

Hamzat Secures
Second Term with
Strong Mandate P.19

My Family Will Gang
Up Against Buhari in
the Afterlife -Seun Kuti



Got A Story?
Call
08032178602

**To Place
Adverts,**
Call
08025378799

www.echoneews.ng
Echoneews

LAGOS COMMUNITIES EDITION

A publication of Echoneews Newspapers Limited

Monday 21st July - Sunday 27th July 2025

HOW COUNCILS SPEND FAAC FUNDS P.2



Sanwo-Olu Urges P.10
Public Accountants To
Enhance Their Skills



Adekunle Gold, Rabiul Olowo Partner LASHMA To Enroll Sickle Cell Warriors P.14

Lagos Urges Developers To Obtain Drainage Clearance, EIA Before Reclamation P.8

How Councils Spend FAAC Funds

By Kunle Awosiyan

Each of the Lagos Local Government Councils spend about 80 per cent of its monthly share from Federal Account Allocation Committee, FAAC, on salaries and administration, Echonews had gathered.

Findings by Echonews also show that some of the state councils top the federal allocation charts in the last four years but loads of salaries had made it difficult for them to expend on capital projects.

In the first half of 2024, Lagos LGAs topped the national chart for FAAC receipts, with Alimosho LGA getting 11.13 billion

Ajeromi/Ifelodun: 8.90 billion, Kosofe: 8.80 billion, and others like Mushin, Oshodi/Isolo, Ojo, Ikorodu, Surulere all receiving between 8 and 8.7 billion

With the receipts and about 80 per cent spent on salaries, the remaining 20 per cent is spent on capital projects

And out of the budget it is observed that almost all the LGAs and LCDAs spend about five per cent on empowerment, sensitisation on health and education of the residents



According to investigation by our correspondent, almost all the councils provide free West African School Certificate Examination and Joint Admission and Matriculation Examination forms for pupils, which is about 0.2 per cent of the allocation.

Average of about N200m is spent on empowerment of youths, widows and artisans quarterly, which has been revealed to be about three per cent of the allocation, according to the various budgets presented.

On health programme and sensitisation, our correspondent noticed that on average, each

council appropriates about two per cent of its budget.

Apart from a few councils that embarked on big capital projects such as Agboyi-Ketu where the Chairman Dele Oshinowo, provided 170 housing units in his housing scheme in collaboration with a private sector, no other council has done such a project. Of course, such councils as Oshodi, Mushin and Alimosho did some road projects by the statements released from their media unit, only a few councils built or rehabilitated administrative blocks or health centres.

While some did

spent on school rehabilitation, free exercise books, Mushin local government established the first local government-owned Radio Station.

The station was among the legacy projects funded under Mushin LGA's 10.3 billion 2025 budget, dubbed the "Budget of Consolidation." This annual appropriation prioritized infrastructure and community development projects, the chairman, Kehinde Oloyede-Almoruf said.

In the first half of 2024, Lagos LGAs topped the national chart for FAAC receipts and in June

of that year a total shared (FG + States + LGs) amounts to 1.818 trillion with Federal Government getting 645 billion, States, 607 billion and Local Governments, 444.9 billion. Compared to April when LGs received 387.0 billion and in March over N400 billion, the findings show a steady growth trend in monthly allocations to LGAs. This increase is also considered to be the consequence of the Supreme Court ruling that allows local governments to receive direct allocation to boost transparency and accountability, especially in states like Lagos.

Brought backward to 2022, the breakdown shows that the 20 LGAs collectively received 96 billion between January and August of that year with Alimosho getting 18.45, Ajeromi/Ifelodun, 14.44, Kosofe 14.25; Mushin – 14.05; Oshodi; Isolo 13.99; Ojo 13.85; Ikorodu 13.58; Surulere 13.24; Agege 12.96; Ifako/Ijaye 12.75.

The data indicates that all top 20 LGAs by allocation in the country were from Lagos State.

In 2023, all 20 Lagos LGAs received a total of 192.7 billion from FAAC the highest for any state in Nigeria.



Show
some
Love



How Councils Spend FAAC Funds

Continued from page 2

On average, each Lagos LGA received approximately 9.64 billion in FAAC funding for the year with Top-Performing LGAs by FAAC Allocation (June 2023–May 2024). Based on available data, Lagos LGAs dominated the top 30 nationwide in FAAC allocations over the one-year period with Alimosho LGA received the highest FAAC allocation at 18.45 billion. Other Lagos LGAs featured prominently among the top: Ajeromi/Ifelodun (14.44 b), Kosofe (14.25 b), Mushin (14.05 b), Oshodi-Isolo (13.99 b), Ojo (13.85 b) and others. However, our correspondent observed that the Alimosho LG despite getting fat allocation had only built six roads and one Ultra modern market. According to a statement obtained from the council, project initiated by Alimosho government in the last three years include the ultra-modern market and administration headquarters, the Improved mobility, primary healthcare access. In the first eight months of 2023, Lagos LGAs collectively received 143.97 billion, with 20 out of the top 25 LGAs nationally located in Lagos State. Alimosho got 8.88bn; Ajeromi/Ifelodun, 6.73bn; Kosofe, 6.62bn; Mushin got 6.52bn while Oshodi/Isolo, Ojo, Ikorodu, Surulere, Agege, Ifako/Ijaye, Somolu, Ikeja, Eti-Osa, Amuwo-Odofin, Lagos Mainland, Badagry, Apapa, Epe, Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos Island got over N5bn. In the last four years, the 20 local government areas in the state had

received about N400 bn from FAAC out of which 114 billion is for 2021 and 96 billion in 2022 (Jan-Aug) But much of this fund goes to salaries. For instance in 2020, Ikorodu West LCDA had a total budget of 1.35 billion with 79% going to recurrent (salaries, admin) versus 21% capital Median of funds largely went to overheads and staff costs. This imbalance suggests underinvestment in local infrastructure, community projects, and public services, the Executive Chairman of the council Hon. Sulaimon Kazeem said. Despite robust inflows, a disproportionate amount is used for recurrent expenditures rather than visible development. Relating to this, chairman of Alimosho LGA Hon. Jelili Sulaimon said that recurrent alone took about N5bn out of the proposed N7bn 2025 budget. As he put it, our total annual appropriation for 2025 is 7,292,664,367 with recurrent expenditure of 4,732,664,367 "We have just 2,554,000,000 for capital expenditure," he told Echonews. However, some councils have been facing scrutiny from NGOs, political stakeholders, and anti-corruption bodies over recurring patterns of limited transparency and stakeholder exclusion. A 2022 HEDA survey found that only about 62% of Lagos residents had any awareness of the councils annual budget, with 23% having no knowledge and 38% only aware of its existence without details reflection of limited transparency in fiscal communication. No fewer than 23 council chairmen, investigation revealed had petitions against them with the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, ICPC. As a matter of fact, two of them, the Chairman of Kosofe Local Government Area, Hon. Moyosore Ogunlewe was invited by ICPC a few months ago over N800 million financial misappropriation. Another one, the Chairman of Lagos Island



