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# LG Polls: Opposition Parties Threaten To Boycott Election

By Kunle Awosiyan

Some opposition political parties have threatened to boycott the Lagos state local government and council development areas election due for July 12.

The parties spoke shortly after the Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission, LASIEC, set date for the election.

At a meeting with the chairman of LASIEC Mobolanle Okikiola-Ighile, aa representative of the African Action Congress (AAC), Mr. Ayinde Olawale said the party would not participate in any local government election recognising the 37 LCDAs in the state.

Also the state chairman of Accord Party, Mr. Dele Oladeji and leaders from a few other parties including the Peoples Democratic Party and the Labour Party expressed their displeasure over the revised LASIEC law that empowers the agency to conduct executive elections into 57 LGs/LCDAs, without the knowledge of stakeholders.

Oladeji urged the new board to always carry all political parties along in the process of electioneering, perhaps there would be no election but selection by the ruling party to fill the vacant seats at the grassroots level.

Representatives of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Labour Party (LP), National Rescue Movement (NRM), African Democratic Congress (ADC), Accord, Youth Party (YP) and Action Democratic Party (ADP) attended the meeting.

Representatives of the All Peoples Party (APP), New Nigeria People's Parry (NNPP), Social Democratic Party (SDP), and All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) were also present.

The opposition leaders chorused that many of the political parties had yet to access the new law, stating that such critical legislation should be in the public domain.

Speaking in the same vein, the chairperson of the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) chairperson in Lagos State, Temilola Akinade, bemoaned the style of LASIEC ahead of the polls, saying that council had distanced itself from major stakeholders.

Ms Akinade said the commission erred in how it released the election notice without the contributions of IPAC and other critical stakeholders.

According to her, important issues remain unresolved as regards the appropriate interpretation of the Supreme Court's pronouncements on LG autonomy and how that will impact the 37 LCDAs



Chairman of LASIEC Mobolanle Okikiola-Ighile

established by the state government.

Responding, the LASIEC boss said she could not meet IPAC earlier due to the huge workload and the need to put things right.

She explained that the law requires the commission to meet with IPAC only before the release of guidelines.

"The commission regards and respects IPAC and political parties a lot. The issue of guidelines is why we called for this critical stakeholders meeting to

have your input," she said.

However, LASIEC has assured political parties that it will ensure the credible conduct of the July 12 local government election.

LASIEC had announced on Friday that July 12 would be the election date in 20 local government areas and 37 local council development areas (LCDAs).

Ms Okikiola-Ighile also pledged a level playing field for each political party before and during

the election and sought their support for the exercise.

"Nobody among us is a card-carrying member of any political party. Let us be nice to ourselves. We are not your opponent; we are working for the betterment of this election.

"We are prepared, we are working, we have sworn an oath, and we are going to stick to the oath," Ms Okikiola-Ighile said.

The LASIEC boss, while speaking on the election guidelines, encouraged

political parties and aspirants to strictly follow the electoral timetable and the guidelines.

She said political parties must visit the LASIEC headquarters to obtain nomination forms, adding that they would pay administrative fees for processing the nomination of their respective candidates.

Ms Okikiola-Ighile, however, stated that female candidates were to pay half of the administrative fees.

She said the details of the revenue code and agency code for the payment would be stated in the guidelines. Also, verification of candidates' documents will take place at the commission's headquarters.

The election guidelines was published on April 17, while campaigns and rallies started on April 18 and would end on July 9.

Political parties are to submit details of their party agents between June 23 and June 28. The political parties are to give verifiable party secretariat addresses to the commission," she added.

On July 11, 2024, the Supreme Court delivered a landmark judgment affirming the financial autonomy of Nigeria's 774 Local Government Councils.

The seven-member panel, led by Justice Mohammed Garba, unanimously upheld a suit brought by the federal government aimed at reinforcing the independence of local governments across the country.

The court also rejected the stance of state governments that sought to dissolve democratically elected local government councils.





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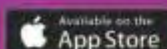
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# SGBV: DSVA Takes Advocacy To Ikeja Residents

The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) Community Engagement team has spearheaded an impactful door-to-door sensitization campaign across the Ikeja Local Government Area recently. The initiative aims to significantly raise awareness about the critical issues of sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and cultivate a strong culture of zero tolerance within the community. The Onilekere Community Development Association (CDA) played a vital role in the campaign's success. Community leaders actively participated, receiving comprehensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials and thorough briefings on the multifaceted nature of SGBV and the established effective reporting mechanisms. The leaders expressed commitment to disseminating this crucial information widely among their community members, fostering an environment characterized

by openness and readily available support. The extensive outreach saw the DSVA team engaging directly with residents and stakeholders at various key points throughout Ikeja. This included interactions along Otunba Oludare Lane, Babaponmile Street, Onigbongbo Road, Sunday Farm Estate, Olaniyi Adebanke Close, Egba Street, and Alhaji Shodeke Street, as well as at the bustling Cement bus stop. The campaign also extended its reach to prominent religious institutions such as the LASUTH LASUCOM Mosque and the Nasirudeen Central Mosque, alongside Living Faith Church Onilekere and Celestial Church of Christ Onipetesi Cathedral. Healthcare facilities, including the Lagos State Teaching Hospital, the Eko Hospital, Olukayode Hospital, Onipetesi, and the Alhaji Dally Adeokun Health Post, were also key points of engagement. Furthermore, the team connected with individuals at the Kokoro mechanic workshop, Onilekere

Junior High School, Kenvic Private School, Ifesowapo Market Onilekere, Kokoro Market, Agunbiade Market, and the Chief Nelson Vocational and Skill Acquisition Institute, ensuring a broad spectrum of the community was reached. During these direct engagements, residents received crucial education on the inherent dangers of SGBV, the paramount importance of reporting incidents without delay, and the comprehensive support services readily

available to them. A strong emphasis was placed on utilizing DSVA's toll-free helpline (08000-333-333) for confidential and immediate reporting of any SGBV-related concerns. The SGBV Family Support Unit (FSU) Officer at Area F Police Station Ikeja expressed strong commendation for DSVA's proactive and impactful efforts in combating SGBV, pledging an unwavering commitment to tirelessly address this significant societal challenge. Notably, tricycle riders

operating at Agunbiade Market voiced their sincere gratitude for the enlightening information, particularly regarding the toll-free number, and pledged to actively report any instances of child abuse, sexual abuse, and domestic violence they might witness. The robust campaign underscores DSVA's steadfast commitment to strengthening vital community networks aimed at both the prevention and effective reporting of SGBV. The initiative successfully reached over 14,000 individuals within the Ikeja community. While the

campaign was met with a widespread positive reception, some CDA representatives highlighted the ongoing need for sustained educational initiatives to cultivate a deeper sense of community-driven responsibility in addressing a range of social issues. Through its continued engagement with community representatives and traditional leaders, DSVA remains dedicated to fostering safer and more supportive environments for all residents across Lagos State.



## Lagos To Publish Names of Land Use Charge Defaulters

In a bid to enhance transparency, drive compliance, and boost infrastructure funding, the Lagos State Government, through the Ministry of Finance, will begin publishing the names of individuals and organizations that have defaulted in the payment of the Land Use Charge (LUC). According to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Mr. Tajudeen Mahmud, the action is in line with the provisions of the Land Use Charge Law of 2020 and follows the government's

concerted efforts to serve property owners with the annual LUC bills. He noted that many property owners have fulfilled their obligations promptly, while a significant number have continued to neglect payment despite repeated notices. Mahmud said that the publication of defaulters' names which is set to commence in April 2025, precedes further enforcement actions, including the receivership process, as permitted by law. "The Land Use Charge is a

crucial source of funding for public infrastructure and service delivery. Full compliance ensures that the government can continue to meet the growing needs of the state," Mahmud stated. He, therefore, urged all property owners to verify their payment status and settle any outstanding liabilities to avoid being publicly listed. Meanwhile, all residents have been urged to contact the Land Use Charge Contact Centre, Ministry of Finance, Block 12, Secretariat, Alausa-Ikeja, for all enquiries.



Mr. Tajudeen Mahmud and Gov Sanwo-Olu during his assumption of office as Permanent Secretary



# LAWMA Explores Solutions To Environmental Challenges

The Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) has explored the potential of biogas solutions to global environmental challenges like air pollution, climate change and water contamination among others.

The event was a lunch and learn lecture with the theme: "Catalyzing Innovation through Collaboration: Unleashing the Power of the Triple Helix of Government, Industry and Academia" held at its headquarters, Ijora-Olopa. Delivering the welcome address, the Managing Director/CEO of LAWMA, Dr. Muiwa Gbadegesin, described the Lunch and Learn Series as an informal but intellectually stimulating platform, designed to spark dialogue, encourage research, and enhance capacity within the Agency.

