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In Ibeju Lekki
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Man Arraigned
For Biting Off
Policeman's
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LAGOS COMMUNITIES EDITION

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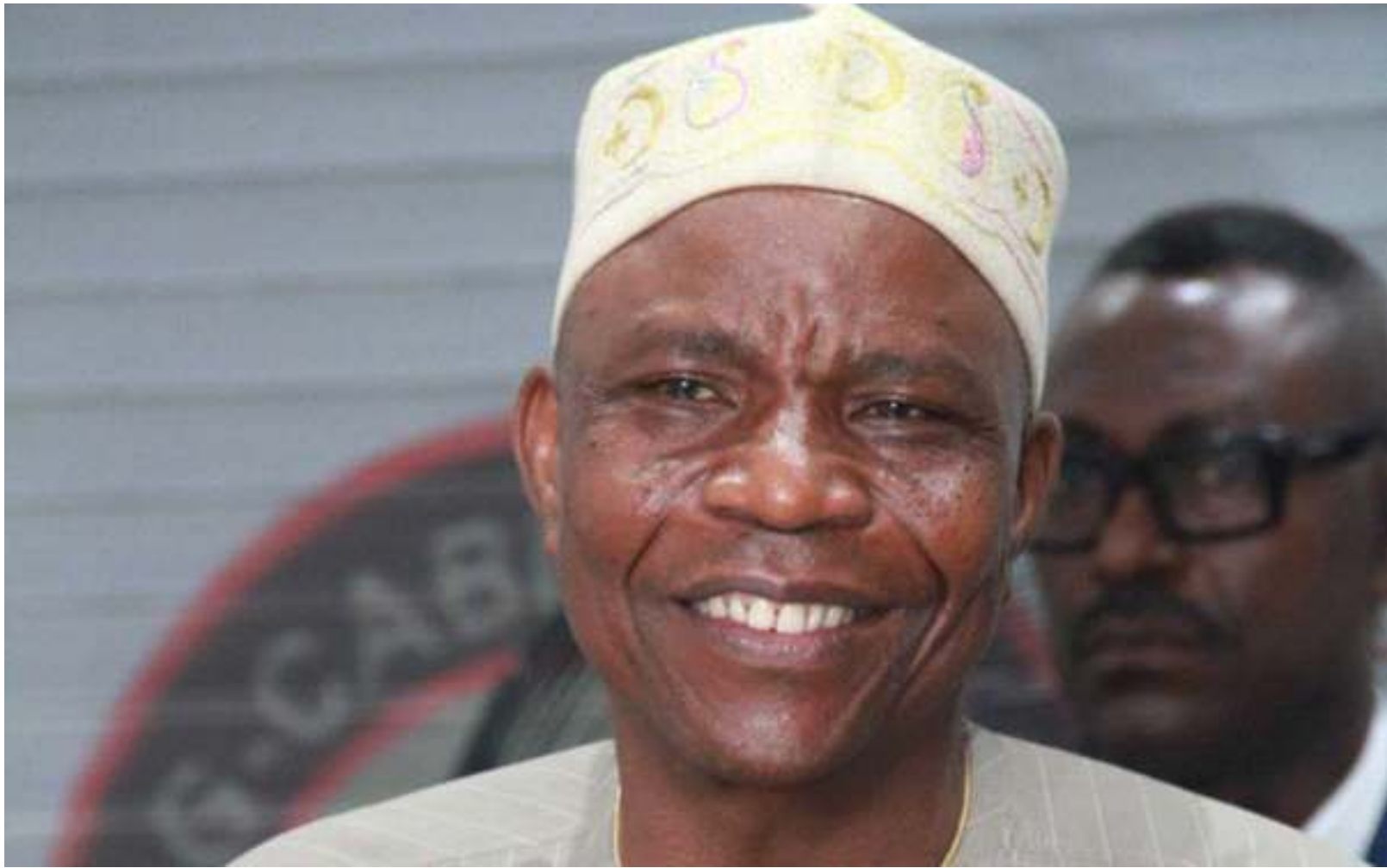
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Leaders of the APC Lagos State chapter have begun mobilisation to record highest votes and win prizes ahead of the 2027 general election. At a stakeholders forum held by the party recently, the chairman, Pastor Cornelius Ojelabi, announced that a 20 million cash reward had been earmarked for the local government that registers the highest number of new voters in the ongoing nationwide voter registration exercise. According to him, wards with the highest number of new registrations will also receive 5 million each. "The party is not leaving anything to chance in mobilising people to register and collect their PVCs," Ojelabi told party leaders and members. He emphasised that the initiative aims to strengthen grassroots mobilisation ahead of the 2027 general elections. Ojelabi also, disclosed that the party would refund nomination fees of unsuccessful aspirants at the last local government primaries. According to him, the refunds would be processed after appointments are concluded across the 57 local government areas (LGAs) and local council development areas (LCDAs). However, the decision has generated mixed reactions among affected aspirants. While most

Voters register: APC leaders to compete for best prizes

By Kunle Awosiyan



Cornelius Ojelabi

chairmanship aspirants who spoke to Echonews welcomed the development, many councillorship aspirants indicated preference for political appointments instead of refunds. One chairmanship aspirant, who preferred anonymity, said, "I think it's very kind of the party to refund the money. It's unprecedented because it has never happened before. I will be glad to have my money back." According to Ojelabi, the party has encouraged newly elected chairmen to appoint aggrieved aspirants as aides, while refunds would be made to those who could not be accommodated in the new

administrations. The APC primaries and subsequent local government election held on July 12 sparked internal disputes, with several aspirants alleging imposition of candidates and

lack of transparent voting processes. The party had pegged nomination fees at 5 million for chairmanship aspirants, in addition to an administrative fee of 500,000.

Councillorship aspirants were screened for chairmanship and 100,000 positions across the 57 councils, with 432 cleared to contest. Over 3,500 youths under 40, and persons with disabilities, were also screened. In total, 470



Lawal Pedro

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Following widespread petitions from aggrieved members, the party established an Election Appeal Committee headed by the State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro (SAN). Pedro's report revealed that the committee received 125 petitions, 45 from chairmanship aspirants and 59 from councillorship aspirants, alleging failure to conduct primaries, incidents of violence, and inconclusive processes in some areas. The committee noted that while the party's recourse to the consensus option was constitutional, it must involve all stakeholders to ensure fairness. It advised aggrieved members to embrace the party's internal mechanisms for conflict resolution. Speaking, Pedro urged the aspirants to embrace peace and accept the party's internal mechanisms for resolving disputes. "Consensus is not imposition if all stakeholders are involved. The party constitution allows it, and in some cases, it helps to prevent post-election crises," Pedro said. Calling for unity among all party members, the state governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu emphasised that the party's strength lies in collective support rather than individual ambition, particularly ahead of the 2027 election cycle. He reminded aspirants that while contestation is part of the democratic process, the decisions of the party must be accepted once made, urging aggrieved aspirants to work within the party structures. Sanwo-Olu affirmed the party's recognition of aspirants' sacrifices,

Voters register: APC leaders to compete for best prizes

Continued from page 2



Fashola

including paying promised that such political appointments nomination fees and efforts would not be or other forms of mobilising support. He ignored either through consideration.

He underscored that grassroots performance will matter, telling aggrieved aspirants and that their credibility and future eligibility depend on how well they deliver for the people now. To the former governor of Lagos State, Mr Babatunde Fashola, there is a need to recognise and reward party members who have sacrificed time and resources for the party's success. "We must engage and reward our members who sacrifice their time and resources to ensure APC's victory." Fashola warned of declining voter turnout despite increasing voter registration, noting, "We are witnessing increasing voter registration but declining voter turnout, this is not healthy for democracy." He called on the party to mobilise more enthusiastically, especially among the youth and grassroots, urging a renewed commitment to participation in the democratic process.

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City State

Home Phone: Alternative Phone:

Email:

INEC Voter Reg. ID:

Birth Date: Marital Status:

Occupation:

Date of Registration: Thumb Print Here

Registration Supervisor

Signature:

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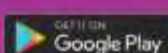
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LSFVCB, CDGN Unite To Redefine Culture For Economic Productivity

The Lagos State Film and Video Censors Board (LSFVCB) has joined forces with the Creative Designers Guild of Nigeria (CDGN) to redefine culture for economic growth. Mrs. Adebukola Agbaminoja, Executive Secretary/CEO of LSFVCB revealed this during the Creative Exhibition 2.0 at NECA House, Ikeja, Lagos, on Thursday, October 16, 2025 themed: "Redefining Culture for Economic Productivity."