Jelili

East Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mr. Muibi Folawiyo was interrogated by ICPC over allegations of gross corruption. The ICPC has urged implementation of robust transparency frameworks for managing local government funds, emphasizing the need for fiscal clarity, open procurement, and greater citizen engagement to restore public trust in local governance. The anti graft agency also called for better transparency, publication of monthly budget and expenditure reports by LGAs.



Folawiyo



Ogunlewe

A new Lagos is in the works

The future is loading!

Pay your part. **Pay your tax!**



Lagos State Internal Revenue Service

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

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

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



LMDC Sensitises MDAs

The Lagos Multi-Door Courthouse (LMDC) recently organised a series of sensitisation programmes for the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education as well as the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development. The initiative is part of LMDC's commitment to promoting awareness and adoption of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms across Lagos State Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). Chief Executive Officer/Director of the LMDC, Mrs. Achere Cole, represented at the event by Mrs. Olubusola Ojo, an Assistant Director, Registrar, emphasised

that the LMDC is a court-connected ADR centre providing mediation, arbitration, early neutral evaluation, restorative justice and other dispute resolution services to help parties settle conflicts more efficiently. She highlighted the numerous benefits of ADR, including cost-effectiveness, faster resolution times, and improved relationships between disputing parties. According to her, ADR offers a flexible and less adversarial approach to resolving a wide range of cases, including commercial, employment, and community disputes. Cole also noted that ADR can play a vital role in fostering harmonious working relationships among stakeholders,



particularly within the local government sector. In her remarks, Ms. Rosemary Ubajaka, Ikeja LMDC Administrator, spoke

about the Lagos Settlement Week, the flagship programme of the LMDC designed to decongest court dockets and expand access to justice

through ADR. The Programme, she explained, provides free mediation services for cases across key sectors in the state, offering citizens a

convenient platform to resolve disputes quickly and amicably, thereby reducing the burden on the courts and promoting social harmony.

The Directorate for Citizens Rights (DCR) has said it is taking proactive steps to empower the next generation of citizens and empower students on Child Rights and Justice. Director Jonathan Olugbemi Ogunsanya made this known in his first official engagement since assuming office when he hosted students from Fluorescent Schools (Junior and Senior) on a courtesy visit to the Directorate. Speaking during the visit, Mr. Ogunsanya highlighted the crucial role of the DCR in protecting citizens' rights, with a specific focus on child rights protection and justice. He emphasised the importance of educating young people on their rights and providing them with the knowledge and tools to

seek enforcement when needed. "Our goal is to ensure that all citizens, regardless of age, can enjoy their fundamental rights," said Mr. Ogunsanya. "We believe that by engaging with students directly, we can build a more rights-conscious society from the ground up." Approximately 100 students had the opportunity to observe firsthand the Directorate's daily operations, including walk-in and mediation sessions conducted by certified counsellors and mediators. The school's coordinators praised the DCR for its unwavering commitment to human

DCR Partners Schools To Empower Students on Child Rights, Justice

rights protection and defence within Lagos State. They encouraged the Directorate to

continue its impartial and fair approach in upholding justice. The engagement marks

the beginning of a broader initiative by the DCR to partner with educational institutions

across Lagos, reinforcing its dedication to public education and access to



LASODA Hosts Competition To Celebrate Students With Disabilities

The Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, organised an interactive quiz competition for students with disabilities. The event, themed "Celebrating the Unique Qualities of Children with Disabilities and Strengthening their Capabilities," was held at the LASODA premises on Wednesday. The initiative aimed to promote academic excellence, confidence, and inclusion among students in primary schools with



Inclusive Unit, Mushin, secured the third position. The highlight of the day was the presentation of gifts and awards to the winners in recognition of their outstanding performance. The event marks another significant step by LASODA towards fostering inclusivity where everyone can participate and thrive regardless of their abilities. It also provided a platform for students with disabilities to showcase their academic skills and compete on an equal footing with their peers

disabilities in Lagos State. It also aims to encourage parental involvement in the education of their children. After the keenly contested quiz, Wesley School 2 for the Deaf, Surulere, took the first position, followed by Wesley School 1 for the Deaf, Surulere, in second place, while Ojuwoye Community School

In a significant move to foster a culture of consumer rights awareness and advocacy among Nigerian youths, the Lagos State Consumer Protection Agency (LASCOPA), on Friday, inaugurated the LASCOPA Community Development Service (CDS) Club. The inauguration was done at the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Lagos State Secretariat, Babs Animashaun, Surulere. The inauguration ceremony, held with great enthusiasm and participation, marked a strategic collaboration between the Agency and the NYSC aimed at equipping corps members with the knowledge and tools to serve as consumer rights ambassadors in their various places of primary assignment and host communities across Lagos state.

