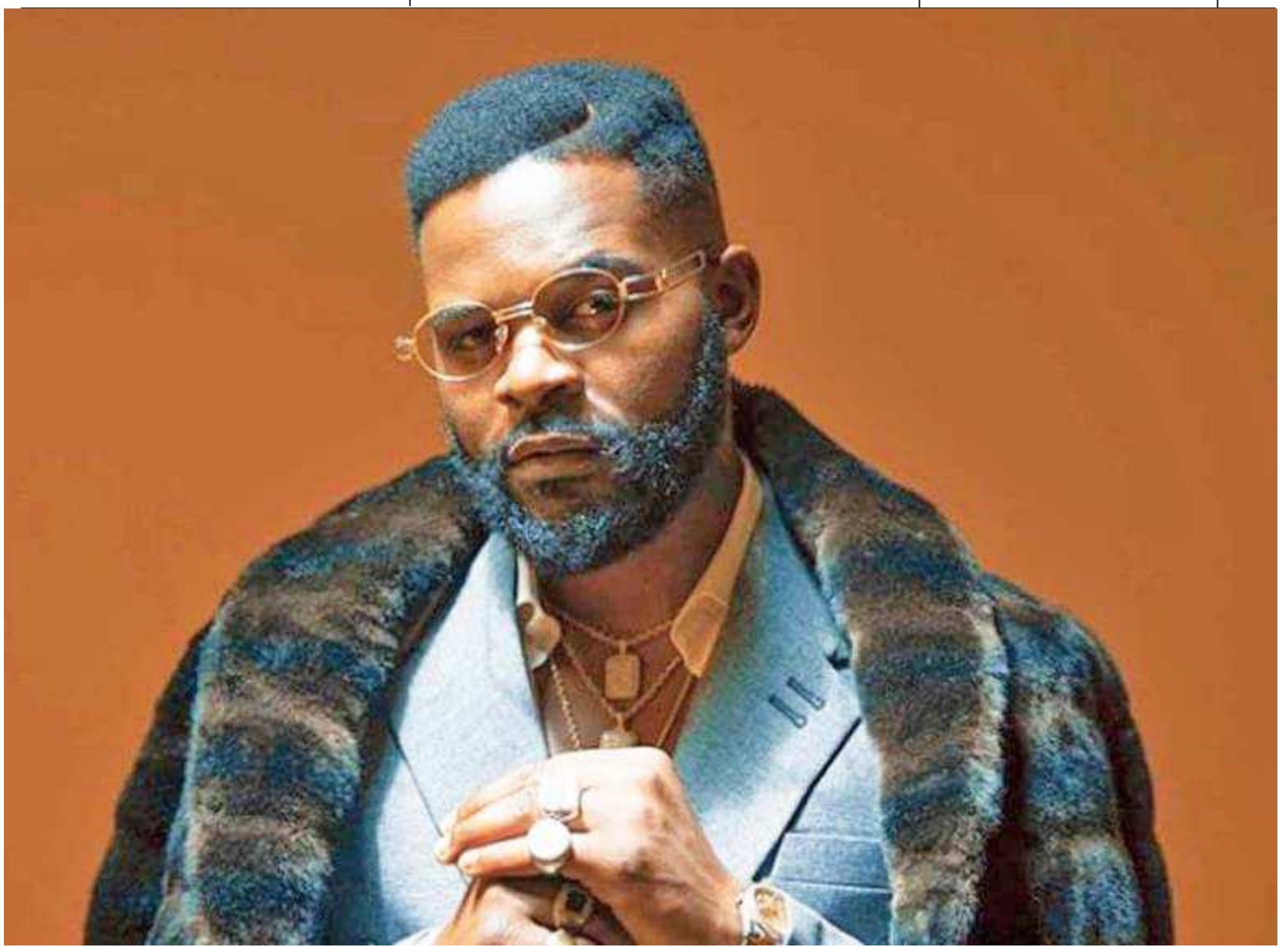
She's not ashamed of her "hustler" roots, and we shouldn't be either. Being "wired" to work hard and earn an honest living is a flex, not a weakness.

We all feel the pressure of the "soft life" influencers on social media, but Funke is reminding us that those shortcuts usually come with a high price tag. Lasting success is built on discipline, not luck.

When one of the biggest names in Nollywood tells you that "hard work is the only reliable path," you listen. It's not about being boring or anti-fun; it's about ensuring that when you finally reach the top, you actually have the foundation to stay there.

So, while we're all out here trying to secure the bag, let's make sure we're doing it in a way that respects the process. After all, if the legendary Funke Akindele had to sell bed spaces to find her way to the top, it's a sign that our current struggle is just part of our own success story.

Do you think the current pressure from social media to have it all by age 20 is making it harder for us to focus on long-term skill building?