Mrs. Agbaminoja highlighted the importance of collaboration between regulatory bodies and the creative industries to drive growth and innovation. "Culture is the lifeblood of any society; it shapes our identity, values, and aspirations," she stated, emphasising that this partnership is vital for fostering creativity while ensuring responsible content that reflects Nigerian values.

She called on stakeholders to unite in redefining culture for economic productivity and positioning Nigeria as a cultural powerhouse.

Dr. Joy Osawaru Akinyemi,



President of CDGN, shared the organisation's vision to make Nigeria the design capital of Africa. "We aim to showcase Nigeria's creative genius as a viable export, build partnerships between the creative industry and government, and attract investment into our cultural economy," she explained. This vision aligns with the Lagos State Government's efforts to promote the creative industry as a key economic driver. Renowned cultural expert Bishop (Dr.) Joseph Ighalo Edoro presented a paper titled: "Redefining

Culture for Economic Productivity in Contemporary Nigeria and Nations." He emphasised Nigeria's potential to leverage its cultural heritage, citing the success of Nollywood and the country's rich cultural history.

According to Edoro, the creative industry can significantly contribute to Nigeria's GDP, create jobs, and promote cultural exchange.

He outlined key strategies for success, including investing in training programmes and technology, promoting cultural partnerships, and ensuring effective

intellectual property management and copyright education.

"These strategies are essential for promoting Nigerian culture globally and building a sustainable creative industry", he noted.

Also speaking, Mr. Daniel Krull, Consul General of Germany, proposed a cultural partnership between Nigeria and Germany that would link Nollywood with the German film sector for mutual benefits.

"Nigeria possesses the stories, rhythms, and colours; Germany provides infrastructure,

training models, and global distribution networks," he said.

He further suggested exchange programmes in set and prop design, art direction, cinematography, and post-production to merge Africa's vibrant cultural heritage with Europe's technical expertise.

"German studios can benefit from the warmth and emotional depth of African narratives, while Nigerian designers can learn the science of visual storytelling through structured apprenticeships," he explained. "This synergy can create a new sub-

economy of cultural engineers - Africans trained to export the essence of their heritage with global quality assurance."

Mr. Krull expressed Germany's readiness to collaborate further with Nigerian creatives and production companies, noting that the German delegation's presence at the exhibition was to explore opportunities for deeper partnership with Nollywood and CDGN.

The event marked a significant milestone in Nigeria's creative industry, bringing together experts, government officials, and creatives to explore the intersection of culture and economic growth.

LSACA Seeks Strategic Partnership With WAPA On HIV Awareness Programme

The Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA), led by its Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Folakemi Animashaun, has paid a courtesy visit to the Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA), to foster stronger collaboration in raising awareness on HIV prevention, reducing stigma, and empowering persons living with HIV/AIDS.

The visit, which took place at the Ministry's

Conference Room in Alausa, provided a platform for both institutions to explore joint initiatives that would promote inclusive public health and social development in the State.

In her remarks, Dr. Animashaun highlighted the Agency's commitment to preventive health education and social inclusion, stressing that HIV transmission can occur through unscreened blood transfusions, use of

unsterilized needles, and unprotected sexual intercourse. She emphasised the need for continuous public enlightenment to dispel myths and ensure early detection through voluntary testing.

She further appealed to the Ministry to integrate people living with HIV into WAPA's empowerment and vocational training programmes, while also supporting the Agency with

screening kits to aid community-level testing. Dr. Animashaun called for intensified advocacy against stigma and discrimination, which, she noted, remain significant barriers to effective HIV response and social reintegration.

Responding, the Honourable Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Mrs. Bolaji Cecilia Dada, commended LSACA for its sustained efforts in promoting public health and

preventive awareness across Lagos State. She disclosed that the Ministry has already empowered over 200 persons living with HIV through various vocational training and support programmes across LASUTH, Mushin, and Ibeju-Lekki, in alignment with the State Government's inclusive social protection drive.

Mrs. Dada assured the delegation of WAPA's continued collaboration with LSACA to strengthen awareness, advocacy, and empowerment for

people affected by HIV, reaffirming that the Ministry remains committed to advancing Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's vision of an inclusive and compassionate Lagos.

Also present at the meeting were the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Rianat Ajibike Onigbanjo, and Directors of the Ministry, who expressed readiness to support inter-agency partnerships aimed at enhancing public health, reducing poverty, and empowering vulnerable groups across the State.



LSDPC Signs Landmark Joint Venture Agreement With MEH Reportage

The Lagos State Development and Property Corporation (LSDPC) has officially signed a joint venture agreement with the

Middle East Harvesters (MEH Reportage) for the development of a world-class hotel and residential complex strategically located at the corner piece of Ozumba Mbadiwe, Victoria Island, Lagos.

The project, which stands as a major milestone in LSDPC's urban development drive, will feature a 28-floor structure comprising 592 units that include studio, one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments, alongside conference facilities and retail spaces designed to enhance both residential comfort and commercial vibrancy. At the meeting, the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of LSDPC, Hon. Ayodeji Joseph, expressed his delight at the realization of the partnership, describing the project as a once in a lifetime opportunity. He noted that the initiative reflects the Corporation's vision to create transformative developments that will redefine urban living standards in Lagos. The partnership with MEH Reportage marks a significant step forward in the Corporation's commitment to delivering innovative, sustainable, and high-value real estate developments across Lagos State.



Lagos Vows To Revoke Home Allocations of Erring Allottees



In a bid to promote the well-being of residents and ensure that infrastructure within State Government-owned housing estates remains in good condition, the Honourable Commissioner for Housing, Hon. Moruf Akinderu-Fatai, has reiterated that the Lagos State Government will revoke the home allocations of allottees who fail to comply with extant rules and regulations guiding the estates.

The Commissioner made this known during the monthly stakeholders' forum and public enlightenment meeting organised for residents of State Government

housing estates in the Epe Division, held at the Sir Michael Otedola Housing Estate, Epe.

Hon. Akinderu-Fatai, represented by the Permanent Secretary, Engr. Abdulhafiz Toriola, emphasised the importance of strict adherence to estate regulations, particularly the payment of facility maintenance fees and insurance premiums, which he described as crucial to sustaining the standards and integrity of the estates.

"Payment of facility maintenance fees and insurance premiums is vital for maintaining high standards in our estates. Refusal to pay or

comply with laid-down regulations means willingly forfeiting your right of ownership," he stated.

The Permanent Secretary further disclosed that the State Government will not hesitate to withdraw allocations from allottees found in violation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Government. He warned against alterations, modifications, renovations, or redesigns carried out without official approval, noting that such actions distort the master plan of the estates and attract sanctions.

Engr. Toriola also frowned at allottees who have failed to take

physical possession of their apartments, warning that such allocations risk revocation. He stressed that the intention of the Lagos State Government is to provide homes for genuine residents in need of accommodation, not for property speculators.

He further revealed that the Ministry is collaborating with the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and other security agencies to identify and hand over any residents found to engage in use or sale of prohibited substances in State owned estates.

In addition, he warned that any allottee found to have leased or rented apartments

to illicit drug users, internet fraudsters, or persons of questionable character will have their allocation revoked if such allegations are verified.

Residents were urged to promptly pay their facility management fees and insurance premiums as mandated by law to sustain essential services such as security, waste disposal, street lighting, cleaning, and general sanitation. These measures also serve to prevent risks of building damage due to fire or storm.

He encouraged residents to report any suspicious or negative activities within the estates via the Ministry's official public reporting channels

by text or whatsapp messages to 0706 330 1251 or via electronic mail: housing@lagosstat.e.gov.ng This, he said, will help promote safety and enhance the overall well-being of residents.

The Permanent Secretary also disclosed that discussions are ongoing with private partners to provide alternative power solutions for estate facilities, thereby reducing maintenance costs for residents.

In highlighting ongoing projects, Engr. Toriola mentioned the construction of network roads at CHOIS City, Agbowo, and the repair of electricity transformers at the Sir Michael Otedola Housing Estate, Epe, urging residents to take ownership and monitor the projects.