LASCOPA Inaugurates NYSC CDS Club To Deepen Consumer Protection Awareness

Speaking at the event, the Director of the Consumer Education department of LASCOPA, Mrs. Folashade Ashaye, who represented the General Manager of the Agency, described the inauguration as a milestone in the Agency's mission to protect and promote consumer interests in Lagos State. She emphasised the critical role of young people in driving advocacy and enforcement of consumer rights, especially in a dynamic and ever-evolving marketplace. "The establishment of the LASCOPA CDS Club is in line with the Lagos State Government's commitment to inclusive governance

and consumer protection," Ashaye said. "We are deliberately engaging the youth through this platform because they represent the most vibrant and vocal segment of society who can drive meaningful change in consumer behaviour and business ethics." She charged the newly inaugurated club members to take the initiative seriously by becoming active watchdogs and educators in the

consumer space, adding that LASCOPA will continue to provide technical support, training, and resources to strengthen their capacity. Also speaking at the ceremony, the NYSC CDS Coordinator for

Lagos, Mrs. Bunmi Oladokun, commended LASCOPA for its visionary partnership with the NYSC. She noted that the collaboration would not only enhance the knowledge base of the corp.



Lagos Urges Developers To Obtain Drainage Clearance, EIA Before Reclamation

The Lagos State Government over the weekend urged property developers to always obtain Drainage Clearance and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (EIA) from the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources before reclamation/ dredging and sand filling in order to avert any form of disaster in future in the State.

Speaking with journalists at Freedom Way, during an inspection tour to some areas in Lekki, Eti-Osa LGA, the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab said the government would not condone further illegal dredging / reclamation across the state.

He said the EIA / Drainage clearance would ensure that the reclamation does not extend beyond the drainage alignment and the discharge of storm water does not affect the ecosystem.

Wahab said the team had to visit the Periwinkle Estate following several complaints from residents, directing that the ongoing illegal dredging / reclamation must stop immediately at Freedom Way to protect Lekki 1, Itedo and Kusenla outlets"

"Please note that Itedo system too discharges into this lagoon as well as other several water bodies. So, you can not come and say you want to dredge and cover up this space or else it is a recipe for flooding issues in this axis and environs; that's why we are here to stop them from doing anything here," he added.

Wahab said the developers claimed they have approvals from some agencies adding that any approval given without obtaining Drainage Clearance and Environmental Impacts Assessment (EIA) certificate from the Ministry of the Environment and Water



Resources remains invalid thereby invalidating the dredging.

The Commissioner and his team also visited Oral Estate for re-evaluation and assessment on the removal of the contraventions on the Ikota River in order to have a win-win solution with the residents on how to proffer lasting solutions to flooding issues in the area.

He said it is necessary to remove the contraventions on the right of way of the Ikota River because the Ikota River is the only channel that supports the Atlantic in the axis.

"The truth is the Right of Way of Ikota River had been badly encroached upon by a lot of developments; God forbid anything happens on the other side of the Atlantic, the only way the government can save the whole of the Island is through the Ikota River and that is why the Right of Way of Ikota River needs to be re-established as soon as possible" he said.

He explained that there

are some buildings constructed on the bank of the Ikota River saying that some major channels such System 156, 157, 44 and 44A and 46 all discharged into the Ikota River and the re-establishment of the right of way for the Ikota River is not optional.

He reiterated that most parts of the Island and Lekki were reclaimed sites, which are major contributors to flooding, and as such Government cannot afford further reclamation of storm waterpaths.

He said the government has made it mandatory for the developers to install sheet piles as this installation would push back further encroachment and ensure that development does not go beyond the ROW in the future.

Wahab stressed that the developers would bear the cost of the installation of the sheet piles as a way of sanctioning them saying that the installation would also mitigate the impact of flooding on the ROW of the Ikota River

most especially it would reduce the number of buildings initially marked to be pulled down.

"I would like to reiterate that the Installation of sheet piles is compulsory and non-negotiable; I expect that by Monday, the developers show commitment that they are ready to install them; And that will not take them more than seven days. Once we do not see these commitments, we would commence enforcement," he said.

The team also visited the Purple Mall located at Freedom Way, Lekki Phase 1, Lekki where the Commissioner announced the re-opening of the mall for business activities.

He said immediately after the unfortunate incident happened, it was brought to the government's attention. The State Government called for an investigation and all supporting documents from Purple Mall.

"We called for all supporting documents and investigation after the incident. And in fairness, at the end of the

day, we found out that due diligence was observed and that they have the necessary paperwork" Wahab said.

"The Mall can not be sealed indefinitely while the other investigation is still ongoing. We were satisfied with our own administrative end of the investigation. What we can't control is the investigation that the Police is conducting. That's an investigation about someone's life," he explained.

He described the fatal incident at the Purple Mall as very unfortunate where a young man lost his life after his vehicle allegedly came down from the top floor of the parking lot, leading to his death.

He added that the State Government was called out on the social media after the incident as not doing the due diligence before giving approval to build the mall in the process naming agencies like Lagos Safety Commission and Lagos State Building Control Agency and Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Authority as culprits.

Hon Wahab recalled that the facility was earlier shut by the State Government to give room for specialised investigation to determine the cause of the incident, assess compliance with building safety regulations, and identify any environmental or structural violations.

The team included the Special Adviser on Environment, Engr. Olakunle Rotimi - Akodu: Permanent Secretaries, Environmental Services, Gaji Omobolaji and that of Drainage Services, Engr. Mahmood Adegbite

Other are the Managing Director LAWMA, Dr. Muiyiwa Gbadegesin; General Manager, LASWMO, Engr Adefemi Afolabi and other directors from the Ministry and its Agencies.

The places visited by the team were Oral Estate; Purple Mall, located at Freedom Way, Lekki phase 1 and Periwinkle Estate at the End of Freedom Way, Lekki Phase 1.

79th
Anniversary

THE BANK THAT WORKS

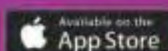
The central image features a large, smiling man's head wearing sunglasses. Surrounding him are various ALAT services and WEMA Bank logos:

- ALAT** logo (top center)
- 945#** (top left)
- ALAT TRAVELS** (middle left)
- PHYSICAL BANKING** (bottom left)
- MSME** (bottom left)
- Royal Kiddies ACCOUNT** (bottom center)
- ALAT GOALS** (bottom right)
- DEVICE LOANS** (top right)
- Prestige** (middle right)
- SARA** (middle right)
- WEMA MSME COLLECTION AND PAYMENT PLATFORMS** (middle right)
- NQR ALATPay FOR BUSINESS** (middle right)
- ALAT Xplore** (bottom right)

A QR code is located in the bottom left corner with the text "Scan Here" and "To Begin".