He said, "This is an informal session, which is why it is called the Lunch and Learn Series. Programmes like this are a tradition in academic environments where they have been proven to contribute to academic and personal development significantly. We are replicating that model here at LAWMA because what we do is not just based on logistics; LAWMA is a scientific organization with scientific officers and we recognize the importance of academia in addressing waste management challenges. Therefore, we must prioritize research and continuous learning to develop strategic solutions tailored to our region's specific needs. Initiatives like this are the way forward,"

In a keynote presentation, Prof. Mats Eklund, a globally recognized expert in sustainability and innovation, and scientific leader of the Biogas Research Centre, at

Linköping University, Sweden, shared his insights on the potential of biogas solutions to address global challenges such as air pollution, climate change, water contamination, and soil health.

He illustrated how several environmental challenges could be addressed through several research works that had proved effective in many areas.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, Mr. Tajudeen Omobolaji Gaji, expressed gratitude to Prof. Eklund for his valuable contribution to advancing innovation in waste management, stressing the Ministry's commitment to fostering collaboration between government, industry, and academia, to enhancing knowledge sharing and impactful solutions.

Mr. Kunle Adebisi, Executive Director of



Finance, shared LAWMA's intention to leverage technological innovations to stay competitive with other developing countries, underscoring the many opportunities in waste management, with biogas research serving as a prime example.

An engaging question-and-answer session followed, where Prof. Eklund further elaborated on the

importance of cross-sector collaboration to drive sustainable waste management solutions. He said: "People need to see waste differently, not as dirt or hazards, but as opportunities. Over time, people's perceptions can change, and they will begin to see the immense potential in waste."

The event was attended by many stakeholders,

including Engineer Adebola Sabi, Chairman, Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Environment Parastatal; Mr. Adedoyin Lasisi, Director and Deputy Director of the Lagos State Ministry of Environment and Water Resources; Akin Alabi, Managing Director of Zoomlion Nigeria; Abubakar Habeebah; top lecturers from the University of Lagos,

researchers, and LAWMA management staff.

This "Lunch & Learn" Series marks LAWMA's commitment to environmental sustainability and leadership in operational excellence. It is the first in a series of knowledge-sharing initiatives designed to foster innovation and build strategic partnerships in the waste management sector.

## OEQA Provides Quality Assurance Training To Officials

The Lagos State Office of Education Quality Assurance (OEQA) on Monday kicked off a four-day induction training programme for its newly deployed officers. The training, held at Ikeja Senior High School, GRA, Ikeja, was meant to familiarize the officers with the agency's operations and responsibilities.

Addressing the participants, OEQA's Coordinating Director, Mr. Remi Abdul, explained the importance of quality assurance training, noting that it was a critical component of the agency's technical responsibilities. According to Mr. Abdul, when OEQA was established, the agency's officers underwent a comprehensive seven-day training programme conducted by expatriates. "Quality assurance at all levels, be it federal or

state, don't just throw officers on the field without giving them appropriate training," he stressed.

He urged participants to concentrate on every aspect of the training, emphasising that it would enable them to master their job responsibilities. He also warned that the

agency would not hesitate to sanction undisciplined officers.

The training programme featured presentations from the Heads of Core Departments, including Planning Research and Statistics (PRS), Quality Assurance, Private Education and Special Programmes (PESP) and

the Monitoring and Investigation Department. The Coordinating Director, Education District 1, Mr. Femi Ejiwunmi, also made presentations on the Structure and Operations of the Six Education District Offices.

Earlier, the Director, Administration and Human Resources, Mrs.

Mojisola Bamgbose, administered a pre-course test and provided a general overview of the agency to participants.

The induction training programme is expected to equip the new officers with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their roles and promote quality education in Lagos State.





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# Sanwo-Olu Reaffirms Lagos' Commitment To Belgium-Nigeria Partnership

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has extended his administration's unwavering support for the growing bilateral relationship between Belgium and Nigeria. He gave the assurance in his goodwill message during a reception hosted by the Belgium Ambassador to Nigeria, H. E. Pieter Leenknecht, in collaboration with the CBL -ACP Chamber of Commerce, held at Lagos Continental Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos. Governor Sanwo-Olu, represented by the Secretary to the Government of Lagos State, Barr. 'Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin emphasised the strategic

importance of Lagos as the commercial heartbeat of Nigeria and a pivotal player in fostering international partnerships. "Lagos State, as the economic hub of Nigeria, values collaborations that promote trade, investment, and cultural exchange", he added. He applauded the Belgian Embassy and the CBL-ACP Chamber of Commerce for their continuous efforts in enhancing bilateral ties. Highlighting the role of diplomacy in driving prosperity and innovation, the Governor commended Ambassador Leenknecht's commitment to building enduring relationships through dialogue, engagement and mutual

respect. He noted that the reception serves as a testament to the shared vision of prosperity and global partnership between the two countries. He also reiterated the Lagos State's openness to international collaboration and assured attendees of the readiness to explore new frontiers for joint initiatives that will further foster economic growth and people-to-people connectivity. The evening culminated in an atmosphere of cordiality marked by fruitful discussions, strengthened networks, and renewed optimism for greater cooperation between Belgium and



Nigeria. Key stakeholders from both nations attended the event to celebrate and deepen the spirit of diplomatic and economic collaboration. Dignitaries at the event included the Honourary Belgium Consul in Lagos and General Manager, Manuchar, Nigeria, Matthias De Pauw, Senior Consultant Nigeria Belgium Luxembourg Business Forum, Mr. Collins Nweke, Vice-President CBL-ACP, Mr. Dominiek Viaene and top Lagos businessmen and women who were invited to register and participate in the business forum holding between 22nd and 24th October, 2025 in Brussels.

# LASRAB Begins Digitization of Records To Protect Cultural Heritage

The Director-General of the Lagos State Records and Archives Bureau (LASRAB), Ms. Toyin Ogunlana has revealed that the ongoing comprehensive digitization of the Agency's records is a strategic effort to preserve and enhance access to the rich historical and governmental heritage of Lagos State. Speaking during an interview in her office on Monday, Ms. Ogunlana emphasised that the initiative is a forward-thinking move designed to safeguard the State's cultural memory and historical legacy. Describing digitization as "the way to go" in today's digital age, she noted that digital storage ensures the

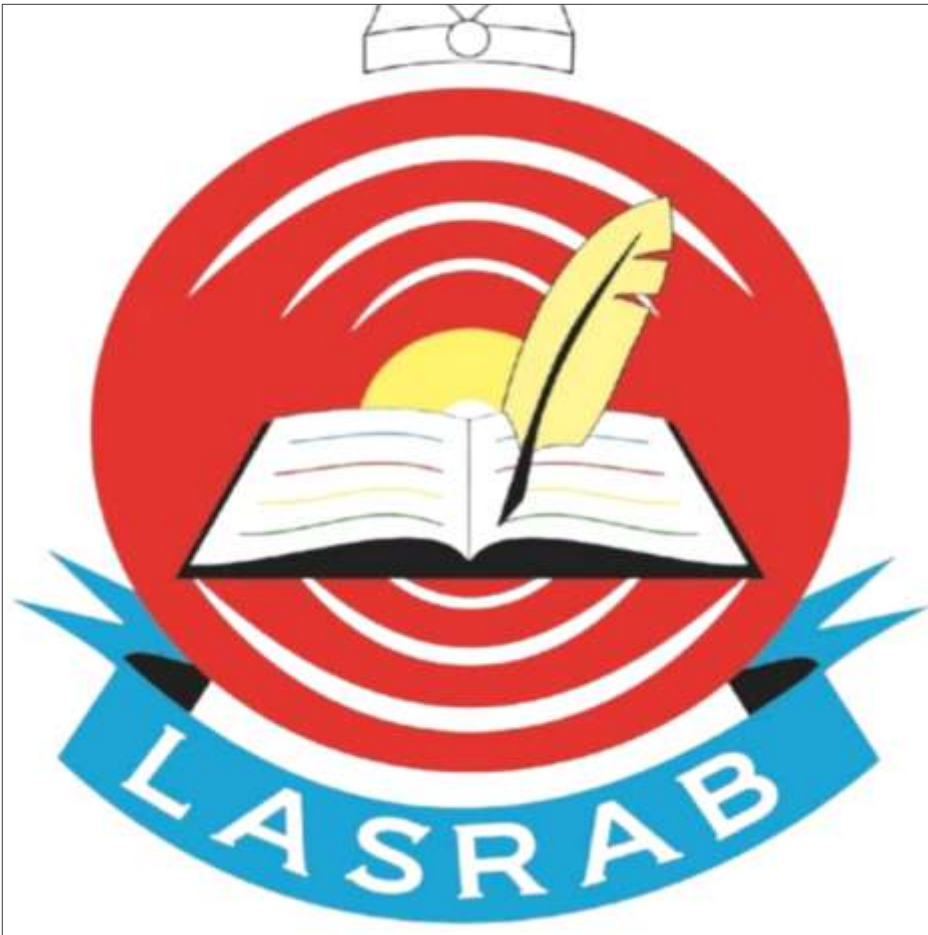
safety and longevity of historical documents, making vital information readily accessible to researchers, students, government institutions, and the general public. "This project is about preserving our past for the benefit of future generations," she said. "We are not only protecting these records from deterioration or loss, but also making them available at the click of a button for those who need them." She added that LASRAB is working in partnership with historical and educational institutions to ensure the digitization process adheres to global standards and supports academic research. The project also includes the

restoration of fragile and ageing documents of significant historical importance to Lagos State. According to her, one

of the core objectives is to create a robust digital repository that will serve as a reliable reference point for government operations, legal

documentation, developmental milestones, and the State's cultural evolution. Ms. Ogunlana also encouraged public

participation, stating that LASRAB welcomes partnerships with individuals and institutions who may possess valuable historical materials that can enhance the archive. "History is a collective asset," she said. "We invite anyone with relevant materials to come forward. This digitization project is not limited to government records - it is about preserving the collective memory of our people." The digitization effort will span from the colonial era to present-day developments. Upon completion, LASRAB plans to provide secure, user-friendly online access to the digitized materials for both local and global users.