Earlier in her welcome address, the Director of the Estate Department, Esv (Mrs.) Olukeni Fosudo, stated that the stakeholders' forum was designed to encourage collaboration among residents, clarify the roles and responsibilities of allottees, facility managers, and the Ministry, and address security and safety concerns within.

Sanwo-Olu Reaffirms Commitment To Transform Badagry Into Global Heritage Hub ... Says Lagos Will Continue to Champion African Unity, Cultural Renaissance

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, has reiterated his administration's commitment to transforming Badagry into a world-class heritage and tourism hub that will preserve Africa's history while unlocking new opportunities for economic growth and cultural exchange. The Governor stated this at the 5th Edition of the Door of Return Ceremony, held on Saturday, October 18, 2025, in Badagry through his representative at the event, his Special Adviser on Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mr. Idris Aregbe.

Sanwo-Olu described the Door of Return as more than a remembrance of history, calling it "a vibrant festival celebrating how far Africa and her diaspora have come, and the incredible potential we have to grow together." He noted that



while Badagry once symbolised pain and separation during the transatlantic slave trade, it has now become "a sacred space of triumph, unity, and renewal."

"Through this Door of Return, we are not just retracing our steps into history; we are stepping boldly into our destiny," the Governor said. "We return not as the lost children of Africa, but as proud bearers of her greatness, scientists, artists, innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders whose talents are shaping the modern world."

Sanwo-Olu emphasised that the event has

evolved from a solemn commemoration into a global platform for cultural diplomacy, tourism, and economic collaboration between Africa and its diaspora communities. He further disclosed that the Lagos State Government is currently constructing a permanent Door of Return Monument in Badagry as a lasting symbol of unity, while also revitalising the Badagry Heritage Corridor to preserve historical landmarks and empower local communities through tourism,

culture, and entrepreneurship.

"We aim to ensure that the story of the African journey, from hardship to strength, from departure to return, is shared here with dignity, creativity, and pride," he added.

"This celebration is not just about coming home; it is about bringing back the very best of who we have become."

The Governor also commended key figures driving the heritage movement, including Nobel Laureate Prof. Wole Soyinka, whose leadership of the Heritage Journey 2026 project underscores the importance of

identity as a guiding force for growth and international performer Mr. Jeffrey Daniels, whose global artistry reflects the enduring rhythm and creativity of Africa. He further acknowledged the presence of Ambassadors from Cuba and Brazil, highlighting the deep historical and cultural ties that unite Africa and the diaspora through shared ancestry and resilience.

Governor Sanwo-Olu called on Africans across the world to see Lagos as a "vibrant centre of innovation, investment, and inspiration."

"Whether it is in the creative sectors, digital technology, climate initiatives, or youth empowerment, Lagos is forging connections with the diaspora - transforming shared memories into shared success," he stated.

The Governor, however, described the Door of Return as a gateway to mastery, partnership, and pride, symbolising Africa's collective journey from adversity to greatness.

"The narrative of the African journey has never been one of defeat; it is a tale of transformation," he declared. "To our brothers and sisters across the oceans, we say, welcome home. Let us rebuild, reinvest, and reimagine Africa together."

It should be noted that the annual Door of Return ceremony, organised in collaboration with the Lagos State Government, celebrates the resilience of the African spirit and strengthens cultural bonds between Africa and its diaspora.

Sanwo-Olu To Host Global Summit on Blue Economy ... As Lagos Leads Africa's Climate Front

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Sunday, reaffirmed the State's commitment to advancing sustainable growth through innovation and investment in resilience as it hosts the 2025 International Climate Change Summit. The 2025 Summit with the theme: "Blue Economy, Green Money: Financing Africa's Coastal Resilience and Ocean Innovation", to be held at the Lagos Continental Hotel between the 6th and 7th of November will attract global leaders, investors, climate scientists, and policy makers. A statement signed by the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab quoted the Governor as noting that Lagos has continued to demonstrate leadership in subnational climate action and developing practical

mechanisms for city-level climate finance. The Governor reiterated that the State has also been developing blue bonds, and nature-based coastal protection projects that are shaping Africa's next decade of sustainable urban development. "As Africa's fastest-growing coastal city, Lagos stands at the frontline of both climate risk and innovation. Her goal is to unlock sustainable financing that protects the

people, builds resilience, and drives economic growth through the power of the blue economy." Setting the tone for the conference, the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab said: "The Lagos International Climate Change Summit 2025 is more than a conference, it is a declaration that African cities can finance their own future," "We invite global leaders, investors,

and innovators to join Lagos as we redefine what coastal resilience looks like for the Global South." The event will convene to accelerate action and investment in Africa's coastal and ocean economies ahead of the 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30). The 2025 Summit which is the 11th in the series will serve as a strategic engagement platform for

African and global stakeholders to align priorities, deepen partnerships, and strengthen Africa's voice in global climate negotiations. It will also spotlight blue economy financing as a key frontier for climate adaptation, innovation, and job creation in Africa just as discussions will centre on unlocking investment for ocean energy, sustainable fisheries, mangrove

restoration, and coastal infrastructure through green and blended finance instruments. The Summit will also highlight ongoing and pipeline projects supporting coastal resilience, environmental innovation, and sustainable livelihoods in Lagos. Delegates and participants expected to include representatives from: African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Bank and Eko Atlantic.



Lagos Hosts 2025 Culture Quiz



In a bid to preserve and promote Nigeria's rich cultural heritage, the Lagos State Council for Arts and Culture, on Wednesday, hosted the 2025 Culture Quiz Competition for Senior Secondary Schools at its temporary office in Shangisha, Magodo. The keenly contested event featured students from Gbaja Girls Senior High School, Surulere; Oriwu Senior Model College, Igbogbo and Vetland Senior Grammar

School, Ifako Ijaiye. The competition proved both educational and engaging, as participants showcased their knowledge of cultural values, traditions and practices. Speaking at the event, Mr. Idowu Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of the Lagos State Council for Arts and Culture, emphasised the importance of instilling cultural awareness in young people. "This is an opportunity to catch them young and instil in them

the values of our culture and heritage. People who have lost their culture have lost their identity. This competition helps them understand what their society is all about", he said. Mr. Johnson highlighted that students participated in three major segments: Essay Writing on Culture, Children's Storytelling on Culture, and the Culture Quiz, all designed to deepen their understanding of cultural identity. The Director of

Research, Publications and Documentation at the Agency, Mr. Somoye Babafemi Olumide expressed concern over the influence of foreign cultures on Nigerian youth through the internet and media. "There are so many foreign cultures invading our airspace and distracting our children. It is important to bring them back to their roots. If they don't know where they are coming from, they can't know where they are going," he said. Mr. Somoye

revealed that the competition serves as a preliminary stage for a national competition scheduled for November and encouraged more schools to participate in future editions to broaden cultural awareness across the state. Teachers and school representatives commended the initiative, noting that cultural education had long been neglected. They described the competition as a timely step toward

reconnecting the younger generation with their heritage. Participating students expressed gratitude to the government for the opportunity to learn more about their roots, acknowledging that many youths were losing touch with traditional values. At the end of the competition, Oriwu Senior Model College, Igbogbo, emerged as the overall winner and was presented with a prize in recognition of its outstanding performance.

Go and Get Your Planning Permit, Commissioner Urges Developers In Ojo Axis

The Lagos State Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Oluyinka Olumide, has called on residents, Community Development Associations (CDAs), Community Development Committees (CDCs), and other stakeholders in Ojo, Badagry, Iba/Oto-Awori, Amuwo, Oriade, and Olorunda districts to ensure they obtain Planning Permits for all physical developments in their respective areas.

Dr. Olumide made the call during a Public Awareness Programme organised by the Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Authority (LASPPPA) to sensitise stakeholders on the importance and social benefits

of obtaining planning permits, both for individuals and the government.

The Commissioner explained that many structures sited on the right of way would be demolished once the government begins road construction in the affected areas, stressing that such losses could have been avoided if the owners had secured proper planning permits.

"If any building sited on the right of way had obtained a Planning Permit, the owners would be adequately compensated," he stated.

Dr. Olumide clarified that planning permits can only be granted for properties located within approved layouts, assuring stakeholders that there would be no arbitrary demolitions at the Trade Fair.

He further emphasised that the government remains committed to promoting orderly, sustainable, and resilient physical development across the state and urged residents to embrace compliance for their benefit and the public good.