WEMA BANK
With you. All the way.

Are you an ALAT user? Download the app to join the ALAT Trybe



Dial *945*01#

Don't forget, payments are easier with

*945#

0-7000-PURPLE, 0803 900 3700

purpleconnect@wemabank.com

Customer help desk 09044411010

Get social with us at:



@wemabank | @alat_ng



alat.ng

wemabank.com | alat.ng

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has urged accountants in the state's public service to enhance their analytical capabilities and contribute more effectively to the public finance system. He emphasised the importance of upskilling to ensure adherence to regulatory processes, noting that these efforts will help create greater value and promote sustainable accounting practices.

The Governor gave the charge while delivering his keynote address at the 15th Annual Public Lecture and Investiture of new Executive Committee members of the Lagos Public Service Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), held on Thursday at the Lagos Country Club, GRA Ikeja. Under the theme: "The Future of the Accounting Profession: What Every Public Accountant Must Know About Sustainability Accounting."

Governor Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by his Special Adviser on Internal Audit, Dr. Oyeyemi Ayoola, noted that accountants have a vital role to play in adding value to

Sanwo-Olu Urges Public Accountants To Enhance Their Skills

public service by ensuring the effective and efficient use of resources.

He added that this requires a high level of professionalism to support sound decision-making through sustainability accounting.

According to him, the public sector must broaden its approach to evaluating the services it delivers and the value it creates, not just to meet immediate needs, but to ensure long-term impact.

The Governor further urged public sector accountants to embrace innovation and sharpen their analytical skills to ensure proper accountability.

In her acceptance speech as the 16th Chairman of the Lagos Public Service Chapter of ICAN, Oluwatoyin Suarau, FCA, described her emergence as Chairman as "a call to serve," assuring stakeholders that the new administration will tackle challenges facing members through meaningful



engagement and collaboration.

She highlighted the importance of carrying every member along while strengthening the Chapter's core values instilled by its founding matriarchs.

Unveiling a robust 12-point agenda for the next 12 months, the new Chairman outlined key initiatives including an Executive Retreat to equip the new Exco with leadership and communication skills, a comprehensive fundraising drive for the Secretariat building project, and the expansion

of the "Catch Them Young" programme to reach undergraduates in Nigerian universities.

The outgoing Chairman Lagos Public Service Chapter of ICAN, Mrs. Akinsola Florence Titilayo, FCA, in her opening remarks, stated that the lecture's theme is timely, given the global realities of climate change, social inequality, and economic disruptions, averring that the role of accountants has expanded beyond traditional financial reporting. "Sustainability accounting is no longer a concept to

aspire to; it is now a professional imperative. Around the world, governments and public institutions are integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into their operations. We, as public accountants, must be at the forefront of this transformation.

"Our capacity to measure, report, and advise on sustainability-related practices will greatly influence the quality and impact of public financial management in the future." Mrs. Akinsola stated. A key highlight of

the event was the investiture of the 16th Chairman of the Lagos Public Service Chapter of ICAN, Mrs. Suarau Deborah Oluwatoyin, FCA, FCTI, along with her executive members. The investiture was conducted by the 61st President of ICAN, Dr. Haruna Nma Yahaya, mni, FCA, represented by the 60th ICAN president, Chief Davidson Alaribe, FCA.

The event was graced by the First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. (Mrs.) Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu and other distinguished guests.

Echonews
Newspapers Limited

We Never Fail To Deliver

Every Minute

Every Week



Subscribe | Advertise | Partner

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

SDGs Office Hosts Human Capital Development Advocacy Workshop

In a significant push to improve human capital outcomes and data-driven development in Lagos State, the Office of Sustainable Development Goals, in partnership with Africa Human Capital Development Plus (HCD+), convened a high-impact advocacy workshop for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officers. The workshop, themed "Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation for Human Capital Development", held at the Dover Hotel, Ikeja, includes Monitoring and Evaluation Officers across MDAs and Public Affairs Officers in LGAs. Delivering the Welcome Address, the Permanent Secretary of the SDGs Office, Mrs. Kaphayah Olayemi Sarumi, emphasised the strategic relevance of the workshop in enhancing performance measurement, evidence-based governance, and accountability within the state's development ecosystem. "This workshop is not just another item on our calendar. It is a strategic intervention - one rooted in the urgent need to strengthen capacity, deepen understanding, and mobilise critical action for Human Capital Development

(HCD) in Lagos State," she remarked. She applauded the technical partnership with Africa HCD Plus, noting their unwavering support in accelerating data-driven human capital outcomes across Africa. The Permanent Secretary explained that Monitoring and Evaluation Officers play a pivotal role as "translators of impact," whose work in data collection, analysis, and dissemination is central to informed decision-making and sustainable policy implementation. In his Goodwill Message, Director of

the Lagos Bureau of Statistics, Mr. Bashiru Oseni-Ope, highlighted the importance of accurate and timely data as the bedrock of developmental planning and urged participants to embrace the tools and knowledge shared during the training fully. He emphasised that the Lagos State Government is making significant investments in data gathering and analysis as a strategic pillar to enhance the Human Capital Development (HCD) campaign and drive the successful localisation of the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). According to him, part of the efforts to strengthen the data system and infrastructure include robust capacity-building initiatives for officers to equip them with nascent knowledge of contemporary data collection methodologies, digital tools, and analytical frameworks that reflect the complexities of today's governance realities. He reiterated that only through a well-trained and data-literate workforce can

the State achieve impactful and people-centred development. To translate knowledge into measurable impact and develop actionable strategies for improving HCD indicators across their respective MDAs, the workshop featured a series of technical lectures and interactive sessions designed to equip participants with critical tools and insights. Some of the lectures delivered during the training include: Objectives for M&E Teams and HCD/SCD Relationship; Techniques for

Monitoring and Evaluating the Effectiveness of Advocacy Efforts Targeting HCD Issues; Existing Sources and Quality of HCD Data; Importance of Data Disaggregation for Human Capital Development Indices; Building a Culture of Data Advocacy: Engaging Stakeholders for HCD and How to Advocate for Better HCD Data. The workshop had in attendance the Management staff of the Office of SDGs, the Africa HCD Plus Technical Team and Officials from the Lagos Bureau of Statistics.