Why Speaking Up Shouldn't Be a Career Killer - Falz

Kehinde Adeleye

When we look at the landscape of Nigerian activism, *Falz* has consistently been the voice that hits differently. Recently, the rapper sat down on Arise 360 to clear the air on something we've all been wondering about: Does being a voice for the voiceless actually hurt your bag?

For those of us constantly navigating how to be vocal about the state of our nation while trying to build our own careers, his latest comments are a total masterclass in staying true to your convictions.

Falz dropped a line that many of us needed to hear: *"If you feel in any way attacked... then maybe I don't even want to be there."*

It's a powerful stance. He shared that he's lost out on potential partnerships simply because brands were "scared" of his advocacy. But instead of folding or watering down his message to please corporate boardrooms, he's doubling down. His point is simple: *He's not attacking politicians or parties—he's attacking the *systemic issues that keep us all down.**

As young Nigerians, we're often told to stay quiet, "face our front," and keep our politics out of our professional lives if we want to succeed. Falz is proof that you can be an activist and a creative icon without selling out your values.

He's showing us that if a partnership requires you to silence your conscience, it's probably not a partnership worth having in the long run.

He's making a clear distinction that we all need to grasp: calling out bad governance isn't the same as playing party politics. One is about holding leaders accountable; the other is about taking sides.

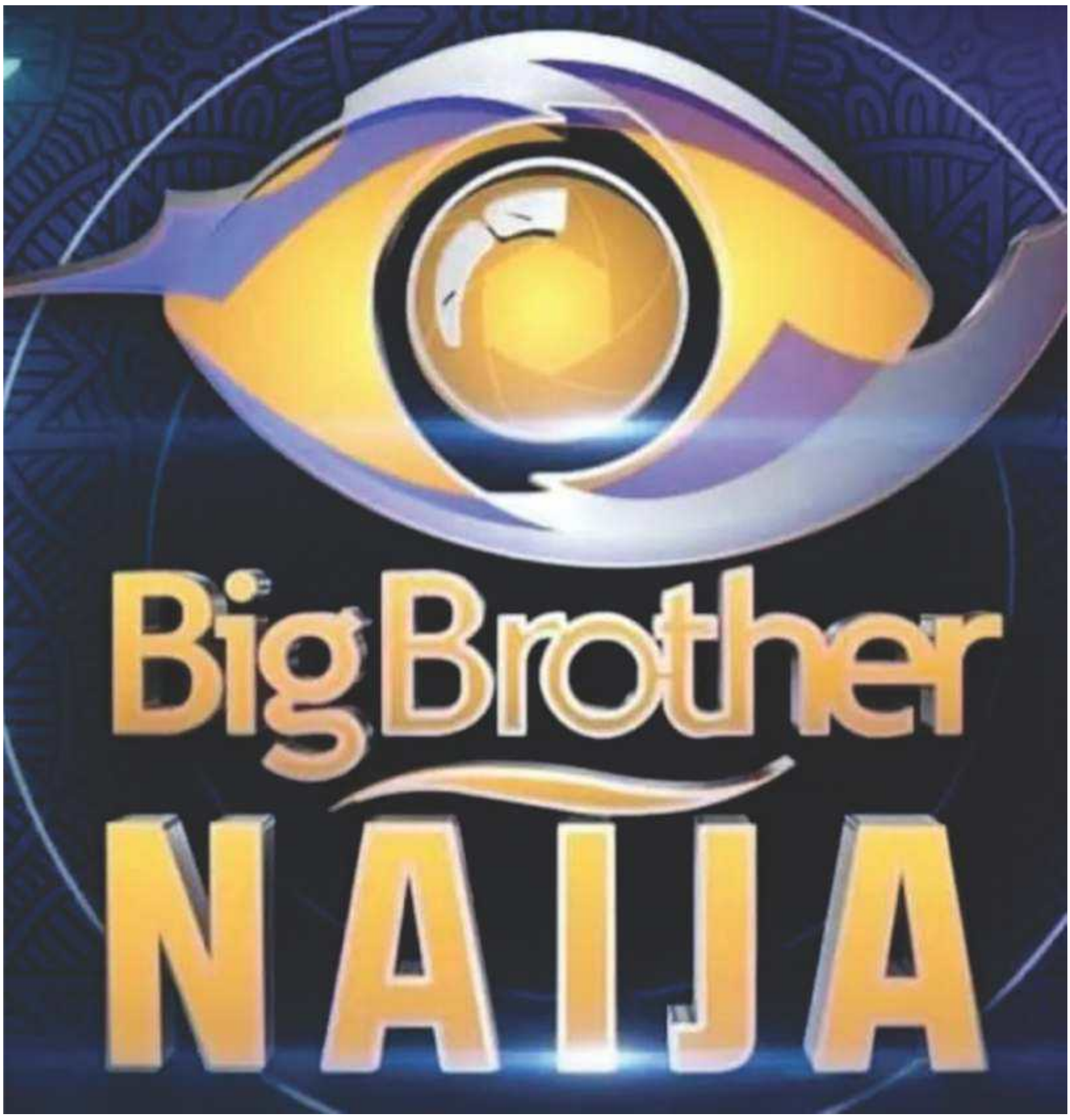
The fact that he isn't naming names but is still making some people uncomfortable proves that his message is hitting the right spots. As he put it, *"If you have a problem with that, then you are the problem."*