In his remarks, the General Manager, Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Authority (LASPPPA), Tpl. Kehinde Osinailke expressed appreciation to all participants for responding to the invitation despite the short notice.

He reiterated LASPPPA's openness to the public and encouraged residents, developers, and professionals to visit the Authority for clarifications or assistance regarding planning permit

applications.

"Our office doors are open to everyone. We are here to enlighten, support, and work with you to ensure compliance with planning laws and promote a well-organised Lagos," he assured.

Also, speaking at the event, Tpl. Claudius Akinyemi, a Director in LASPPPA, enlightened participants on the procedures, requirements, and benefits of obtaining a planning permit.

She highlighted that applications can now be processed online, making the process faster and more convenient. According to her, a valid planning permit not only serves as a legal document but can also be used as collateral in banks. Tpl. Akinyemi added that holders of valid planning permits are eligible

for compensation if their properties are affected by government road expansion or development projects.

She further explained the various types of permits issued by LASPPPA, including building, renovation, remodelling, and revalidation permits, and warned against the consequences of illegal constructions, which could result in demolition.

During the interactive session, several stakeholders expressed their views and concerns.

The President-General of Alaba International Amalgamated Council, High Chief (Dr.) Camilus Amajuoyi, pledged that property owners and developers at the Alaba Trade Fair would now strictly

adhere to the law by obtaining planning permits before reconstructing their plazas.

Another stakeholder, High Chief Taofeek Oseni, raised concerns over long-standing buildings erected on government acquisition schemes without proper permits.

Similarly, Barrister Okolie from the Trade Fair complex revealed that some property owners had applied for permits since 2016 after obtaining federal approvals but had yet to receive LASPPPA's response.

Meanwhile, the Chairman, Association of Draftsmen in Lagos State, Mr. Olawale Raymond appealed to the government to consider introducing another Amnesty Programme to enable owners of existing "As-Built" structures to regularise their developments.

The forum was well attended by Obas, Baales, Local Government Chairmen, CDAs, CDCs, and residents from the six district offices under LASPPPA, Ojo, Badagry, Iba/Oto-Awori, Amuwo, Oriade, and Olorunda, all of whom commended the government for the enlightenment initiative.



Lagos DSV A Reintroduces Toll Free Code To Report Sexual Assault Cases

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, DSV A, has informed that residents in the state who have been subjected to sexual assault can report their case through the use of the USSD code, *6820#.

In partnership with MTN Nigeria, the DSV A stated that the initiative was taken to improve access to timely support for survivors of abuse across the state.

With this dedicated code, MTN users can now discreetly report cases of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence,



SUNNY MYKE

Child Abuse, Rape, and other related offences from their mobile phones after which they will be guided through a step-by-step process to request immediate assistance, report incidents, and connect directly to

DSVA's wide range of survivor-centered services. These services include medical intervention, psychosocial support, counselling, legal aid, empowerment support, and

access to safe shelters. The platform is also designed to be inclusive and easy to use, requiring no airtime or internet access, ensuring that help is available to every resident, regardless of location or

circumstance.

"The reintroduction of *6820# further complements DSV A's existing 24-hour toll-free helpline (0-8000-333-333), expanding reporting options for survivors and concerned

citizens," a statement by agency reads.

It continues, "Together, these platforms demonstrate the State's ongoing commitment to eliminating barriers to reporting and ensuring survivors receive the urgent care and protection they need.

"This innovation underscores the Lagos State Government's resolve to leverage technology as a tool for safeguarding lives, promoting accountability, and advancing its zero-tolerance stance against all forms of abuse."

Man Arraigned For Biting Off Policeman's Finger

By Felix Kuyinu

A 29-year-old man, Samuel Jacob, is facing trial over accusations of committing assault on a police officer by biting off his finger.

Jacob, at the Badagry Magistrates' Court, was said to have committed the offence on the policeman, Musa Hassan, biting off his index finger and inflicting him serious wound.

The Prosecutor,

Clement Okuimose, disclosed that the alleged lawbreaker, is facing charges of with assault and inflicting a wound as imposed against him by the police.

Okuimose, added that the defendant, having committed the offence on October 3, at about 11:30 a.m. at Oloko, Badagry area of Lagos poured fuel on

Hassan.

The prosecution said the offence contravened sections 246 and 174 of the Criminal Law of Lagos state, 2015.

The defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge.

The Magistrate, Fadaunsi Adefioye, admitted the defendant to bail of N200,000 with two sureties in like sum and adjourned the case til November 11.



Four BRT Staff Jailed Over Unauthorized Cash Transaction

By Felix Kuyinu

Four staff operating with the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority, LAMATA, and the Bus Rapid Transit, BRT, has been sentenced to jail for collecting cash from passengers and diverting it for personal use.

The quatre: Aiyankha Samuel, Ejikene Nkendenma, Ajayi Oluwafemi and Sikiru Ajani, were sentenced to different jail terms at the Badagry Magistrates' Court in a trial presided by Judge Fadhunsi Ajefioye after they all



pleaded guilty to a three-count charge bordering on unauthorized collection of cash from members of the public as imposed against them.

Magistrate

Adefioye, in his ruling in the case of the first accused, Samuel, held that there was no justification for stealing government money meant for the development

of all and sundry. The magistrate stated that the offender, in Abule-Egba, collected cash amounting to N16,200, property of Lagos State Government, from a commuter, thus,

contravening the provisions under Section 280(1) & (2) of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2015.

For Ejikeme Nkendenma, Ajayi Oluwafemi, and Sikiru Ajani, the

prosecution said they demanded and collected unauthorised money from passengers as levy, and at the same time, the defendants, after collecting the money from the passengers, unlawfully converted the money for their own use.

They were all sentenced on the three-count charges, with the longest term being five months' imprisonment.

The convicts were arraigned yesterday as part of LAMATA's efforts to eliminate cash collection in regulated public transportation services across the state.

KOSOFE

City Boy Movement Names Ogunlewe as Director

The City Boy Movement has announced the appointment of Barrister Ogunlewe Moyosore, the Chairman of Kosofe Local Government, as its new State Director for the Lagos Chapter. The appointment, which was made public by the national leadership of the movement, is seen as part of a broader effort to strengthen grassroots mobilisation and youth

engagement in alignment with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda.

Barr. Moyosore, a respected legal practitioner and advocate of progressive governance, brings a wealth of administrative experience and community service to the new role. As State Director, he is expected to lead initiatives that promote civic participation, political awareness, and social development

Kehinde Adeleye

across Lagos communities.

The City Boy Movement, a political advocacy platform established to advance the ideals and leadership vision of President Tinubu, focuses on fostering good governance, inclusivity, and youth empowerment through civic mobilisation and policy engagement.

In a statement welcoming his appointment, the movement described Moyosore as "a

beacon of unity and hope whose leadership will further deepen the movement's reach at the grassroots level."

Responding to the announcement, Moyosore expressed appreciation for the confidence reposed in him, pledging to continue promoting good governance and community development.

"This appointment is both an honour and a call to serve. We will ensure that the City Boy Movement continues to resonate with the people of Lagos through

programmes that reflect the Renewed Hope vision," he said.

His appointment has been widely received in

political circles as a strategic move to consolidate grassroots support for the Renewed Hope administration across Lagos State.