Adekunle Gold, Rabiun Olowo Partner LASHMA To Enroll Sickle Cell Warriors

A popular musician, Adekunle Gold, and former Commissioner for Finance in Lagos State, Dr. Rabiun Olowo, in their commitment to give back to society and ensure that the vulnerable have access to quality and equitable healthcare services, have partnered with the Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) to enrol 13,500 sickle cell warriors and families on ILERA EKO through EKO Social Health Alliance (EKOSHA). The Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, speaking at the sensitisation and enrollment of 1,000

sickle cell warriors and families on ILERA EKO Social Health Insurance held in Surulere and organised by Adekunle Gold Initiative, in conjunction with the Sickle Cell Advocacy and Management Initiative (SAMI) as well as the Ministry of Health, said that the partnership is expected to give hope to the sickle cell warriors' families.

Noting that it would also reduce their out-of-pocket expenses for paying their medical bills, which are usually very expensive, Dr. Zamba said, "LASHMA has witnessed a legacy of compassion, vision and purpose. The enrolment by Adekunle Gold Foundation and the signed agreement

by Rabiun Olowo Foundation are testaments to the unwavering commitment to social impact and human dignity.

"It is particularly heartwarming that Adekunle Gold and Rabiun Olowo Foundations' focus is on supporting individuals living with sickle cell disease. This group has long needed sustained attention and care", she added.

Expressing her appreciation to the sponsors, Dr. Zamba said that the Agency is pleased to be part of the momentous initiatives and welcomes with great enthusiasm the Foundations' intentions to partner with LASHMA to

provide health insurance coverage for those living with sickle cell disease, as well as their family members. This, according to her, aligns with the mission of the Agency to ensure that no one is left behind.

She said, "There are some people whose children have sickle cell, it is not an easy task to take good care of these individuals. Whenever they take them to the hospital, they spend a lot. It is very expensive to maintain them".

The Permanent Secretary said that interventions like this will not only offer direct medical support to the Enrollees but will also give their parents or caregivers financial protection, peace of

mind, and create a pathway to better health equity.

Dr. Zamba said that with the partnership, more sickle cell warriors and family members would be covered, revealing that Adekunle Gold has enrolled 750 sickle cell warriors with LASHMA supporting with 250 additional slots to make a total of 1,000 warriors covered, and Dr. Rabiun Olowo will enrol 10,000 sickle cell patients with LASHMA supporting with an additional 2,500 to make a total of 12,500 sickle cell patients and families to be covered.

The Permanent Secretary called on Nigerians, home and abroad, to emulate

Adekunle Gold and Dr. Rabiun Olowo to support the vulnerable by paying for their health insurance or adopting some vulnerable and paying for their premiums. No amount of the vulnerable sponsored or premium paid is too small, she added.

Dr. Zamba assured sponsors that frequent feedback will be given to them on how such money donated to onboard vulnerable individuals on the State Social Health Insurance is judiciously used.

She disclosed that residents interested in the sponsorship of the vulnerable can get in touch with the Agency by either sending an email to www.lashma.com, calling EKOSHA on 07042357243 or 0703 747 227 or visiting LASHMA Headquarters opposite The Secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja, main gate.

The Permanent Secretary said that as regards vulnerable enrolment on the Health Insurance Scheme, the Lagos State Government is doing its best. She added that aside from dedicating one per cent of the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) as Equity Fund, the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has also increased the Equity Fund from N1 Billion to N3 Billion to accommodate more vulnerable people.

Dr. Zamba said that similarly, Mr. Governor has also made the Equity Fund a first-line charge, and this made him the first Governor to do so in the country. While applauding Mr. Governor for his commitment to ensuring that the vulnerable also have access to equitable and unhindered healthcare services, she said that the Lagos State Government cannot do it alone; therefore, to achieve the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) journey in the State, it needs the collective responsibility of everyone.



Retirees Get Start-up Packs

As a way of redefining retirement and promoting economic self-reliance, the Lagos State Government has graduated its first batch of retiring civil servants from a transformative Entrepreneurship Training Programme.

At the graduation ceremony held recently at the Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium, Alausa, Ikeja, 100 retirees received certificates and start-up packs to help launch their new ventures after decades of dedicated public service.

The initiative, under Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's THEMES Plus Agenda, aims to equip retiring officers with practical business skills, financial literacy, and the right mindset to transition smoothly from civil service into successful entrepreneurs, wealth creators, and community builders.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, the Head of Service, Mr. Olabode Shuaheeb Agoro, noted that the initiative underscores the present administration's dedication to preparing public servants for a productive life

beyond service.

He described the training as a clear demonstration of the State Government's resolve to empower its workforce for financial independence after retirement.

"This initiative is a directive of Mr. Governor to ensure that our retirees do not just step aside but step forward, equipped with the knowledge and skills to become successful entrepreneurs, mentors, and community builders," Mr. Agoro stated.

The Commissioner for Wealth Creation and Employment, Hon. Akinyemi Bankole Ajigbotafe, highlighted that the programme, themed

'Entrepreneurship Beyond Service: Retire, Reignite, Rebuild', was carefully designed to equip participants with practical business skills, financial literacy, and mindset re-orientation needed to transition smoothly into entrepreneurship. "Retirement should not mark the end of one's productive years but rather the beginning of new opportunities to create wealth, build legacies, and contribute to economic growth," Hon. Ajigbotafe said.

He commended the retiring officers for their years of dedicated service across various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, urging

them to leverage their newly acquired entrepreneurial skills to add value to their communities.

Also speaking, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment, ESV, Olayinka Adebayo Wasiu emphasised that the training goes beyond skills acquisition, it challenges the traditional view of retirement.

"We want our retirees to see themselves as drivers of innovation and change. It is about rediscovering purpose and reigniting passion," he remarked.

In his remarks, Guest Speaker, Dr. Olajide Basorun, a retired Permanent Secretary of the Ministry,

encouraged the graduates to embrace continuous learning, innovation, and networking to succeed in their entrepreneurial pursuits. "Business principles are timeless; applying them diligently will guarantee sustainable growth," he advised.