In a time where it feels like everything is polarized, Falz's message is a reminder that speaking the truth about the struggles we face—whether it's the cost of living, corruption, or social injustice—is not "political." It's just necessary.

He's not just a musician anymore; he's an example that we don't have to choose between our integrity and our success. If the "system" doesn't like it, maybe it's time for us to start building our own systems where the truth isn't considered a liability.

Do you think it's possible for more young Nigerians to speak up against bad governance without losing out on professional opportunities, or is the "fear" in the corporate world still too strong?

BBNaija Season 11: Is 160 Million the Key to Our Dreams?



Kehinde Adeleye

The countdown is officially on, and the energy among us is electric. Big Brother Naija is returning for its 11th season this Sunday, July 26, 2026, and the stakes have never felt higher. We've all seen the headlines—the organisers just announced a *record-breaking N160 million grand prize*.

For many of us watching, this isn't just about the drama or the viral memes that will inevitably take over our timelines. It's a massive conversation starter about what that kind of life-changing money means for a young Nigerian today.

What This Means for the Culture

Every year, BBNaija feels like a pulse check on Nigerian youth culture. Whether you're glued to the screen or just keeping up through Twitter (X) and TikTok, there's no denying the massive influence this show has. With this new prize record, the competition is going to be fiercer than ever.

The "Big Break":* Let's be real—the economy is tough, and for many, the show represents the ultimate shortcut to financial freedom and instant brand recognition. That N160 million isn't just a number; it's a dream of starting businesses, paying off debts, or finally getting that creative project off the ground.

The Audition Grind:* Seeing the queues in Lagos, Abuja, and Enugu back in May reminded us just how many of our peers are hungry for that spotlight. It shows just how much ambition is currently sitting in the rooms of Nigerian youth.

The Entertainment Factor:* Beyond the money, we're ready for the vibes. The fashion, the ships, the tasks, and the inevitable "Saturday Night Parties"—it's the one thing that gets everyone in the group chat talking at the same time.

The Buzz is Real

With the premiere just around the corner, everyone is already picking their early favorites and speculating about who will bring the best content. It's that time of year where the "House" becomes the center of our social lives.

Whether you're in it for the grind of the contestants or just looking to escape the daily hustle for a few weeks, Season 11 is shaping up to be the most intense one yet.

What's your take—do you think the record-breaking prize money is going to change the way the housemates play the game this year?

Glasgow 2026: Commonwealth Champion, Didih, Confident In Team Nigeria's Medal Push

By Saheed Afolabi

As the countdown to the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games enters its final week, Team Nigeria's weightlifting contingent is brimming with optimism. Leading the charge is Commonwealth champion and African record holder Onome Omolola Didih, who believes the team is primed to deliver strong performances and medals for the country.Didih, one of Nigeria's top medal prospects, praised the comprehensive support provided by the National Sports Commission (NSC), highlighting the excellent training camps held in Nigeria and Aberdeen, Scotland, as key factors in the team's strong preparation."I am living my dream representing Nigeria, and I'm truly grateful for the opportunity," Didih said. "The National Sports Commission has supported us every step of the way, and the Weightlifting Federation has been incredibly encouraging throughout this journey."Our camps in Nigeria and here in Aberdeen have been outstanding. The serene environment helped us stay fully focused, and the training facilities are equipped with everything we need. We are especially thankful to the Chairman of the National Sports Commission, Mallam Shehu Dikko, and Director General Hon. Bukola Olopade for their unwavering support."Didih arrives in Glasgow in exceptional form. She placed fourth at the 2024 World Weightlifting Championships, then dominated the 53kg category at the 2025 African Weightlifting Championships in Mauritius, where she lifted 92kg in the snatch and 111kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 203kg sweeping all three gold medals and becoming Africa's top-ranked lifter in her class.She defended her continental supremacy at the 2026 African Senior Weightlifting Championships in Egypt, once again winning gold in all three 53kg events. There, she posted lifts of 87kg in the snatch and 105kg in the clean and jerk for a 192kg total, finishing well ahead of competitors from Egypt and South Africa.Last summer, Didih further strengthened her reputation by claiming gold in the women's 53kg division at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Ahmedabad, India solidifying her position as one of Africa's premier weightlifters and Nigeria's brightest hope in Glasgow.As the team puts the finishing touches on its preparations in Aberdeen ahead of the July 23 Opening Ceremony, Didih called on Nigerians to rally behind the athletes."We urge Nigerians to keep praying for us and cheering us on as we compete for the country."We will give everything to make you proud and with your support, nothing is impossible."Team Nigeria remains focused on upholding the nation's strong legacy of excellence at the Commonwealth Games.