# Hamzat Advocates Redesign of Secondary Education Curriculum

Lagos State Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat has stated that for Nigeria to prepare leaders who can navigate the future, the government must redesign the curriculum, the environment, and the expectations of secondary education. He said this on Saturday at the 80th Anniversary of Olivet Baptist High School, Oyo, with the theme: “Inspiring the Future” held at the School hall. He added that Nigerians need to rethink, reimagine, and reinvest in basic education.

His words, “To prepare leaders who can navigate this future, we must redesign the curriculum, the environment, and the expectations of secondary education. We must rethink, reimagine and reinvest”. He added that secondary education is not merely a transitional phase in the educational journey but rather the training ground of leadership, which is a vital stage where minds are moulded, characters are sculpted, and visions are birthed. Hamzat, therefore, urged private sectors, development partners, civil society organisations, alumni bodies, and community leaders to align with the vision for a truly future-focused secondary education system, adding that education must become the new national security in the country and classrooms must be the new chambers of leadership formation. “Let us recommit ourselves, educators, parents, governments, private sector actors, and alumni to making our secondary schools the launch pads of Nigeria's renaissance,” he said



The Deputy Governor noted that the impact of Secondary School Education in Building Future Leaders rests on a singular truth that no nation can rise above the quality of its education, and no generation can transcend the leadership limitations of its youth. “As the bridge between childhood and adulthood, it is a phase where responsibilities are introduced, and the world begins to be seen not just as it is, but as it could be. It is where students learn not just academic content, but values, such as resilience, accountability, civic consciousness, and the discipline required to lead selflessly and courageously,” said the Deputy Governor. While stressing the complexity of leadership, which now requires more than authority, Dr. Hamzat said it demands empathy, foresight, technological fluency, and moral courage. He highlighted that in the modern world, children are dramatically different from the ones the past

generation inherited. He stated that with the advent of Artificial intelligence, climate change, financial disruptions, political polarization, and social inequality are just some of the forces reshaping the global landscape. Besides, Hamzat noted that in Lagos State, the government understands that education is the most powerful equalizer and the most sustainable tool for economic mobility, adding that the present administration's T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda places education and technology at the centre of sustainable development, and the government investments in secondary school education are deliberate, strategic, and transformative. According to him, “These efforts are not just about academics - they are about nurturing holistic leaders who can solve problems, communicate effectively, build consensus, and act with moral clarity.” He elucidated that Universities and think

tanks can provide curriculum support and strategic research to elevate the secondary education system and to prepare students for future challenges, leadership development, ethics, and public speaking should be integrated into every secondary school curriculum. Hamzat stated that for eight decades, Olivet has remained a beacon of excellence, producing generations of leaders, innovators, public servants, and change agents who have contributed immensely to the development of Nigeria and the world at large. In his address, the National President of Olivet Old Students Association (NOSA), Dr. Wale Okediran, noted that over the years, Olivet Baptist High School had made tremendous efforts to balance a curriculum that nurtures the whole-person and the development of each student. The President said that the school's outstanding

achievements in academics, sports, and leadership training fully demonstrate the success of this holistic approach to education. Dr. Okediran stressed that through 80 years of development and provision of facilities, great changes have taken place in the school. “Apart from setting the pace in many aspects of educational pursuit in Nigeria, our school has produced many outstanding old students of whom we are proud. “The number of students has largely increased while cadres of a younger generation of well-trained teachers have been replacing the older ones and taking leadership positions in the school. This has injected new vitality in and given new challenges, as well, to the growth of the school,” said Dr. Okediran. He added that Olivet has evolved from being solely dependent on government support to one that has enjoyed tremendous support from its old students. Earlier in his welcome

address, the Chairman, Central Planning Committee, 80th Olivet Anniversary, Dr. Olusegun K. Ahmadu, stated that the philosophy behind the anniversary celebration is deeply rooted in the idea of transformation, adding that it is a time to honour Olivet's legacy, reconnect with one another, and give back-ensuring the torch burns brighter for generations to come. According to Ahmadu, “Olivet is more than a school; it is a crucible of excellence and a symbol of societal impact. Through the years, its products have made indelible marks across diverse spheres, standing as a testament to its enduring relevance. This reunion is not only a moment to felicitate and reflect on our shared history but a clarion call to contribute actively to Olivet's continued growth.” Also Speaking, Aseyi of Iseyin, Oba Sefiu Olawale Oyebola Adeyeri III (Ajirotutu I) praised Olivet Baptist School for producing outstanding leaders and professionals across various fields. Oba Oyebola cautioned students against using hard drugs, emphasising the danger they pose to their health and academic performance. “Avoid hard drugs, as they are detrimental to your well-being and academic success,” he advised. Additionally, he urged parents to regularly monitor their children's activities, rather than leaving them unsupervised. The highlight of the event includes the presentation of awards to Olivet Old Students who have impacted society positively in their various capacities.



# HSC Commissioners Embark on Hospital Fact-Finding Mission

In a proactive move to bolster operational efficiency and prioritise the well-being of healthcare personnel, members of the Lagos State Health Service Commission (HSC) have commenced their Y2025 fact-finding mission to all 30 General Hospitals across the state.

The Commission's initiative, which aligns with its statutory responsibilities, aims to gain firsthand insights into hospital operations while championing improved welfare packages for dedicated healthcare staff.

The visits also serve as an opportunity to formally introduce the newly appointed Commission Members to the Medical Directors and management teams of the various hospitals. So far, the HSC team has visited Harvey

Road General Hospital, Mainland General Hospital (Infectious Disease Hospital - IDH), and Somolu General Hospital.

Upon arrival at each facility, the delegation, led by the Chairman, Dr. (Mrs.) Atinuke Onayiga, was received by the respective Medical Directors and their management teams. Subsequent meetings held in the hospitals' conference rooms centred on strategies for ensuring seamless operations, advocating enhanced staff welfare, and the formal introduction of the new Commission Members.

The visiting HSC team comprises experienced Commissioners, including Dr. Olu m u y i w a



Adetokunbo Solanke (Commissioner I), Dr. Mobolaji Ayotunde O l u k o y a (Commissioner II), and the newly inducted members, Dr. (Pharm.) Moyosore A d e j u m o (Commissioner II) and Dr. (Nurse) Ololade Fadipe (Commissioner IV).

During the engagements, Dr. Onayiga passionately advocated greater attention to staff welfare, emphasising

that prioritising the happiness of healthcare professionals is paramount to achieving efficient service delivery, fostering loyalty, and ensuring unwavering commitment to duty. "With the inclusion of our new members, the Commission now has a complete and strengthened voice," Dr. Onayiga affirmed.

Other Commission Members echoed these sentiments, contributing valuable perspectives on strategies to further enhance the quality of healthcare services across the state.

Also part of the visiting team from the HSC were Dr. Olubunmi Adebisi and Dr. Zainab Salisu from the Medical Services Department, and Mrs. Olufunmilayo Meadows, representing

Administration and Human Resources.

This fact-finding mission underscores the Lagos State Health Service Commission's proactive approach to ensuring optimal functionality within its hospital network and its unwavering commitment to the welfare of the healthcare professionals who serve the citizens of Lagos State.

## ASSEMBLY

# Lagos Assembly Commences Fiscal Audit of 37 LCDAs

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State House of Assembly has begun an audit exercise of Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) in the state.

The lawmakers disclosed that the initiative was organized to ensure accountability and prudent management of public funds at the local councils.

The House Chairman

on Public Accounts, Nureni Akinsanya, mentioned that the measure will enable further developments in the LCDAs as well as contributing to more growth in the metropolis.