On her part, Mrs. Bukola Durodola, Director, Post Service Department, Public Service Office, described the graduation ceremony as a testament to the State Government's proactive approach to redefining life after service. She called on

stakeholders to support empowerment initiatives for retirees to enable them to thrive in their next chapter.

The high point of the event was the presentation of certificates and start-up packs to 100 newly trained retirees, setting them on a path towards self-reliance and wealth creation.

The comprehensive training covered modules in business development, marketing strategies, financial planning, fish and poultry farming, soap production, and the manufacture of germicides and insecticides.

Participants were also exposed to opportunities for accessing start-up support services.



Lagos Chief Judge Inaugurates High/Magistrate Court In Amuwo Odofin

The Chief Judge of Lagos State, Hon. Justice Kazeem Alogba, on Thursday inaugurated a new court division in Amuwo Odofin Local Government Area, describing it as a vital step in bringing justice closer to the people, while removing the strain of navigating Lagos' challenging traffic, security, and economic realities in accessing justice. He emphasised the significance of decentralising judicial services, pointing out that "the practice of having 24 to 25 courtrooms in a single location" often creates undue hardship for litigants and lawyers who must travel long distances, sometimes 10 to 15 kilometres in unpredictable Lagos traffic.

"Imagine a man who leaves home by 6:30am for a 9am court sitting but doesn't arrive



until 9:30am. In criminal matters, he could miss his case, and the Magistrate may issue a bench warrant. That's how justice can elude the common man," the Chief Judge noted. "This new facility addresses that very real, pedestrian-level injustice."

Justice Alogba further praised the foresight of Amuwo Odofin leaders, especially the Chairman of the Local Government, Mr. Valentine Buraimoh, and the local bar

association, for identifying the need for a High Court division within the community. Alogba revealed that the idea aligned with the judiciary's ongoing plan to bridge the gap between court coverage in Apapa and Badagry. "This facility gives us an immediate respite. It is a starting point for developing a proper High Court edifice for this area. It demonstrates how all things work together when driven by

sincere purpose," he added.

The Chief Judge also made a call for integrity at the bar, urging lawyers to resist filing frivolous applications and instead advise their clients with honesty and professionalism. "We can no longer afford to lose our integrity. Clients must stop seeing the court as a place to gamble," he said. "When you offer sound legal advice, clients respect you more and will even be willing to pay higher fees because they trust your judgment."

Earlier in his remarks, Chairman of the LG, Valentine Buraimoh lauded the project as a milestone for the community, noting its potential to improve access to justice, generate employment, and enhance civic trust. "As we inaugurate this state-of-the-art judicial facility, I am confident that it will serve as a bastion of fairness, equity, and peace in Amuwo-Odofin," Buraimoh

declared. "It will reduce the burden our residents face in seeking justice and bring the rule of law closer to home." He further pledged continued support for initiatives that improve local governance and judicial efficiency, stating, "May this court stand as a symbol of our collective effort to foster growth, justice, and unity."

The Chairman of the Amuwo Odofin Lawyers' Forum, Chris Aghaonu, also extended heartfelt appreciation to the Chief Judge and Lagos State Judiciary for establishing Magistrate and High Courts in the area, affirming that it marks a new dawn for grassroots justice delivery. The event was attended by senior members of the judiciary, government officials, and members of the Nigerian Bar Association, all of whom commended the project as a timely and impactful intervention in legal infrastructure development.

Lagos CJ Inaugurates Local Government Election Tribunal Panels

The Chief Judge of Lagos State, Hon. Justice Kazeem Olanrewaju Alogba, has inaugurated two panels of the Local Government Election Appeal Tribunal over the July 12 council elections in the state.

The tribunal has been split into two divisions to sit in Lagos Island and Ikeja, with each comprising four experienced Chief Magistrates and chaired by respected retired High Court Judges. Justice Taofikat Oyinkan-Abdullahi (Rtd) will lead the Lagos Island Panel, which also includes Magistrates Michael Olubi, Olaitan Ajayi, Salamah Matepo, and Hotepo Lazarus.

The Ikeja Panel is chaired by Justice Sherifah Solebo (Rtd) and comprises Magistrates Davies Rasak, Oluwatosin



Fowowe-Erusiafe, Adepeju Odusanya, and Lynda Balogun. In his remarks at the inauguration ceremony held at the Ikeja High Court Conference Room, the Chief Judge charged the tribunal members to discharge their duties with utmost integrity, fairness, and fidelity to the law. Justice Alogba specifically drew the panel's attention to the

2016 Amendment of the Lagos State Local Government Law, particularly as it relates to the time frame for determining election petitions. He emphasised that "any decision or action taken outside the legally prescribed time limit is a nullity and of no legal effect." He urged the members to remain guided by the principles of

law and evidence, reminding them that the success of the election dispute resolution process depends heavily on their impartiality and professionalism. "You must act strictly within the purview of the law. The confidence I have in your character, experience, and sense of judgment informed your appointment. I urge you to uphold justice without

fear or favour, and resist all forms of bias or intimidation," Alogba stated. Also addressing the panel members, the Lagos State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro, SAN, described their appointment as a call to service in defence of democracy and the rule of law.

"This is not just a legal duty, but a moral obligation to the state and humanity. You are expected to ensure credibility in the electoral process by eliminating any perception that the courts are used to determine winners outside the will of the people," Pedro said. The panels are expected to commence sittings immediately following the conclusion of the local government elections.

Lagos DCR Sensitizes Students On Child's Right Law

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos Directorate for Citizens Rights, CDR, has taken steps in creating awareness to students on the need to get acclimatized with the provisions of the Child's Right Law and it benefits towards them.

During a recently held event, CDR Director, Jonathan Ogunsanya, stated that the provisions do not only enable the children's right but also empower them with aiding

guidelines as they put up acts to soar in their academics and life in general. Ogunsanya made this known in his first official

engagement since assuming office when he hosted students from Fluorescent Schools, Ikeja, on a courtesy visit to

the Directorate.

The Director emphasized the importance of educating young people on their rights and providing them with the knowledge and tools to seek enforcement when needed.

He stated that the agency's goal is to ensure that all citizens, regardless of age, can enjoy their fundamental rights.