World Cup: Nigeria Spanish fans Cash Out From Argentina's Crash

Nigerians who supported Spain in the 2026 FIFA World Cup final have made huge wins through sport betting as La Roja defeated Argentina by a lone goal.

Substitutes, Nico Williams and Ferran Torres combined to score the only goal of the match in the 106 minutes of extra time as Spain dominated the game with no breathing space for the Lionel Messi led La Albiceleste.

Despite the gains made by those who staked on Spain to emerge champions, the Drake curse continues as the Canadian rapper had placed a massive $1.5 million wager on Argentina to win within 90 minutes, the bet which was rendered unsuccessful lighten up the superstitious belief that the Drake curse is real (A superstition where teams publicly backed by the rapper mostly loses or fumbles on the big stage).

UFC fighter, Conor McGregor also made a stake of a hundred thousand dollars on Argentina to win on 1xBet which he lost due to the triumph of Spain.

Nigeria football enthusiasts have however made personal gains on the final which was held at the New York New Jersey Stadium, East Rutherford.

According to Olajide Adesanya, he narrated how he made a gain as he placed a bet on Spain to win which won him two hundred and fifty thousand naira.

Olajide falls on the part of some Nigerians who smiled home after Spain won while numerous Nigerians also fell into the losing part.

Despite the rude shock of Argentina loss to the football community, Spain emerged victorious through sheer determination of the gruelling encounter.

The Argentina loss marked the end of an era of one of the greatest footballers ever, Lionel Messi who ended his World Cup career with 21 goals (In 33 matches) and including eight goals at the 2026 World showpiece.

More Than Just the Gym: Why Lagos is Changing the Game on Staying Fit

By Saheed Afolabi

Let's be honest: in a city as fast-paced as Lagos, where we're constantly stuck in traffic or glued to our screens, "staying fit" often feels like just another chore on an impossible to-do list. But the Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC) is trying to change that vibe, and they're looking to us to help lead the charge.

The LSSC, led by Director-General Lekan Fatodu, is making a major pivot. They aren't just focused on big-budget stadium events anymore—they're pushing for a culture where moving more and eating well is just part of our everyday hustle.

The "Micro-Habit" Strategy

You don't need a pro-athlete routine to start. Fatodu dropped a simple but real take on fitness: every step counts. He pointed to simple habits—like getting off the bus one stop early to walk the rest of the way—as the kind of mindset shift the city wants to see. The goal is to turn Lagos into an ecosystem where sports, culture, and wellness actually meet. For those of us living for the 'gram or building careers in the creator economy, this is a massive shift toward making health look and feel a lot more accessible.

Leading by Example: The Enioluwa Effect

If you follow the scene, you know Ade Enioluwa. He's the perfect face for this movement because he doesn't pretend he's living on kale and water. He loves good food, but he balances it with serious grit.

Having just crushed the Lagos Run in under five hours, he's already training for the Nestlé Water Marathon in November with a goal that's pure motivation: *breaking the four-hour mark.*

His message to us isn't about getting shredded or chasing clout; it's about the mental side of the game:

Discipline is everything: It's easy to have big goals, but it's the consistency when you're busy that actually defines you.

The Power of Influence: He's using his platform to show us that if you can commit to a marathon, you can apply that same energy to anything else you're chasing—whether it's your business, your studies, or a creative project.

Why This Matters for You

The LSSC is actively opening its doors to content creators and influencers who are actually moving the needle on public health. They want to partner with the people who are already making fitness look cool, reachable, and part of the Lagos lifestyle.

So, if you've been looking for a sign to start that running group, document your fitness journey, or just get moving, this is it. The commission is looking for voices that can turn "staying healthy" into the new standard for the youth in Lagos.

It's not just about the destination or the finish line; it's about building a version of ourselves that can keep up with the pace of our dreams.

If you were to start a "fitness challenge" with your friends to get the city moving, what activity would you pick to make it actually fun rather than a drag?

Published by Echonews Newspapers Limited
21, Ona Iwa Mimo Street, Ori Oke Bus Stop, Ejigbo, Lagos. www.echonews.ng Email: echonews111@yahoo.co.uk
Managing Editor: Obe Rasheed • Editor:Kunle Awosiyan Circulation: Opeyemi Akinlade • Adverts: 08025378799