Olowa Joins State Officials in Clean Lagos Drive

Atume Terfa



A major push for environmental renewal gained momentum as Mr. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa, Executive Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government and Chairman of the Conference 57 Council Chairmen, joined Commissioners for Environment and Transportation in a high-level strategy meeting aimed at deepening collaboration for a cleaner, healthier Lagos. Held at the Protea Hotel in Ikeja, the meeting brought together key players from state

ministries, local councils, and environmental agencies to strengthen waste management systems, improve urban transport coordination, and ensure policy implementation reaches grassroots communities. In his remarks, Olowa emphasised that true progress in environmental reform requires "complete synergy" among all stakeholders — from the state's central agencies to local councils and community actors. "As council chairmen, we are

on the frontlines of implementation," Olowa stated. "Our partnership with the state ministries will determine how efficiently Lagos can tackle waste, ease traffic congestion, and achieve a truly sustainable urban environment." Discussions at the meeting reviewed several ongoing initiatives under the Lagos State Government's environmental and transport reform agenda: LAWMA's Clean Energy Fleet: The Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) is set to roll out 100

new CNG-powered waste trucks to improve collection efficiency and cut carbon emissions across the state. "Trash for Cash" Initiative: Recently launched by the Ministry of Environment, the scheme encourages residents to exchange recyclable items for money, incentivising household-level recycling and reducing landfill pressure. Stricter Waste Enforcement: Lagos has intensified sanctions against illegal dumping and open

defecation, introducing stiffer fines and short-term custodial sentences for environmental offenders. Smarter Transport Coordination: The Commissioner for Transportation highlighted plans to improve route management, bus terminal organisation, and traffic flow in collaboration with local councils — targeting congestion hotspots that fuel both pollution and road gridlock. Olowa outlined a three-pronged approach to local-level execution: Align PSP Operators with State Standards: Local councils will work with LAWMA to ensure private waste contractors meet collection targets and eliminate unauthorised dumpsites. Data-Driven Monitoring: State and local governments will share waste and transport data to track performance and respond swiftly to emerging challenges. Community Sensitisation: Councils will intensify awareness campaigns and expand "Adopt-a-

Street" and "Adopt-a-Community" programmes to encourage citizen participation in maintaining clean surroundings. The Lagos State Government's evolving environmental policy seeks to move beyond ad-hoc sanitation drives toward building a sustained culture of cleanliness and urban order. The vision, as articulated at the meeting, is a Lagos where: Waste is sorted at source, and recyclables have economic value. Transport systems are efficiently integrated, reducing congestion and emissions. And community involvement drives lasting change from the grassroots upward. Closing the session, Hon. Olowa reaffirmed the commitment of the 57 council chairmen to turning policy into progress. "This partnership marks a new phase of collective responsibility," he said. "Together, we will make the dream of a cleaner, greener Lagos a visible reality."

Impact of “Trash for Cash” Initiative In Ibeju Lekki LGA

Atume Terfa

When Lagos State rolled out its renewed “Trash for Cash” recycling drive this month, the programme arrived in Ibeju-Lekki against a backdrop of ongoing collaboration between the local council and state waste managers. Early signs suggest the scheme is already nudging behaviour, delivering modest incomes to participating households and sharpening local conversations about how to make recycling pay — both economically and environmentally. The scheme, announced publicly by the Commissioner for Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab, asks residents to sort and bring recyclable materials to LAWMA collection points — where bags are weighed and cash rewards handed out on designated days. LAWMA's recycling teams have been visible in community demonstrations and sensitisation drives across the state to show residents how the process works. Local fit: why Ibeju-Lekki matters Ibeju-Lekki is a patchwork of fishing

communities, farming settlements and new residential developments along the Lekki peninsula. That mix matters: some parts of the LGA still lack containerisation and rely on tricycle or PSP (private-sector) collectors, while other neighbourhoods are better serviced. The council's prior partnership with LAWMA and its experience running local collection schemes means Ibeju-Lekki was well placed to adopt the “Trash for Cash” approach quickly — but the local terrain also makes consistent logistics and outreach essential. What's already changed on the ground Immediate pocket money. Short videos and agency posts from the launch show residents receiving small cash payments after handing in bags of plastics, cans and cartons. For low-income households and informal workers, those small sums are visible, immediate benefits — a key selling point for the programme. Behavioural nudges. The cash incentive—and the public demonstrations by LAWMA

teams — are prompting some households to start sorting at source rather than dumping all waste into black bags, a behavioural shift Lagos has sought for years. Officials hope this habit change will reduce landfill pressure and make recycling streams more reliable. New micro-earnings routes. For informal waste pickers and petty traders in Ibeju-Lekki, the initiative creates an additional revenue stream and the potential to organise into small-scale collection groups that can aggregate recyclables for higher payouts downstream. Voices from the community — what residents are saying (and what we could not yet verify) Across Lagos media and LAWMA's social channels, public reactions to the drive have been broadly positive — residents describe the programme as “helpful” and “a welcome boost” for daily incomes. LAWMA and the Commissioner's posts also show clips of smiling residents receiving payment at collection points. However, at the time of reporting, few attributable, named quotes

from Ibeju-Lekki residents appear in national coverage; most immediate reactions we find are generic or from other Lagos communities reached in the early rollout. That said, local history suggests likely responses in Ibeju-Lekki will mirror those reported elsewhere: appreciation for extra cash, cautious optimism about logistics, and calls for predictability in payment and collection. Operational concerns and resident anxieties Residents and observers across Lagos — as well as the agencies deploying the scheme — have flagged practical risks that also apply to Ibeju-Lekki: irregular collection or delays in processing could create temporary dump points around collection hubs; unclear guidelines on eligible materials risk disputes; and small payouts must be regular and predictable to sustain participation. Local

PSP operators and Ibeju-Lekki council officials will need to coordinate closely with LAWMA to prevent unintended consequences. What would make the programme stick in Ibeju-Lekki? From past local engagements and the early rollout, three priorities stand out: Localise collection points — more collection sites within communities (not only at busy hubs) so households don't travel far to participate. Predictable payout schedules and transparent weights/values — residents must know exactly when and how much they will be paid to build trust. Integration with PSPs and micro-entrepreneurship support — formal links between informal collectors, PSP operators and recyclers will secure supply chains and create jobs (for example, collection cooperatives or small-scale aggregators). Early verdict — promising, but fragile “Trash for Cash”

offers Ibeju-Lekki a two-fold opportunity: to reduce environmental pressure by recovering recyclables and to create tangible economic benefits for households. The programme's early visibility and the council's prior engagement with LAWMA are advantages. But turning short-term payouts into lasting change will require predictable logistics, strong data sharing between state and local actors, and quick responses to community feedback. If Ibeju-Lekki's leaders — from the council secretariat to PSP operators and community groups — establish clear collection schedules, expand local pickup points, and publicise simple guidance on what qualifies as recyclable, the modest cash in residents' hands today could become the foundation for a more sustainable waste economy tomorrow. Otherwise, the gains risk fading into one-off publicity wins rather than systemic change.



Akinpelu Leads Breast Cancer Awareness Drive

Kehinde Adeleye

It was more than just another awareness event at the Alimosho Council Secretariat. It was a heartfelt call to action. The Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, spoke passionately about something that touches families across the world, the fight against breast cancer.

Speaking at the Breast Cancer Awareness Programme themed "Early Detection Saves Lives," Hon. Johnson reminded everyone that health is truly wealth and that awareness and action can save lives.

"Breast cancer is one of the most common health challenges affecting women everywhere, including Nigeria," he said. "Too many lives are lost because the disease is discovered too late. But with early detection, we can change that story."

The Chairman spoke directly to the heart of the community, mothers, sisters, daughters, wives urging them to take charge of their health through regular screenings and self



examinations. But he did not stop there. He also called on men to stand strong beside the women in their lives.

"Support the women around you. Encourage them to go for check ups. Accompany them if you can," he urged. "When one

of us is healthy, we all thrive."

Hon. Johnson also highlighted the local government's commitment to accessible healthcare, community sensitisation, and women focused health programmes, all aimed at making sure no one in

Alimosho is left behind.

He expressed deep appreciation to healthcare workers, NGOs, and volunteers who continue to give their time and heart to cancer education and screening.

"Your work is saving lives," he said. "And for that, Alimosho is

truly grateful."

As the event came to a close, Hon. Johnson left everyone with a powerful reminder:

"Awareness without action changes nothing. Let's be advocates in our homes, schools, and communities. Together, we can

build a healthier Alimosho."

The event is part of ongoing activities marking Breast Cancer Awareness Month, bringing together residents, health workers, and young people to spread one message loud and clear: check early, live fully.

Residents Want More Infrastructure in Alimosho

Kehinde Adeleye



Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, said the project forms part of a wider plan to restore roads across different wards and enhance mobility for residents.

"Our focus is on creating safer, more accessible roads that support daily life and local business," he said.

While the roadwork in Orisunbare has been widely welcomed, residents in Ward D say they are eager for the same level of attention. Communities including Odebunmi Afonka, Toyin Giwa, and Banmeke continue to call for inclusion in upcoming phases of the council's infrastructure programme.

"We're happy that progress is happening," Joshua added, "but we also want to see it spread evenly across Alimosho."

The Olajide Allison Street project is expected to be completed in the coming weeks, with the council promising continued investment in neighbourhood renewal as part of its long-term development plan.