""We believe that by engaging with students directly, we can build a more rights-conscious society

from the ground up," said Ogunsanya.

At the event, no fewer than 100 students had the opportunity to observe firsthand knowledge on the Directorate's daily operations, including walk-in and mediation sessions conducted by certified counsellors and mediators.

The school's coordinators praised the DCR for its unwavering commitment to human rights protection and defence within Lagos State.

They encouraged the Directorate to continue its impartial and fair approach in upholding justice.



Lagos Court Sensitizes MDA's On Judicial Excellence

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos Multi-Door Courthouse, LMDC, has held a sensitization programme for Ministries, Departments and Agencies on adoption of Alternative

Dispute Resolution, ADR, as mechanisms for Justice reforms.

The event held for awareness to the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education as well as the Ministry of

Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development on arbitration, early neutral evaluation and restorative justice. Stakeholders at the event informed that the provision is in

line with services to help parties settle conflicts more efficiently alongside cost-effectiveness, faster resolution times, and improved relationships between disputing parties.

The initiative was also said to offer a flexible and less adversarial approach to resolving a wide range of cases, including commercial, employment, and community

disputes playing a vital role in fostering harmonious working relationships among stakeholders, particularly within the local government sector.

Council Chairman Promises People-Oriented Programmes In Epe

By Felix Kuyinu

The Chairman of Epe Local Government, Surah Animashaun, has promised to embark on people-oriented programmes for the benefit of residents in the area.

Animashaun, a flagbearer of the All Progressives Congress, APC, said that her administration

would ceaselessly provide resources to developmental projects that would have significant impact on the lives of the poor and vulnerables in the community. During her visit to the Oloja of Epe, Oba Kamorudeen Animashaun, the council boss disclosed that her

administration had been deliberately keen on activities to make people the centre piece of the local government's decision.

"In 2021, the people of this council made a significant decision in electing us to

govern them. Over the years, we have been deliberate in reciprocating that decision," the council leadersaid.

"We have made the people and the vulnerable, the centre piece of our activities as a government. "We have been

deliberate in ensuring that every segment of our population gets their fair share of dividends of democracy. We have launched several schemes that are currently benefiting more than 20,000 indigents, including students of tertiary institutions of the council.

"We have established a safety net programme under which at least 10,000 vulnerable senior citizens, including aged people are benefiting.

"Every ward in the local government council area has benefited from our developmental interventions in road, health, drainage construction, culvert education, among other projects," Princess Animashaun said. She commended the monarch and other traditional leaders in the council area for their support for her administration.



Hamzat Secures Second Term with Strong Mandate

Kehinde Adeleye

The Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission (LASIEC) officially has presented Certificates of Return to all chairmen elect, vice chairmen elect, and councillors elect across the 20 Local Government Areas and 37 Local Council Development Areas of the state. The well-attended event took place at LASIEC's headquarters in

Yaba, Lagos.

Among those certified was Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat, the Executive Chairman and re-elected Mayor of Ifako Ijaiye Local Government, who won the recent council election held on Saturday, July 12, 2025. Prince Hamzat secured a strong mandate, receiving 20,285 votes to win a second term in office.

The Vice Chairman of Ifako

Ijaiye LG, Mrs Oluwatoyin Awoniyi Akerele, also received her certificate, along with the seven newly elected councillors representing the council's wards. Justice Bola Okikiolu Ighile (Rtd.), chairman of LASIEC, who led the ceremony with other commission members, explained that the certificate presentation was originally scheduled for

Tuesday, July 15, but was postponed due to a federal public holiday.

In his speech, Mayor Hamzat expressed deep gratitude to the people of Ifako Ijaiye, the All Progressives Congress family, religious bodies, traditional leaders, youth organizations, and all other stakeholders who supported him during the election. He described the decisive victory as

a strong endorsement of his administration's work during the first term.

"This certificate is not just a document—it is a renewed mandate and a call to deepen our service to the people," Hamzat stated. "With the continued support of the good people of Ifako-Ijaiye, we shall pursue even more impactful socio-economic projects, quality

educational programs, improved healthcare, and infrastructure as embedded in our HEEDS Agenda and our campaign vision—Prosperity 2025."

The ceremony marks a new chapter in the democratic journey of grassroots governance in Lagos, setting the tone for an inclusive and developmental second term in Ifako-Ijaiye under the leadership of Prince Hamzat.



Re-Election: Folawiyo Vows To Build On Progress

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Lagos Island East LCDA, Mr Muibi Folawiyo has assured residents of his commitment on expanding the progress achieve in his first term in office in the second term.

Folawiyo was re-elected as the Chairman of Lagos Island East LCDA for a second term in the July 12 Lagos State Local Government Election.

The council boss is ecstatic over his re-election into office for another four years term while he appreciates the APC political structure, youths and artisans for their votes in ensuring he returns to office for a second term.

"It is with honour and humility that I accept my re-election as the Executive Chairman of Lagos Island East LCDA for another 4years. I am grateful to the good people of Lagos Island East for voting me to serve the people in this capacity once again.

"This victory is truly humbling. It speaks to my people's understanding of my LIELCDA administration history, their appreciation of the progress made between yesterday and today, and their commitment to a greater tomorrow.

"My profound appreciation goes to all the stakeholders for the truly pan-LIELCDA mandate: young or old, men and women, traditional and religious institutions, civil servants, private sector players, thoughts leaders, political leaders, market men and women, artisans, the media, students, and our young ones who energised our constituency with that sweet, creative chant of Ilerioluwa Apa Keji and once again entrusting me with an enormous responsibility which I will continue to fulfill with total commitment."

Folawiyo promises to build on the successes his administration achieved in the first term to expand the community economic opportunities.

"My re-election is not a personal victory but a victory for Lagos

Island Easterners in general.

"For me, the victory is a call to consolidate on and further spread the gains of the past 4 years and do much more for the people. I pledge to recommit myself to this. Together, we will build a LIELCDA whose

politics will be anchored on giving equitable opportunities to all, expanding the constituency's economic base and delivering dividends of democracy to the citizenry in an atmosphere of peace and respect for the

dignity of the human person.

"As the premier LCDA, I will continue to build on the work of those who came before me to ensure they can continue to contribute in helping my LIELCDA administration to achieve our collectively defined priorities."