Akinsanya said that the first phase of the exercise will scrutinize financial records at Isolo, Apapa, Amuwo-Odofin and Lagos Island areas.

The legislator noted that the phase will also

involve Yaba, Lagos Mainland, Eti-Osa, IkosiEjirin, Coker-Aguda, Ajeromi-Ifelodun, Agboyi-Ketu, Agege, Ikoyi-Obalende, Surulere, Iba and Ojodu LCDAs.

He added that the audit program will involve Chairmen, Vice Chairman, council managers, treasurers, internal auditors and legal office in the state's councils.



# Lagos Commences Integration of National Identification Number

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget (MEPB), Mrs. Olayinka Ojo, has stated that the Lagos State Government is committed to ensuring that the Lagos State Single Social Register is updated and integrated with individuals' National Identification Numbers (NIN) to enhance the effectiveness of social protection programmes in the state and in line with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's directive.

Ojo disclosed this at a forum tagged: "Unified for Impact," organised by the Ministry, through the Social Protection Coordinating Department, to sensitize stakeholders from various sectors, including selected Heads of Departments and Community Development Council Chairmen from the 57 Local Governments and Local Council Development Areas of the state, to provide them with a deeper understanding of the numerous benefits associated with enhancing the Single Social Register through seamless integration.

According to Ojo, "The Lagos State Single Social Register (LASSR) has become the cornerstone for our social intervention programmes, helping to ensure that support reaches those who need it the most. However, we recognize that the full

potential of LASSR can only be unlocked when it is linked with the National Identification Number (NIN)." She added, "We need your support today; let us reflect on our collective progress, share ideas, identify gaps, and build synergy that will strengthen our coordination and level of impact in Lagos State, ensuring that nobody is left behind.

The Permanent Secretary emphasised the importance of leveraging data-driven innovation to build a more equitable and responsive system for all residents of Lagos.

Also speaking at the forum, the National Coordinator, National Social Safety-Nets Coordinating Office, Dr. Funmilola Olotu, noted that as part of its efforts to cater to the needs of the citizenry, the Presidency recognizes that linking the National Social Register with NIN would be of great impact and has cascaded it to every state in the Federation.

Olotu reiterated the President's commitment to delivering dividends of democracy, saying, "President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is passionate about integrating NIN with the National Social Register to



strengthen credibility and accountability, as well as ensure that all vulnerable individuals in the nation are well-catered for."

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development, Mrs. Kikelomo Bolarinwa, and the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Mrs. 'Jibike Onigbanjo, commended the department's work so far and emphasised the importance of the Social Register in the planning and execution of government intervention. They encouraged stakeholders to cascade the importance to their various communities as a matter of urgency.

In the same vein, the Director of Social Protection Coordinating Department, Mrs. Oluwakemi Garbadeen-Adedeji, in her presentation, explained how the data collated from the

Lagos State Single Social Register serves as the bedrock of the social intervention architecture of the state. The Director expressed gratitude to stakeholders for their role in reaching the grassroots level and encouraged them to continuously ensure everyone in need is covered.

She said, "We appreciate the stakeholders' efforts in reaching the grassroots level and urge them to work more closely with us to ensure that no one is left behind, according to the developmental pillars of the Babajide Sanwo-Olu Administration, THEMES Plus." She added, "This Social Register helps the right intervention get to the right people, ensuring social justice, equity, and protection for

citizens of Lagos State". Garbadeen-Adedeji appealed to the stakeholders present to ensure that the provisions made for vulnerable people by the government make an impact so that everyone can enjoy the dividends of democracy.

The Director appealed that beyond the stakeholder's forum, each member of the community should spread the word about the benefits inherent in updating the Lagos State Single social register. "This is a call to action for the entire community to ensure that no one is left behind, as Lagos residents we can contribute to the success of the register update initiative by sensitizing our community members on the benefit, let us ensure this is a case of all for one and one for all" she emphasised.

Following the event, the department's team visited the Kosofe Local Government, where they conducted sensitization, addressed field officers'

challenges, and engaged with residents to encourage their participation in the update process. They also visited the palace of the Traditional Ruler of the Area, Chief Surajudeen Lasisi, where they canvassed for support. The Traditional Ruler promised to use his influence to ensure that the people in his constituency are sensitized and embrace the update of the register.

One of the stakeholders present at the forum, the Chairman of Olubori Community Development Association (CDA), Mr. Balogun Tejumade, commended the Lagos State Government for the initiative, saying, "We commend the Lagos State Government for this initiative, which will enhance social protection programmes and improve the lives of our residents.

The Lagos State Single Social Register (LASSR) is a database of Heads and Members of Poor and Vulnerable Households (PVHHS).

The Lagos State Single Social Register update and Integration with the National Identification Number (NIN) kicked off on Wednesday, 9th April 2025, in the 57 Local Governments and Local Council Development Areas.



# Court Jails Three Offenders For Trafficking Prohibited Drugs

By Felix Kuyinu

A ruling at the High Court in Lagos has convicted three offenders for trafficking illicit drug. The court sentenced the lawbreakers: Chijioke Igbokwe, Ezechi Cyprian and one Okeke Igwe to 17 years in prison after they all pleaded guilty to the crime.

Igbokwe, a Lebanese returnee, was arrested at the Muritala International Airport in Ikeja, Lagos, on January 26, while on clearance of an Ethiopian Airline from Addis Ababa. Justice Ambrose Lewis-Allagoa sentenced him to five years imprisonment with an option of N10M fine in lieu. The lawbreaker was

also ordered to forfeit 2,500 Lebanese pounds found on him at the time of arrest. The second convict, Cyprian, a spare parts dealer, who was apprehended on February 23 along the Gbagada-Oshodi Road in Lagos was caught with 4.3 kilograms of cocaine which he hid in his Toyota Sienna bus. justice Allagoa-Lewis sentenced the

transgressor to three years in jail with an option of N5m fine. In a different court proceeding, the third convict, Igwe, a trader at ASPAMDA, in Lagos was sentenced by Justice Daniel Osiagor to seven years in prison for trafficking 1.1 kilograms of cocaine. The jailer, was

said to have conspired with one Nwaeze Okechukwu to commit the crime and was thereafter arrested on February 21 at the Badagry Expressway with the prohibited substance which he concealed in an auto spare parts to be exported. During the duo's arraignment in court, the prosecutor, Abu Ibraheem, presented the charges and

detailed circumstances of their arrest which they pleaded guilty to. Their counsels, Benson Ndakara, Antony Nnamoko and Dennis Warri all prayed the court to award a non-custodial sentence to their clients. The counsels stated that the duo were first time offenders with no previous convictions.





# Businessman Faces Trial Over Alleged Possession Of Fake \$4,350

By Felix Kuyinu



Justice Yellin Bogoro of the Federal High Court in Ikoyi, Lagos has remanded one Moshood Olanrewaju over accusations of possessing counterfeit Dollar

currency amounting to \$4,350.

Olanrewaju was arraigned by the The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Lagos Directorate 1 on a four-count charge bordering on

alleged currency counterfeiting.

The EFCC, in the charges, alleged that the defendant was caught in possession of 98 pieces of \$50 USD, totaling \$4,350 USD.

One of the counts

reads: "That you, Moshood Mustapha Olanrewaju (Male), adult, sometime in January, 2025, in Lagos State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, had in your possession 21 pieces of counterfeit \$50 USD (Fifty United States Dollars) bank note, totaling \$1,050 (One Thousand and Fifty United States Dollars), with serial numbers MB61754676C, MB61754979C, MB61754988C, MB61754449C, MB61753319C, MB61753235C, MB61753885C, MB61754732C, MB61754432C, MB61754435C, MB61753868C,

MB61753216C, MB61753103C, MB61753126C, MB61753124C, MB61754037C, MB61753352C, MB61753866C, MB641753346C, MB61753352C and the same to be counterfeit and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 5 (1) (b) and punishable under Section 5 (2) of the Counterfeit Currency (Special Provisions) Act, Cap C35, Laws of the Federation Of Nigeria, 2024." MB61753363C, knowing the same to be counterfeit and thereby committed an offence contrary

to Section 5 (1) (b) and punishable under Section 5 (2) of the Counterfeit Currency (Special Provisions) Act, Cap C35, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024."

The defendant, however, pleaded not guilty.

EFCC prosecution counsel, Zeenat Atiku, asked for a trial date and also urged the court to remand the accused in the custody of the Nigerian Correctional Service, NCS. pending the commencement of trial.

Justice Bogoro adjourned the matter till June 9, 2025 for trial and ordered that the defendant be remanded in the custody of the Correctional Service.

# Court Jails Businessman For Refusing Naira As Legal Tender

By Felix Kuyinu

The Federal High Court in Ikoyi, Lagos has convicted a businessman identified as Uzundu Chimaobi for refusing to accept the Naira currency as legal for a business transaction.