Calls for broader development are growing across Alimosho Local Government, as residents appeal for infrastructure projects to reach more communities. One of them, David Joshua on the official

facebook page of the council from Ward D, voiced what many feel when he asked, "When are these good things coming to Odebunmi Afonka, Toyin Giwa and Banmeke? Thanks." Joshua's question comes as

construction work officially begins on Olajide Allison Street in the Orisunbare area, part of the council's ongoing effort to rehabilitate roads and improve neighbourhood access under the WISE Agenda, a policy framework

focused on community renewal and infrastructure improvement. Residents in Orisunbare have welcomed the development with cautious optimism, describing it as a long-awaited response to years of poor road conditions that

made movement difficult, especially during the rainy season.

"It's good to finally see this road being fixed. We've waited a long time for this," said one resident, watching as construction equipment moved in.

The Chairman of

Spelling Bee Winners Lead Mosan-Okunola Council



Kehinde Adeleye

council chairman for her dedication to service, while the Majority Leader, Hon. John Ibijemilusi, moved for an adjournment after the special sitting.

The celebration continued at the council hall, where certificates were presented to participants of a two-week digital marketing training programme. The One-Day Chairman, Master Opeyemi, carried out the presentation duties, exercising his symbolic leadership role.

In a surprise gesture, the legislative arm announced a 100,000 cash donation to the One-Day Chairman and 50,000 to the One-Day Vice Chairman in recognition of their achievements.

Hon. Akindele Adunni Opeyemi and Hon. Akintola Falade later presented certificates of office and letters of achievement to the young leader, replicas of those given to elected officials.

In her closing remarks, the council boss congratulated the pupils and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence.

"You are the future of our community. Stay focused, keep learning, and make Mosan-Okunola proud," she said.

It was an inspiring and memorable moment in Mosan-Okunola Local Council Development Area (LCDA), as the Chairman, Hon. Akindele Adunni Opeyemi, stepped aside to allow a student, Master Olukayi Opeyemi, a Junior Secondary School pupil of Abesan Junior High School, to serve as the One-Day Chairman.

Similarly, the council's Vice Chairman, Hon. Akintola Falade, handed over his position to Master Bamgbose Toluwanimi, a pupil of Estate Primary School, Abesan,

who acted as the One-Day Vice Chairman.

The two pupils earned the opportunity after emerging winners of the LCDA's Spelling Bee competition in the secondary and primary school categories. The initiative, according to the council, aims to promote youth mentorship and give children firsthand experience in leadership and governance.

During his inaugural address, Master Opeyemi expressed gratitude to the council chairman

for providing him the platform to lead and learn, while also appreciating his teachers, parents, and classmates for their support.

As part of their duties for the day, both student leaders were taken on a tour of all departments within the council secretariat, led by Hon. Opeyemi, Hon. Falade, members of the legislative arm headed by Hon. Tosin Babatunde Afuwape (Leader of the House), and senior management staff.

During the tour,

Mrs. Apunanwu Rosemary Uneanya, Head of the Information Unit, explained the roles and responsibilities of each department in local governance.

The council chairman also gave the young leaders a brief lesson on the structure and functions of the LCDA, explaining how the executive and legislative arms work together for community development.

At the council's legislative chamber, the One-Day Chairman and Vice Chairman

witnessed a brief sitting convened in their honour, where they learned about legislative procedures and decision-making at the grassroots level.

During the session, the Deputy Leader, Hon. Kehinde Yakub, outlined ongoing projects across the five wards, including road rehabilitation, education, health, empowerment, and staff welfare initiatives.

The Leader of the House, Hon. Afuwape, commended the

Jamb Forms: Students Commend Council Boss

By Saheed Afolabi

Badagry students have commended council chairman, Babatunde Hunpe for the distribution of free Jamb forms to aid their educational pursuit.

In a renewed push to strengthen education and youth empowerment, the Badagry Local Government has distributed 400 free General Certificate of Education (GCE) forms to indigent students across the council.

The initiative, championed by the Chairman of Badagry Local Government, Mr Babatunde Hunpe, aims to cushion the financial burden on parents while

promoting access to quality education for all.

Speaking during the official presentation ceremony held at the council secretariat, the chairman, represented by the Vice Chairman, Mr Hakem Adeyemi, said the gesture was a deliberate effort to encourage academic excellence.

"We have resolved not just to provide educational support and incentives, but to be deliberate and strategic about how we do it, so that the purpose will be accomplished and the results will be visible for all to see," Adeyemi said.

He urged the beneficiaries to

justify the council's investment by studying hard and excelling in their examinations, adding that the administration had also provided free tutorial classes and would award free JAMB forms to outstanding performers.

The chairman further commended Mr. Samuel Mawuyon Ajose, founder of the S M A Foundation, for his philanthropic gesture in donating an additional 200 GCE forms to complement the council's 200, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 400.

The Head of Education and Library Services, Mr. Coker Adewale, described the

initiative as a product of the chairman's passion for education and youth development.

"From inception to execution, the chairman has been fully supportive. His vision is to empower our youth academically and protect them from negative influences through education," Coker said.

Council Treasurer, Mr. Hunponu Olusegun, commended the chairman for his consistent investment in human capital development, noting that education remained a lasting legacy that could transform generations.

"This administration has shown that

education is not just a priority but a mission. What we are witnessing today is an investment that will yield returns for families and the entire Badagry community," he said.

Some beneficiaries who spoke with journalists expressed gratitude for the opportunity, describing the gesture as timely and life-changing. Busari Omobolaji, one of the recipients, said he felt excited but emotional noting that many of his peers could not afford such opportunities.

Another beneficiary, Odiom Peace Adeomi, said the distribution came at a critical

moment when she had almost lost hope adding that she was determined to make the council proud through academic excellence.

"My advice to other beneficiaries is to take full advantage of this generosity and study hard.

"The chairman also promised that anyone who performs excellently will get a free JAMB form and may even be sponsored through tertiary education."

The event also featured cash awards of 45,000 each to six winners of the Badagry Local Government Spelling Bee Competition, held earlier in September, as part of the council's wider efforts to promote literacy and intellectual engagement among young people.

Badagry Council Manager, Mrs. Mary Olusanya, urged the students to be diligent and make the council's investment worthwhile.

"Education remains our most powerful tool for community transformation," Olusanya said.

"We expect the beneficiaries to burn the midnight candle and make Badagry proud."



Hunpe Champions Public Awareness On Environmental Sanitation

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry LG, Babatunde Hunpe has backed the Lagos state government and local government to collaborate together to ensure public awareness on environmental sanitation to residents across the communities.

Hunpe, joined fellow Conference 57 chairmen at a sensitization forum on waste management organized by the Lagos State Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. The event, held in Ikeja, brought together council chairmen from across the state

and key government officials, including the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Barr. Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin; Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr Tokunbo Wahab as well as other cabinet members, permanent secretaries, and critical

environmental stakeholders.

Lending his voice as a former Special Adviser on Environment to the Governor of Lagos State, Hunpe drew from his experience to emphasize the crucial role of local governments in sustaining environmental reforms, noting that effective waste management depends on synergy between

state initiatives and grassroots execution.

He further noted that amid growing concerns over carbon emissions, waste disposal, and flooding, there is a need for a stronger state and local government collaboration. He added that his administration has intensified environmental sanitation efforts

to keep Badagry clean and safe.

Hunpe emphasized the importance of public awareness, stricter waste regulation enforcement, and stronger PSP collaboration to improve waste management, while urging citizen participation and climate-conscious practices, affirming that a clean city begins with an informed and responsible citizenry.



Pastor Anorue Advocates Ban on Igbo HRH/HTM Titles to Respect Host Communities



In a heartfelt appeal aimed at fostering peace, understanding, and mutual respect, **Eze Pastor Okey Anorue**, the *Ezesinachi Ndigbo of Igbogbo* in Ikorodu LCDA, has called for unity among Igbo leaders and advocated for the discontinuation of the use of **His Royal Highness (HRH)** and **His Royal Majesty (HRM)** titles outside Igbo ancestral lands.

Pastor Anorue

emphasized that the move is not out of disdain for traditional leadership among the Igbo but a **clarion call for respect, harmony, and cultural sensitivity** toward the host communities across Nigeria.

“There cannot be two kingdoms within a single kingdom,” he stated, stressing that adopting royal titles in territories where recognized

monarchs already exist can create confusion and unnecessary tension.

He noted that Igbos have always been known for their ability to integrate and flourish peacefully in diverse environments, and maintaining this legacy requires humility and respect for the traditional institutions of their host communities.