Chimaobi was arraigned at the court by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission on Tuesday on a two-count charge bordering on refusal to accept the Naira currency. He was thereafter sentenced

to a four-year jail term by Justice Alexander Owoeye with an option of N50,000 for count one and N600,000 on count two.

EFCC operative, Owolabi Jude, held that the offender contravened Section 20 of the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, Act, 2007.

Jude added that Chimaobi, on 10th, December 2024, sold a Cartier diamond bracelet and refused to accept Naira as

means of payment, rather, accepting the sum of \$5700 for the item. He said that the Commission received intelligence on the activities of the convict at his jewelry company identified as Unlimited Jewellers Limited in Lekki, Lagos, intentionally selling its products in Dollars as against the CBN Act, 2007 which stipulates Naira as the only legal tender in Nigeria.

Jude disclosed that the offender initially pleaded not guilty to the charge but during further prosecution, he

changed his submission to a guilty plea.

The EFCC tendered Chimaobi's confessional statement to the court which was admitted by the

court.

Delivering the judgment, Justice Owoeye found him guilty. He said "This court has found you guilty of the allegations out on you. You are hereby sentenced to

four years in prison with an option of fine of N50,000 on count one and N600,000 on count two.

"The Cartier Diamond wristwatch will be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria."





# Oshinowo Wins Vanguard Personality of the Year

Kehinde Adeleye

A diverse group of political leaders, House of Assembly members, the Ikoyi-Obalende LCDA Chairman, All Progressives Congress (APC) Party leaders from Agboyi-Ketu, Council management, friends, family, and relatives assembled to honor Agboyi-Ketu LCDA Executive Chairman, Dele Oshinowo, who was awarded the Vanguard Grassroots Governance Icon of the Year at the Vanguard Newspaper's 2025 Vanguard Personality of the Year Award ceremony.

This prestigious award recognizes Oshinowo's outstanding leadership at the grassroots level, exceptional infrastructure development, and commitment to providing good governance and democratic dividends for the people of Agboyi-Ketu LCDA.

His dedication to quality education, healthcare facilities, youth empowerment, sports development, skills acquisition, and security has significantly



impacted the community.

Echoneews reports that Oshinowo transformative initiatives have reshaped Agboyi-Ketu into a thriving city, replacing formerly crime-ridden areas with upscale estates. His numerous infrastructure projects, including stadiums, schools, healthcare centers, bridges, and roads, have contributed to the overall development of the LCDA.

In the area of human development, the savvy administrator supported the educational progression of indigent students with purchase of forms, supported MSMEs with grants and soft loans, provided skills

empowerment and business support for youths and women, while ensuring that peace, stability, and tolerance reigns in the local council. In the political space, Oshinowo is known for being a great grassroots mobilizer who matches grand electioneering promises with proven record of good governance and security.

Speaking on the Vanguard Icon of Grassroots Development feat, Dele Oshinowo said: 'I am happy and elated for this award. It is not for me alone, it represents what the LGAs and LCDAs in Lagos are doing. I am just a representative. This shows what our father, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu has actually created a platform for us to

grow and develop and think outside the box. You cannot develop Nigeria without the LGAs/LCDAs. It is the foundation of development.'

'This is a recognition of what Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu did. I will say that the financial autonomy that some people are just talking about, we have been having it for over 20 years. The reason why Lagos is improving.'

On how he is making great progress in the local council, Oshinowo hinted: 'I engage my people on social media, I engage by meeting with market men and women and other communities. Next Tuesday, I will be distributing N75 million to 1500 people. N50,000 is a lot for some of our petty traders. By boosting their stock

with N50,000, it will greatly help. These people are trying with their small stock, they are saving, doing thrift, and sending their children to school. Last year alone, we did over N200 million.'

The local council boss also thanked the Vanguard Newspaper for creating an award category which recognizes giant strides in local council administration. 'I want to commend Vanguard Newspaper for looking into the government to showcase what the 3rd tier is doing. I want to thank them for recognizing the 774 LGAs', he said.

Other awardees of the 2024 Vanguard Personality of the Year Award are Mr. Deji Adeleke – Vanguard Personality of the Year; Chief Ayo Adebajo – Posthumous Recognition; Chief

Edwin Clark – Posthumous recognition; Sen. Douye Diri, Governor Of Bayelsa State; Mr. Biodun Oyebanji, Governor of Ekiti State; Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori, Governor of Delta State; Gov. Abba Yusuf, Governor of Kano State; Prof Charles Soludo, Governor of Anambra state, among other award winners.

Dignitaries present at the event are the Chief Host: Uncle Sam Amuka, Chairman, Vanguard Newspaper, Chairman of the event: Mr. Atedo N.A Peterside, the Arole Oodua and Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, among others.

The Artists who serenaded the audience with their melody and rhythm are Johnny Drille and Laolu Gbenjo.



# Onikosi Drive Phase I and II: Bada Unveils Key Infrastructure Developments

Kehinde Adeleye

**P**rincess Samiat Bada, Chairman of Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area (LCDA), continued the week-long project commissioning by delivering several key infrastructure projects on Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

The event focused on the inauguration of Onikosi Drive Phase I and II, Atinmo Street, Olabisi Balogun Street, Ogunkoya Street, and Adeyomoye Street, all aimed at enhancing the lives of residents and stimulating local economic growth.

Oba Onikosi Drive serves as a vital connection to Ikorodu Road, one of the busiest transport corridors in Lagos State.

Princess Bada highlighted the LCDA's vision for the once-neglected area, emphasizing that the new road construction will improve traffic flow, safety, and bolster local businesses.

In addition to Oba Onikosi Drive Phase I and II, four more road projects were

commissioned, including Atinmo Street, Olabisi Balogun Street, Ogunkoya Street, and Adeyomoye Street. Another street nearby, Kehinde Edun Arobade Lane, was named in honor of the Onikosi royal lineage forefathers.

By the end of the week, 20 key projects will be commissioned across Ikosi-Isheri, demonstrating the LCDA's commitment to strategic planning, leadership, and community engagement. Princess Bada thanked the Leaders for identifying with them, Her team, contractors, community leaders, and residents for their support and trust in the LCDA's development process.

She extended her heartfelt gratitude to President Tinubu, Governor Sanwo-Olu for giving us the opportunity to serve.

She also acknowledged the strong backing from the Ikosi Traditional Institution, which played a crucial role in making the Oba Onikosi Drive project a reality.

"We are doing this not for show, but because we understand that real development starts from the ground up," Princess Bada said.

Oba Samuel Onikosi, the Onikosi of Ikosi

Kingdom, expressed pride in the Mayoress's efforts, saying she is transforming the face of Ikosi-Isheri LCDA beyond what she met. He urged her to do more.

Oba Jamiu Lawal Aileru 1 also commended the Mayoress for her great work in Ikosi-Isheri LCDA.

Otunba Yetunde Arobieke, former Commissioner for Wealth Creation in Lagos State, expressed admiration for the Mayoress's performance, stating that at the beginning of her administration,

she never thought Princess Bada would perform this way. However, she is now impressed by the monumental projects and is absolutely proud of all that she's doing for Ikosi-Isheri LCDA. Otunba Arobieke stated that the Mayoress deserves a second term in office, urging her to forge ahead despite any criticism. Hon. Afolabi Bamise Kazeem, popularly known as ABK, who also represent Senator Mamora, praised the Mayoress's administration, saying they have done well in various areas,

including healthcare, sports, Infrastructure, among others. He noted that this was the fifth road

commissioning project today and thanked God for giving the chairman the opportunity and grace to execute these projects for the benefit of the people.

Hon. Afolabi also advised residents to take ownership of the newly commissioned roads and infrastructure projects, ensuring their maintenance and longevity. He emphasized the importance of

maintenance, saying that when residents take care of the projects, there won't be a need for frequent repairs, allowing for other development initiatives.

Baba Oloja of Ikosi-Isheri LCDA appreciated the Mayoress's efforts, saying the new roads have made their journey smoother and will boost sales.

The Head of the Fruit Market in Ikosi-Isheri LCDA noted that the area was previously messy but is now transformed, allowing for smooth movement.





# Oshinowo Empowers Residents with N75m “We-Lift Program Scheme”

Kehinde Adeleye

**D**ele Oshinowo, Chairman of Agboyi-Ketu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), recently introduced the fifth edition of the We-Lift empowerment program. Echonews reports that this initiative aims to support 1,500 residents with 50,000 each, enabling them to overcome financial constraints and improve their businesses.

Oshinowo explained that many petty traders struggle with limited capital, often operating with less than 30,000.

The additional 50,000 provided through the program will significantly enhance their stock and livelihood, ultimately allowing them to better support their families.

The We-Lift program has already contributed to a remarkable 75% growth in the local economy, with positive impacts on petty traders who have been able to save more

and expand their businesses.