According to him, “Our strength as a people lies in our

capacity to build and thrive while upholding the traditions and authorities of those who welcomed us. True leadership is about fostering unity, not rivalry.”

Pastor Anorue clarified that his statement was not intended to diminish the importance of Igbo leadership structures but rather to encourage **diplomatic engagement and responsible representation** in host

communities.

He reiterated that Igbos can continue to play vital roles as chiefs, community leaders, and influencers without adopting parallel royal titles that may infringe upon existing traditional hierarchies.

“This is not a message of division but of peace and understanding,” he added. “We must build bridges, not burn them.”

Eze Pastor Okey

Anorue currently serves as the **Ezesinachi Ndigbo of Igbogbo**, an **Honorary High Chief (Bobagbimo)** of the Adeboruwa Council of Chiefs in Igbogbo Bayeku, and the **Baba Oja of Tejuosho Market, Phase 2**.

His message stands as a thoughtful reminder to uphold the values of respect, diplomacy, and unity as the Igbos continue to strengthen their bonds with their host communities across the nation.

Residents Call For Durable Structure As Imota LCDA Begins Oke-Agbo-Igbalu Bridge Reconstruction

By Emmanuel Daniji



As the reconstruction of the Oke-Agbo and Igbalu link bridge gets underway in Imota Local Council Development Area (LCDA), residents of the two communities have commended the council chairman, **Benson Sunday Ayodele**, for initiating the long-awaited project — but have also called for a more durable, concrete structure that will stand the

test of time.

The project, located in **Ward D**, is expected to ease the movement of people and goods between the two communities and improve access to neighbouring areas such as **Gberigbe** and **Imota town**. The wooden footbridge, which had previously collapsed due to heavy flooding, has for years posed serious challenges for farmers, traders, and students who

relied on it to reach markets, schools, and healthcare facilities.

Speaking to *Echonews*, resident **Bukola Peters** described the reconstruction as a huge relief for locals who have endured years of hardship crossing the damaged bridge, particularly during the rainy season. She expressed optimism that the project, once completed, would boost economic activities

and provide safer access for pedestrians and farmers transporting goods to markets.

However, while appreciating the ongoing work, two residents — **Shokoya Olakunle Adeboye** and **Ajayi Osas** — voiced their concerns over the quality and sustainability of the materials being used.

In a message directed to the council chairman, **Shokoya** expressed

gratitude for the administration's responsiveness but urged the leadership to prioritize long-term infrastructure.

"Sir, thank you for your efforts in changing the narrative of governance in Imota LCDA. However, what is worth doing is worth doing well. Unless there are plans to make this bridge concrete, then what we have now is not sustainable. This is 2025, not 2005. We cannot keep repeating old mistakes and calling it progress," he said.

"A bridge meant to serve the people should be built to last, not patched together with wood that will rot and collapse in no time. Our communities deserve durable, concrete infrastructure, not temporary fixes that crumble with the next rain. Development should mean sustainability and longevity. Let's build with the future in mind."

Another resident, **Ajayi Osas**, echoed similar sentiments, stressing that the current wooden structure limits accessibility and

prevents vehicles from using the bridge.

"Vehicles cannot ply this bridge to link the communities," he noted. "We hope to see a concrete bridge in the next phase of construction. That will truly connect Oke-Agbo and Igbalu."

Meanwhile, **Oluwole Ademola Adesina**, Councillor representing Ward D and Leader of the Imota Legislative Council, assured residents that the project would soon open an "economic gateway" for the area. He emphasized that the reconstruction aligns with the Benson-led administration's promise to improve rural infrastructure and enhance community connectivity.

He further stated that the council remains committed to completing projects that have a lasting impact on residents' lives.

As work progresses, the people of Oke-Agbo and Igbalu remain hopeful — but equally vocal — that the bridge, when finally completed, will not just reconnect their communities, but represent a true investment in the future of Imota LCDA.

Faleke's Wife Launches CHIC & STYLE Luxury Fashion Emporium



The fashion and lifestyle scene in Lagos witnessed a touch of glamour on Sunday, October 19, 2025, as Chief (Mrs.) Bukunola Faleke, the elegant and enterprising wife of the Member, House of

Representatives for Ikeja Federal Constituency, Rt. Hon. James Abiodun Faleke, officially unveiled her luxury fashion emporium CHIC & STYLE located at 4, Osho Street, Opebi Link Road, Ikeja.

CHIC & STYLE is a

premium fashion hub dedicated to elegant, confident, and sophisticated women, offering an exclusive range of designer handbags, shoes, purses, and other luxury accessories that redefine class and femininity.

The grand opening attracted an array of top dignitaries and political leaders across Lagos State, including Rt. Hon. James Abiodun Faleke, Hon. Benjamin Olabinjo (MHR, Ifako-Ijaiye Federal Constituency),

Hon. David Olusgun Odumbaku (Chairman, Ojodu LCDA), Hon. Moyosore Adebajo (Chairman, Onigbongbo LCDA), Hon. Julius Olumuyiwa Oloro (Former Chairman, Ojodu LCDA), Hon. Dullar (Chief of Staff to Rt. Hon. Faleke), Dr. Bayo Ayo, among others. In his remarks, the Chairman of Ikeja Local Government, Comrade Akeem Olalekan Dauda (AKOD), praised Chief (Mrs.) Faleke for her entrepreneurial spirit, refined taste, and commitment to promoting women's empowerment through fashion and enterprise.

"Chief (Mrs.) Faleke has shown

that style can be both a statement of confidence and a catalyst for economic empowerment. CHIC & STYLE is not just a fashion store; it is a reflection of vision, grace, and excellence," AKOD said.

He further encouraged fashion-conscious women across Lagos to patronize CHIC & STYLE, describing it as "a destination where elegance meets excellence and luxury becomes a lifestyle."

The event marked another inspiring milestone for Chief (Mrs.) Bukunola Faleke, whose passion for class and creativity continues to make her a shining example of Lagos' entrepreneurial spirit.

ASSEMBLY

Lagos Assembly, LASAA, To Partner For Effective Service

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State House of Assembly has held an oversight visit to the headquarters of the Lagos State Signage and Advertisement Agency, LASSA, in a statutory function to enhance functional partnership for effective service. During the visit by the legislative

House Committee on Environment, the lawmakers discussed on the provision of a critical platform for a detailed engagement on the agency's performance and regulatory adherence in line with the state's administrative measures for an effective dividend of democracy. The Committee,

led by its Chairman, Shabi Adekola, hammered on the significance of conversations which focus on strategic policies and ongoing projects aimed at developing an organised, safe and visually appealing outdoor advertising space across the state. The Committee, Adekola also

urged LASAA to intensify its efforts in public sensitization. He explained that engaging the public on the agency's core mandate is crucial for ensuring continuous compliance and maximizing revenue potential maintained with utmost integrity. The LASAA Managing Director,

Fatiu Akiolu, engaged the Committee in extensive discussions that spanned the Agency's activities, its performance metrics and compliance with regulatory responsibilities. Akiolu held that the agency will continue to remain committed to its service routine and also promised unhindered

cooperation with the legislators. "We are deeply committed to upholding best practices in outdoor advertising regulation," he stated.

"LASAA's mission is to contribute meaningfully to the sustainable development of Lagos State's visual environment, a goal we pursue rigorously for the benefit of all residents and visitors."

Aruwe Reveals Commitment To Safety, Environmental Discipline

By Saheed Afolabi

Tunbosun Aruwe, Chairman of Mushin Local Government has reiterated his commitment in combating flooding and promote environmental sustainability by overseeing the desiltation and removal of debris from the Adeoyo Street and Igbo Owu Canals. This initiative is a key part of the Chairman's broader environmental sanitation program. Its primary goal is to ensure the free flow of water, thereby preventing flooding and improving the overall cleanliness and hygiene of the Mushin communities.