Chairman Oshinowo pledged that the initiative would continue until the end of their tenure, reflecting the LCDA's commitment to the community's welfare. Senator Adetokunbo Mukhail Abiru, representing Lagos East Senatorial District, congratulated Mayor Dele Oshinowo for his development initiatives and efforts to empower residents. He noted that the We-Lift empowerment program has supported over 3,000 residents so far, with 1,500 beneficiaries in the current edition.

Senator Abiru pledged an additional 10 million to benefit more residents, further expanding the program's reach. He commended the chairman for his commitment to supporting vulnerable members of society and expressed his delight in being part of the initiative.

Senator Abiru encouraged beneficiaries to use the grant wisely, drawing inspiration from the story of Honorable Femi Saheed, who built a thriving business from humble beginnings. He prayed that the beneficiaries would be blessed and use the funds for the

betterment of themselves and their community.

Hon. Yetunde Arobieke, former Chairman of Agboyi-Ketu LCDA, praised Mayor Dele Oshinowo's efforts, saying, “50,000 is a lot of money, especially when you look at the class of people. Mayor, you're doing a great job.”

She emphasized that the grant is meant for individuals who will appreciate and utilize it effectively, advising beneficiaries to invest the funds in their businesses to drive growth and improve sales.

Hon. Femi Saheed, member of the Lagos State House of Assembly

representing Kosofe Constituency 2, shared a personal anecdote to inspire beneficiaries. According to him, his entrepreneurial journey began with a small investment of 28,000 by getting a fridge, which he later sold for 40,000, earning him the nickname “Femi Cool”.

The Lawmaker emphasized the importance of starting small and using available resources wisely to build a thriving business. “This 50,000 is not a small money,” he advised, urging beneficiaries to utilize the grant effectively to improve their economic prospects.

Emmanuel Ojo, a businessman, expressed optimism about the 50,000 grant, stating that it will go a long way in supporting his business. He plans to invest the money and ensure it generates value and profit.

Ojo emphasized the importance of starting small and making the most of available resources, noting that despising the day of little things would prevent one from seeing the day of greatness.

With the grant, he is confident that he can make a profit by the special grace of God.

He also expressed his appreciation to the Chairman and the board members, thanking them for their support and acknowledging the impact it will have on his business.

Emmanuel Ojo, a businessman, expressed optimism about the 50,000 grant, stating that it will go a long way in supporting his business. He plans to invest the money and ensure it generates value and profit.

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Another beneficiary, Abigail Olajide, a trader, thanked the Chairman for giving this huge opportunity and she plans to utilize the fund to expand her market by buying more goods, which she expects will lead to increased sales.





# Sulaimon Appointed President of Alimosho Golden Lions Club

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon Jelili Sulaimon, has officially been appointed as the Charter President of Alimosho Golden Lions Club, which operates under Lions International District 404B-3. The announcement was made during a visit by the club's leaders to the local government secretariat in Akwonjo on Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

In addition to Sulaimon's appointment, other new members of the club were also recognized and granted official status. The council boss and other Alimosho Golden Lions leaders were present to witness and validate these inductions. Speaking at the event, District Governor Lion (Dr) Amb. Ibrahim Jide Bello praised Sulaimon's membership in the Lions Club as one of his most notable accomplishments. He acknowledged the significant

development chairman is an opportune collaboration. Also speaking at the visit is the 1st Vice District Governor who is next inline as the

District Governor, Lion Adelaja Adewale who affirmed that with Hon Jelili as Charter President, he foresees speedy development in Alimosho Golden club.

New members numbering about 10 were decorated for recognition while more members still wish to join in not too long a time.



## BADAGRY

# Whingan Committed To Completion Of Gbaji-Apa-Owode Road

By Saheed Afolabi

The member representing Badagry is in the federal house of representatives, Honorable Oluwaseun Sesi Whingan has assured residents that he will see to the completion of Gbaji-Apa-Owode Road. Whingan's visit aimed to assess the quality and pace of work by the contractor, Smithcrown Nigeria Ltd. During the inspection, the lead engineer acknowledged Whingan's crucial intervention in securing the substantial budgetary

allocation for the 2025 fiscal year, a stark contrast to previous years where funding barely reached 150 million, hindering any meaningful progress on the rehabilitation contract awarded years prior. The contractor assured the community that his company will deliver a durable road project that will stand the test of time. Speaking to the Press, Whingan clarified that while

the contract terms predated his tenure, his efforts in 2024 were instrumental in securing the vital 6 billion that has now breathed new life into the stalled project, while he commends the contractor for placing the road project as a priority. "I want to assure the good people of Badagry that I will continue to prioritize this road and other key infrastructural needs of our constituency. This project means a lot to me and to our people, and I will not rest until it is completed to standard." Community leader,

Chief Ade Agoro, lauded Whingan for his role in bringing the road project back to life

and expressed optimism for the road's future, acknowledging the significant impact of his efforts in securing the necessary funding.

He highlighted the previous neglect and praised the MHR's proactive approach and community engagement.



The Member representing Badagry Federal Constituency in the House of Representative, Hon. Sesi Oluwaseun Whingan and community leaders inspecting the level of work done at the Gbaji-Apa-Owode





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# Market Women And Men Drum Support for Anomo's Second Term

By Mohammed Adekola

**T**he Association of Market Women and Men

in Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA unanimously endorsed Wale Raji Anomo, for a second term in office.

The two-in-one event marked a historic moment for the LCDA as certificates of

recognition were officially presented to 16 Iya-Olojas (market women leaders), with

a symbolic crowning that redefined the leadership structure within the markets across Ikosi-Ejinrin.

Anomo lauded the association for their steadfast support, which he said has been pivotal in revitalizing the LCDA's economic landscape. He made a major announcement, revealing that plans have been finalized to inject N50 million into the local economy. This initiative will see 1,000 small-scale business owners each receive N50,000 to boost their businesses.

"This is just the beginning," Anomo said. "The narrative must change. We are committed to supporting both the young and elderly in our LCDA for a better life. But we cannot do it alone your continued support is

essential."

Chief Mrs. Tawakalitu Adeaga, speaking on behalf of the Iya-Olojas, the Iya Oloja expressed gratitude to the Chairman for his unprecedented contributions. She highlighted that, for the first time in the history of the LCDA, Iya-Olojas are now being paid monthly salaries a gesture that has deeply impacted market development.

"We are proud to stand behind a chairman who puts people first," she stated. "Our endorsement for his second term is total and unshakable."

The landmark event marks a new chapter in the development journey of Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA, as Anomo continues to set a precedent for inclusive leadership and economic empowerment.



## Anomo Hands Over Patrol Bike To Local Security

By Mohammed Adekola

**I**n an effort to strengthen community security and tackle the rising cases of electricity cable vandalism, the Chairman of Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA, Otunba-Akogun Wale Raji Anomo, has handed over a patrol bike to the Gbalule Local Security Taskforce.

The bike, donated by Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, is part of a broader initiative to enhance grassroots security and protect public infrastructure in the area.

Anomo expressed gratitude to Governor Sanwo-Olu for his consistent support to local councils. He commends the Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, Engr. Olowu Abiola Okanlawon, for his swift response in addressing the recent surge in cable theft.

"The safety of our people and public assets remains a top priority," the Chairman stated. "This patrol bike will improve mobility for our security teams, and I urge them to

maximize its use in safeguarding our communities."

Mr. Raji Smart, Commander of the Gbalule Taskforce, thanked the Council Chairman for the support, assuring residents of heightened security operations. "This bike will significantly boost our efficiency in patrolling and responding to incidents," he said.

With the new addition, residents of Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA can expect improved security measures to combat vandalism and ensure safer neighborhoods.





# Epe-Ero Market Undergoes Quiet Revolution

By Mohammed Adekola



In a striking display of how technology can drive human capacity and community development, Epe-Ero market located in the Ikorodu Garage area has undergone a quiet revolution, on lit up by the glow of solar powered street lights.

Epe Federal Constituency, under the representation of Hon. Wale Raji,

has once again tapped into this synergy by rejuvenating night trading at one of the busiest markets in the constituency

In November 2024, Rep. Wale Raji paid a visit to the market space based on growing requests from traders and other market stakeholders on the need to provide solar lights.

The significance of solar lighting in a commercial hub like

this cannot be overstated. Beyond illuminating dark corners, it enhances safety, extends business hours, boosts sales, and creates a more vibrant economic environment.

A visit to the market revealed a remarkable transformation. The space, once plagued by darkness at dusk, now radiates with energy. At night, traders were seen sorting their goods. Shipment of goods

also arrived after the other, and the traders bore their minds about the development. At about 4 am, trading had started when the market was visited, and it was indeed an exciting experience to see.

The testimonies from these traders were no fallacies, they were excited to trade and make profits under the new luminous environment where the night was banished.

Elizabeth Adekoya, in

an interview, said: "It's very nice. We like it and we are enjoying it. Whenever we bring our goods here, the light brightens up everywhere. We work with it, it doesn't trip off anyhow. Anytime we're here, we tighten and sort our vegetables with ease. We stay here till midnight before we go home."

A trader named Idris, in his reaction, explained that the Epe-Ero Market gets the volume of trade the night before from various places. He narrated that business transactions begin around 5 am as number of buyers besiege the market from neighbouring communities such as Eputu, Baba Adisa, Ajah and other far distances.

"Before now, we used torch to see, which doesn't make sense, but now solar power has made it easy."

Omoshola Awodola, noted that the market space has significantly improved trading as people come around not only to trade but to "flex." "Before the light was installed, this place was like a ghost town but after the

solar installation, it became very cool for trading. We appreciate this development but we still need more," she added.

Adding to the number of traders who shared their experiences, Basirat who came to support her mum in receiving an 18-seater bus loaded with tubers of yam, stated that their customers shifted the timing of their purchases till the morning due to the darkness that used to envelope the market. "They now transact with us at night. It's now okay, we now see everybody," she said.

Media Aid to the House of Representative member, Mr. Kaka Babatunde said, "This initiative is just one of many technology and human capital development-driven projects springing up under Rep. Wale Raji's watch. From constructing schools and ICT centres to upgrading healthcare and roads, his efforts continue to leave indelible marks. But in Epe-Ero, where night has now turned into an opportunity, the light speaks for itself."

## Akinloye Spearheads Renovation of Home Economics Lab

By Mohammed Adekola

The comprehensive renovation of the Home Economics Laboratory at St. Joseph R.C.M School, Ibonwon, is nearing its final stages, signaling a major boost for educational infrastructure and youth development in

Eredo LCDA. The project spearheaded by the Chairman of Eredo LCDA, Egnr. Ismail Monsuru Akinloye, reflects the council's strong commitment to education, skill acquisition, and community growth. Currently, floor tiling is underway, giving

the laboratory a modern and polished look. Once completed, the space will be a fully equipped, functional environment for practical learning. Akinloye stated that "Education remains a top priority for our administration. We believe that by providing our students

with conducive learning environments and modern facilities, we are not only empowering them today but securing a better tomorrow for our community."

Project supervisors added that's laboratory is just weeks away from

completion, alongside five other people-oriented projects being undertaken by the LCDA. These projects are slated for commissioning soon and are part of a broader mission to improve the standard of education in the

area.

"This renovation means so much to us," said One of teachers at the school. "Our students will now be able to carry out their practical sessions in a more organized and inspiring setting. It's a long-awaited development."



# Bamigboye Renovates Ajeabo Primary Health Centre

By Saheed Afolabi

**C**hairman of Mushin LG, Emmanuel Bamigboye has renovated the Ajeabo Primary Health Center (PHC) which will serve as an alternative healthcare center for residents. The newly renovated Ajeabo Primary Health Center will be beneficial to the residents with its improved facilities to satisfy the yearnings of the residents. The Ajeabo PHC which is located at number 10 Odunaike street, Ilasamaja boasts a reliable solar power

system, full air conditioning for patient comfort, a consistent supply of essential drugs, and round-the-clock availability of doctors and nurses. Furthermore, the facility now operates with 24-hour medical staffing, ensuring continuous access to doctors and nurses. This upgrade reflects the Chairman's dedication to enhancing healthcare services within the community. This upgrade underscores the Chairman's focus on providing quality healthcare to the community.



The renovated Ajeabo Primary Health Centre

## OSHODI

# Oshodi-Isolo LG Boosts Healthcare Infrastructure with Health Centre

Kehinde Adeleye

**I**n a move that reflects his unwavering dedication to accessible and quality healthcare for all residents, the Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, is accelerating efforts to complete the construction of an ultramodern health centre in the area. The ambitious health project, which is making significant strides in development, is set to

revolutionize healthcare delivery and cater to a wide range of medical needs within the council area. Upon completion, this state-of-the-art facility will greatly enhance healthcare infrastructure in Oshodi-Isolo, providing residents with a modern, accessible, and well-equipped medical centre that can effectively address a variety of health challenges. Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede's tireless efforts to

transform Oshodi-Isolo into a model of grassroots development continue, and this new health centre serves as a shining example of his vision, determination, and proactive leadership in prioritizing the well-being of the community. The Oloyede-led administration remains committed to ensuring the timely completion and delivery of the project, with continued monitoring and support for the contractors handling the work.





# Wura's Curtain Call: Showmax's Telenovela Ends on a Note of Ambition and Consequences

By Nurudeen Adebayo



After a captivating run of three seasons and 260 episodes, Showmax's first Nigerian original telenovela, "Wura," has come to an end. The show, which premiered in January 2023, captivated audiences with its complex characters, unpredictable twists, and exploration of ambition, power, and the consequences of unchecked desires.

"Wura" followed the life of Wura-Amoo Adeleke, played by Scarlet Gomez, a woman navigating two vastly different realities: a loving wife and mother at home and a ruthless CEO in the corporate world. This tension between personal image and professional ambition was a driving force throughout the

show, culminating in a finale that saw secrets unveiled, relationships fractured, and alliances shifting. The final episode delivered a culmination of long-running conflicts, leaving viewers with a sense of both closure and uncertainty. While not a neatly tied ending, the finale reflected the show's willingness

to delve into uncomfortable truths about human behavior and morality. The consequences of unchecked ambition and manipulation, themes that had been woven into the narrative from the very beginning, took center stage. Dr. Busola Tejumola, Executive Head of Content and West Africa

Channels at MultiChoice, expressed her pride in the show's success: "We are thrilled by the overwhelming response from fans who have been part of this journey since episode one. Wura has set a new benchmark for African originals on streaming platforms, and we couldn't be prouder to have created a show that resonated so

deeply with audiences across the continent."

Adapted from South Africa's "The River," "Wura" was reimagined to reflect local culture and realities, set against the backdrop of gold mining in Iperindo, Osun State.

While the plotlines occasionally veered into melodrama, as telenovelas often do, the show resonated with many viewers through its grounded emotional arcs and the stellar performances of its cast, including Yomi Fash-Lanso, Carol King, Ego Iheanacho, and Martha Ehinome.

Beyond entertainment, "Wura" made a significant impact. With multiple nominations at the 2024 Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards, the show proved that Nigerian stories told through serialized drama can compete and connect on a larger platform.

"Wura" leaves behind a mixed but notable legacy. It was a show that wasn't afraid to take its time, develop its characters, and present Nigerian audiences with a long-form drama that pushed beyond the ordinary.

While the final episode may have left some questions unanswered, it undoubtedly solidified "Wura" as a groundbreaking and impactful addition to the African television landscape.



# Nigerian Film, "My Father's Shadow", Set To Premiere at Cannes Festival

The Nigerian film industry has scored a major international milestone as "My Father's Shadow", a powerful drama rooted in the country's political and cultural history, is set to premiere at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival this May. Written by Wale Akinola Davies and Directed by Akinola Davies Jr., "My Father's Shadow" is a collaborative production between Nigerian producer Funmbi Ogunbanwo of Fatherland Productions and UK-based producer Rachel Dargavel of Element Pictures. The film, shot in Lagos and Ibadan, explores the emotional aftermath of the 1993 presidential election



and its impact on a father-son relationship. British-Nigerian actor Sope Dirisu takes the lead role, alongside New entrants Godwin and Chibuike Egbo. The film's selection for a world premiere at Cannes marks a significant achievement for the film industry and places Nigerian storytelling in the global spotlight. Governor Babajide

Olusola Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has commended the film's global breakthrough, praising the creative team and reaffirming his administration's dedication to supporting the arts. "This is a proud moment for Lagos and for Nigeria," the Governor stated. "We are committed to nurturing local talent and creating an environment where creativity can thrive."

## Wizkid's Rise to Global Stardom Documented in "Love Live Lagos"

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The life and career of one of Africa's most iconic musicians, Wizkid, will be the subject of a new documentary titled "Love Live Lagos," premiering at the Tribeca Film Festival 2025. The documentary, directed by Karam Gill, will offer a captivating look at Wizkid's journey from a Nigerian music star to a global superstar, whose music has broken down barriers and opened doors for African musicians worldwide. "Love Live Lagos" will

be screened at the festival on June 6, 7, and 11, 2025, and features interviews with a range of key figures who have witnessed and contributed to Wizkid's remarkable ascent. These include 5-time Grammy-nominated Afrobeats icon Femi Kuti, Wizkid's manager and partner Jada Pollock, his long-term manager Sunday Are, Julia Adenuga, and Seni Saraki, among other influential personalities who have worked closely with the Grammy winner. The documentary

promises to be a powerful and insightful exploration of Wizkid's impact on the global music scene. It delves into how his music has not only redefined African music but also changed how Africa is perceived and heard

on an international stage. On the sidelines of the Festival, Wizkid and Karam Gill will engage in a conversation where the Nigerian megastar will share insights into his illustrious

career, offering fans a glimpse into his creative process and the driving forces behind his success. "Love Live Lagos" marks another impressive feat for Wizkid, whose record-breaking achievements

and cultural influence are undeniably worthy of documentation for posterity. This new documentary comes five years after he released a short film as part of the promotional materials for the deluxe version of his Grammy-nominated album "Made In Lagos." The Tribeca Film Festival premiere of "Love Live Lagos" is a testament to Wizkid's enduring impact on the global music landscape. It promises to be a compelling and thought-provoking experience for fans and music enthusiasts alike.