While supervising the ongoing work, Aruwe said his administration commitment to a clean, healthy, and flood-free environment. He stressed that proper waste management and clearing of drainage systems are vital for sustainable urban development. "We aim to make Mushin a model of environmental



discipline and community safety," Aruwe stated. "Regular desiltation of our drains will significantly help to mitigate flooding and protect residents' property, especially during the rainy season." The community has widely

welcomed the effort. Residents and stakeholders praised the initiative as both timely and impactful, noting its importance in preventing water stagnation and related environmental health hazards. Sanitarian Taiwo Awonuga, Head of the Department of

Environmental Services, commended the Chairman for his consistent prioritization of environmental sanitation. He pointed out that the council's proactive measures have already led to a noticeable reduction in flooding and an

improvement in public hygiene across Mushin. Leaders from the Adeoyo and Igbo Owu communities also expressed their gratitude for the Chairman's responsive and people-centered leadership, pledging their continued cooperation in maintaining a

clean and healthy environment. Aruwe concluded by reaffirming his resolve to continue with periodic drainage clearance, community sensitization, and environmental monitoring, ensuring that Mushin remains a clean, safe, and habitable place for all residents.

Aruwe Explains Essence Of Mushin Light Up Initiative

By Saheed Afolabi



Residents and business owners along Alasalatu and Moshalashi Streets expressed their gratitude for the Chairman's leadership and responsiveness to their needs.

Mrs. Kafayat Adebayo, a local resident, shared her appreciation, "Before the lights were installed, this area was very dark and unsafe at night. Now, with these new lights and the road construction, we can move around with peace of mind. We're truly grateful to Hon. Aruwe for prioritizing our safety."

Mr. Sunday Nwokedi, a local shopkeeper, also voiced his approval, "The lights have revived this neighborhood. Business has picked up because people now feel secure enough to shop even after dark."

The Light Up Mushin project, which pairs street lighting with ongoing road construction, continues to expand across major roads, inner streets, and communities. This effort is part of Aruwe's ongoing drive to make Mushin a cleaner, safer, and more vibrant place for all its residents.

The chairman of Mushin LG, Mr Tunbosun Aruwe has explained the benefits and positivity of the Mushin Light Up Initiative. In a major step towards improving community safety and quality of life, Aruwe, has successfully

illuminated Alasalatu and Moshalashi Streets, bringing a renewed sense of security and vitality to the area. The lighting project is part of Aruwe's ongoing Light Up Mushin initiative, which works in tandem with the current road construction

efforts throughout the Local Government. This initiative reflects the Chairman's broader mission to enhance security, boost night-time economic activities, and drive urban renewal across all wards of Mushin. During a recent inspection of the

completed work, Aruwe emphasized that effective street lighting plays a critical role in his administration's focus on safety and development. "A well-lit environment not only deters crime but also creates a safer space for people to move around and

engage in commerce," Aruwe said. "We are committed to lighting up every corner of Mushin, ensuring that our residents and traders can go about their business confidently, no matter the time of day or night."

I Drove Cab at Night to Survive - Zlatan Ibile

Kehinde Adeleye



Nigerian rapper Temidayo Omoniyi, popularly known as Zlatan Ibile, has opened up about his early struggles as a student and upcoming artist before fame.

The Zanku crooner revealed that while studying at the Moshood Abiola Polytechnic (MAPOLY) in Abeokuta, Ogun State, he faced severe financial hardship, even after winning the Airtel One Mic Talent Show in 2014.

Speaking in an interview with popular streamer Shank Comics, Zlatan said he resorted to using the car he won from the competition for commercial transport at night to make ends meet.

"Back in school, when there was no money for food, I would just wait till night and use the car I won from the Airtel One Mic Talent Show to run cab from Abeokuta to Shagamu for 350," he recounted.

Zlatan, who was only 19 years old when he won the talent competition, said the experience taught him resilience and the value of hard work. His major breakthrough came three years later, in 2017, when he collaborated with ace rapper Olamide on the hit song "My Body." Reflecting on that turning point, the Zanku Records boss described Olamide's verse on the track as "life-changing," crediting it for opening doors to his mainstream success.

Music Videos Now Cost 20 Million - Bella Shmurda Laments

Kehinde Adeleye

Nigerian singer Ahmed Akinbiyi, popularly known as Bella Shmurda, has voiced concern over the escalating cost of music promotion in the country. The Cash App crooner said the situation is discouraging many artists from releasing new projects, especially full-length albums. Speaking in a recent interview

with Naija FM Lagos, Bella Shmurda explained that the cost of producing and promoting music has become overwhelming, noting that even shooting a standard music video now requires millions of naira. "To release an album, you need a huge budget, unlike singles. Because for albums, you're promoting 10 to 14

songs all at once, it's a lot," he said. "Promoting songs on radio, shooting videos for five or six songs, is a lot. These days, the least you can spend on a music video is 20 million. So, how many artists can afford to shoot five videos?" The singer added that the high cost of promotion and production is forcing many talented artists to delay or abandon their album plans.



How I Overcame Anger, Depression, and Immorality Through God - Tonto Dikeh



Nollywood actress Tonto Dikeh has shared a heartfelt testimony about her spiritual rebirth, revealing seven personal battles that she says the Holy Spirit helped her overcome. In an emotional post on Instagram, the mother of one opened up about her journey from emotional turmoil

to inner peace, describing it as a divine transformation that reshaped her heart and lifestyle. According to Dikeh, she once struggled with uncontrollable anger that cost her relationships and opportunities. "There was a time I had a fuse so short it could set everything ablaze. I mistook

my pain for strength, but it was only destroying me," she wrote. The actress said her true healing began when she completely surrendered to God, allowing Him to replace her rage with calm and understanding. Dikeh also spoke candidly about

her past battles with depression and emotional pain, confessing that she once felt consumed by sadness and even attempted suicide. "I was living as both the wound and the weapon. Depression was my companion; I wore pain like a second skin until God said, 'Rise,' and I did," she revealed.

She explained that her transformation has taught her to treat others with compassion rather than judgment. "When I see people acting from a place of pain, I don't condemn them; I pray for them. I know how it feels to lose yourself while trying to survive."

The screen star further disclosed that she has turned away from sexual immorality and now practices celibacy as part of her renewed faith. Reflecting on her past, Dikeh wrote "I gave my life to Christ after secondary school but took His love for granted. Life humbled me, and through that pain, I returned to my first love, God."

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U15 Robert Memorial Cup: 16 Clubs Vie For Honors

By Saheed Afolabi

The maiden edition of the U15 Robert Memorial Cup will see 16 clubs compete for the prized asset of the tournament.

The age grade competition will take place at the Igbowu minipitch, Mushin.

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) chairman, Kolawole Ogunfowokan urged the participating clubs to abide by the rules and regulations guiding the tournament.

He however charged all players

to be fully kitted in line with global football standards including usage of protective shin guards.

Ogunfowokan added, any club that fails to adhere to instructions or found wanting in actions that will bring the competition to disrepute would face heavy sanctions.

Official new match balls were presented to the 16 teams. The official draws ceremony saw officials of the Red Cross association advising

coaches to verify the health status of their players before stepping out on the pitch.

Group A
Stallion Star FC
Strong Dove FA
Brave FA

Ashifat Kids FA
Group B
Basitoy FA
Fortune FA
Mighty Warriors FA
Smart Strikers FA

Group C
Christian United FA
Future Stars FA
Divine Restoration
Rocky Stars
Group D
Ate FA
Diamond FA
Peace FA
Lyon Bless FA



Chekas United President Optimistic Of Dare To Dream Scouting Chances

By Saheed Afolabi



President of Chekas United, Chief

Forwarder Uzoegbo Chekwube Eulick is optimistic about his team's chances and opportunities at the Dare To Dream Scouting Program scheduled to hold at Inspire pitch, Oshodi. 72 clubs will be participating at the second edition of the Dare To Dream Scouting event where scouts are expected from Europe and South America.

Speaking exclusively to ECHONEWS, Uzoegbo said Chekas are prepared for the scouting program which he's

convinced will greatly improve his team while hoping his players get picked in the process.

He lauded the organizers for providing an initiative which will be a pathway to greener pastures for aspiring professional players in the grassroots.

"We are fully set for the program, although Dare To Dream is a scouting program. The basic thing there is for talent to be scouted, so it's not strictly about winning. But winning is also involved but rather the basic thing is to scout talent.

So my team is well prepared, so we hope at least one or two talents will be scouted from my team.

"From what I have seen so far, I believe the organizers of Dare To Dream on top gear to see at least a number of decision makers from teams coming over. So eventually we're having decision makers from teams so I believe it will be a success.

"So I wish every team that's participating good luck. All matters, whoever that wins, we all win, so it's a win for all. It's a win for Nigeria, it's a win for Lagos, so we believe it's going to be a success."



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