# Avon Medical Launches State-of-the-Art Hospital in Lagos

Kehinde Adeleye

**A**von Medical, a subsidiary of Heirs Holdings, celebrated a significant milestone in Nigeria's healthcare sector on Monday, April 14, 2025, with the launch of its ultramodern hospital facility in Surulere, Lagos.

The inauguration ceremony, led by Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, was attended by key government officials, healthcare professionals, and industry stakeholders. Among the attendees were Nigeria's Federal Minister of Health, the Lagos State Commissioner for Health, the Chief Medical Director of Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), Professor Ali Pate, and the Group Chairman of Heirs Holdings, Mr. Tony Elumelu, CFR.

The 50-bed facility, equipped with cutting-edge technology and infrastructure, reaffirms Avon Medical's commitment to providing accessible, world-class healthcare in Nigeria.

This groundbreaking development is expected to significantly boost the quality of medical services in the country, reducing the need for medical tourism and improving overall healthcare outcomes for Nigerians.

The new hospital

features comprehensive diagnostic services, obstetrics and gynecology (O&G), pediatrics, and neonatal care, and is designed to serve the growing healthcare needs of Lagos residents. Speaking at the commissioning, Governor Sanwo-Olu praised Avon Medical for its long-standing commitment to improving healthcare delivery in Nigeria.

"This is more than just a hospital. It's a bold statement of what private sector collaboration can do in transforming our healthcare landscape," Sanwo-Olu said. "For one facility to offer full diagnostics, O&G, pediatric, and neonatal care, it shows the level of intentional investment and vision behind Avon Medical."

The Governor further commended Dr. Awele Elumelu, Chairperson of Avon Medical and co-founder of the Tony Elumelu Foundation, for her dedication to building sustainable healthcare institutions. "Dr. Awele Elumelu chose not to be comfortable in her success, but instead to invest in something meaningful something that impacts lives



directly," he noted.

Sanwo-Olu highlighted the importance of patient investment in healthcare, noting that the health sector requires long-term commitment rather than short-term returns. "Healthcare is not a sector where profits come quickly. It takes vision, compassion, and a strong sense of purpose," he said.

The Governor used the opportunity to highlight ongoing health infrastructure projects in Lagos, including maternal and

child care hospitals in Badagry, Ajah, Epe, and Alimosho, as well as a major developments like the Mercy Children's Hospital under construction near Third Mainland Bridge, and a state-of-the-art mental health facility in Ketu-Ereyun.

"We are building the largest pediatric hospital and the largest mental health facility in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Health is wealth, and we're backing that statement with action and funding," Sanwo-Olu said, emphasizing that 8–10% of Lagos State's annual budget is allocated to the health sector.

Calling for more public-private partnerships, the Governor urged investment bankers and private sector stakeholders to look towards healthcare as a vital area of impact and growth. "Let healthcare investment be your legacy something that stands the test of time and serves humanity," he

said.

Governor Sanwo-Olu concluded his remarks by reiterating the government's support for initiatives like Avon Medical and encouraging citizens and professionals alike to be part of the solution in strengthening Nigeria's health sector.

"This is not just a commissioning. It is a call to action. Let there be more of these bigger, better, and more accessible facilities for our people," he said.



# "New Museum, E-Library Will Boost Culture, Education, Commerce"- Animashaun



The Chairman of Epe Local Government, Princess Surah Animashaun has disclosed that the ongoing construction of an ultra-modern museum and e-library embarked on by her will transform Epe into a centre of cultural heritage and educational excellence. Speaking on the vision behind the two landmark projects, Princess Animashaun emphasised her administration's dedication to preserving the cultural identity of Epe while simultaneously expanding access to knowledge and learning. "This initiative reflects our unwavering resolve to elevate Epe's status as a safe, attractive, and business-friendly environment," she said. "Once completed, this state-of-the-art facility will become a dynamic space for cultural education, digital learning, and civic interaction." The project, which is

already taking shape within the council area, is designed to offer cutting-edge amenities such as interactive museum exhibits, a digitally-equipped library, and multifunctional halls for training, lectures, and community engagement programmes. Princess Animashaun assured stakeholders of a transparent and efficient execution of the project, promising that the facility would be delivered within budget and on schedule. She urged tourists, visitors, learners, and educationists across the state and its environs not to nurse any fear as the government will ensure a "smooth running of the museum and e-library when completed." "This project is more than just brick and mortar. It is a vision to make Epe a 21st-century local government in every sense of the word, with the potential to drive tourism, attract investment, and foster economic development," she said.

## AGEGE

# Ahmed Extends Lifeline Support To Agege Constituents

In a continued display of noble dedication to grassroots development and economic empowerment, Hon. Dr. Wale Ahmed (NOBLE), the Honourable Member Representing Agege Federal Constituency, Lagos State, has once again demonstrated exceptional leadership through his people-centered, purpose-driven, and impact-oriented initiatives. In collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Havilah Merchants Nigeria Limited, a skills acquisition and

empowerment program was recently held at Ahmed's constituency office in Agege. The event served as another successful chapter in the Noble Lifeline of Support initiative, which focuses on equipping constituents with practical skills and essential tools to thrive economically. At the event, 40 sewing machines and 40 grinding machines were distributed to carefully selected beneficiaries from the Tailoring

Kehinde Adeleye  
Association of Orile Agege/Agege and the Market Men and Women Association of Orile Agege/Agege. These beneficiaries, comprising market traders, artisans, and aspiring entrepreneurs, received not only the necessary equipment but also hands-on training to foster long-term economic independence. Key highlights of the event included practical sessions where: Mr. Olulude Olusegun Adebawale, Chairman of the Tailoring Association, and Mrs. Atanda, a recipient of the sewing machines, shared valuable

insights on machine maintenance and the importance of excellent customer relations. Mr. Ahmed Adebayo and Mrs. Bola Omotosho, executive members of the Market Association, also engaged beneficiaries on how to effectively operate and maintain the grinding machines for optimal business growth. This empowerment drive is more than just a routine programme, it is a movement. A movement to uplift, to equip,

and to transform the lives of constituents. Through this initiative, Hon. Dr. Wale Ahmed is actively transforming

beneficiaries into job creators by giving them access to vital resources, training, and tools for success.





# Franceex United FC Unveiled, Set NNL Target

By Saheed Afolabi



Lagos is steadily reclaiming its status as Nigeria's football capital with the launch of Franceex United FC. The club, based in Ajegunle, will participate in the Nigerian Nationwide League One.

Speaking at the unveiling in Lagos, the founder and club president of Franceex United FC, Hon Francis Bartholomew

Chima (Omo Barca), emphasized that one of the club's main goals is to nurture, manage, and promote the talents of its

players. He also disclosed that the club's vision extends beyond being a football powerhouse; it aims

to serve as a source of inspiration for our players, shaping them into outstanding individuals who will make a positive difference in society.

"As we pursue excellence, our primary objective is to establish a legacy characterized by integrity, resilience, and community involvement, acting as a guiding light for aspiring young footballers throughout Africa.

"With our talented roster, we have the potential to secure promotion slots. While it may be challenging, I am confident that we can achieve unexpected success."

## FCAAN Announces Free Training to 2,000 Grassroots Coaches

By Saheed Afolabi

Football Coaches Association of Africa Nations (FCAAN) has pledged to offer free coaching education to 2000 coaches across the nation. This is in line with FCAAN aim at equipping coaches with modern day techniques of the game.

The free training event is scheduled to begin in June 2025 will prioritize elementary and foundation F-courses, which will be beneficial to the 250 grassroots coaches

across the Five Divisional Football Associations in Lagos state. Afterwards, the program will be extended to other states of the Federation.

CEO of FCAAN, Danny Nazzal disclosed the purpose of the free training program is to draw more coaches and let them understand the nitty gritty of the job of a Coach while placing significant importance on self

growth.

President of FCAAN, Dr Terry Eguaoje was honored by the Edo State Football Association (EDFA) and Sportville for his role in improving the knowledge of coaches and overall contributions to the development of football in Nigeria.

Eguaoje who's also the Head of NFF coaching education department played a monumental role in attracting free CAF C license coaching certificate for women in Nigeria.



FCAAN founder, Dr Terry Eguaoje





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