Second Term: Folawiyo Promises Improved IGR

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Lagos Island East LCDA, Mr Muibi Folawiyo has reinstated his administration goal of improving the community Internal Generated Revenue (IGR) during his second term in office.

Folawiyo was recently voted for a second term as chairman of Lagos Island East LCDA at the Local Government

election held on July 12.

He said an improved IGR is significant to achieve the objectives of his administration in office as he banks on the loyalty, professionalism and humility of his team to achieve success in his second term in office.

He however advocated for the next political appointments and councilors that

will work with him to work in unity while discharging their responsibilities to the residents and the community.

"For my LIELCDA administration to continue to achieve the noble objectives for an all inclusive government, my LIELCDA administration require a strong IGR by the unshakeable commitment to serve the people with humility,

loyalty professionalism and patriotism.

"I am certain that all the LIELCDA incoming Councilors and yet to be appointed Exco members will be steadfast in their commitment to these values.

"May I reiterate the conviction that only by working together, can we do more to improve the quality of life of all Lagos Island East LCDA while discharging our responsibilities."



KOSOFE

Oshinowo Bids Farewell, Appreciates Grassroots Collaboration

In an unexpected farewell appearance, the outgoing Executive Chairman of Agboyi Ketu Local Council Development Area, Hon. Mayor Dele Oshinowo, attended the final Community Development Committee meeting under his leadership. There, he expressed heartfelt gratitude to community leaders for their steadfast support during the past eight years. The emotional event, held in

Agboyi Ketu, was announced in a statement by Hon. Adebisi Adeniyi, Senior Special Assistant to the Executive Chairman on Community Development Affairs. Mayor Oshinowo used the opportunity to reflect on his time in office, describing it as a period marked by strong grassroots collaboration and tangible progress throughout the council area.

Speaking with humility and thankfulness, the Mayor recognized

Kehinde Adeleye

the crucial partnership and sacrifices of CDC members during his administration. Drawing from his own experience as a former community leader, he commended their often voluntary service as essential to the success of his tenure.

"The success of the last election is a testament to our collective efforts," Oshinowo remarked. "Your loyalty, cooperation, and belief in our vision made it all possible. I urge you to extend the same

unwavering support to the incoming Chairman, Hon. (Mrs.) Adetola Adunni Abubakar."

The Chairman-elect, Adetola Abubakar (née Oyedele), is expected to build on the foundation laid by Mayor Oshinowo and carry forward the LCDA's developmental momentum.

During the farewell session, CDC leaders shared heartfelt

testimonials about the Mayor's impact, citing major projects executed under his administration — from infrastructural upgrades on Alliu Street in Ketu to key developments in Ajelogo, Agboyi, and the Irawo axis of Owode-Ajgunle.

CDC Chairman, Engr. Badejo, praised Mayor Oshinowo's dedication to inclusive governance and community development.

"You brought energy, humility, and performance to this office," he said. "May the

next chapter of your journey be filled with even greater accomplishments."

The farewell meeting concluded with prayers and words of encouragement, as members pledged continued cooperation with the incoming administration.

Oshinowo's legacy defined by accessibility, people-centered policies, and visible community transformation leaves an enduring mark on Agboyi-Ketu LCDA.

BBNaija Season 10 Set to Premiere July 26

Kehinde Adeleye

MultiChoice Nigeria announced on Wednesday the much awaited return of Africa's biggest reality TV show, Big Brother Naija, which is set to launch its landmark 10th season.

The premiere for season 10 of BBNaija will take place over two nights — Saturday, July 26 and Sunday, July 27.

This new season promises 10 weeks of intense drama, strategic competition, and unmatched entertainment, leading up to the grand finale on Sunday, October 5. The audition process for this milestone edition was carefully crafted to discover the most captivating and vibrant personalities from across Nigeria. Registration ran from May 3 to May 7 and received an overwhelming number of entries. This was followed by in person auditions held in Lagos, Abuja, and Enugu between



May 16 and May 18.

Speaking on the upcoming season, Busola Tejumola, Executive Head, General Entertainment, MultiChoice Group, expressed her excitement: "Today we are not just announcing another season, we are celebrating a legacy."

While the official theme for Season 10 will be unveiled on the premiere night, viewers can anticipate a fresh wave of excitement. The beloved Ebuka Obi-Uchendu is returning as host,

guiding viewers through every twist and turn of the season. This 10th season also has the highest prize at stake, valued at a whopping N150million.

Fans can catch the premiere live on July 26 and 27 exclusively on Africa Magic Showcase, Family and Showmax. The Sunday live eviction shows will also air exclusively on these channels. The 24/7 live stream will be available on DStv Channel 198, GOtv Channel 49, and on Showmax.

"BBNaija has become more than just a television show; it is a living, breathing cultural force. It has given voice to a new generation of talent, creatives, entertainers, and the influencer community, and it has refined what homegrown entertainment can achieve when it is done at scale with intention and ambition," added Tejumola.

With a two-night opening live show for Big Brother Naija Season 10, the season is poised to build upon the legacy of

its predecessors, with fans expecting a more dynamic and entertaining experience. Still speaking on what the season holds, Tejumola said, "Today we are not just announcing another season, we are celebrating a legacy. From the very first time we introduced Big Brother Naija in 2017, we had an inkling that we had something special. What we couldn't fully imagine then is how deeply the show would resonate not only

in Nigeria but across Africa and in the global diaspora, where our stories continue to connect people to home."

This milestone season for the iconic show is not without the usual lineup of sponsors. The gold sponsor for the 10th season of the show is Guinness Nigeria. Other sponsors include Smirnoff, Gordons, HFM, Pepsi, Aquafina, Supakomando, Tolaram Group, Bet King, Golden Penny Foods, Haier Thermocool, Checkers custard, and Innoson Motors, among others.

My Family Will Gang Up Against Buhari in the Afterlife -Seun Kuti

Kehinde Adeleye



Seun Kuti, the youngest son of Afrobeat icon Fela Kuti, has responded to the passing of former President Muhammadu Buhari, saying that no other family in Nigeria suffered as much under his leadership as theirs did. In a video posted

on his Instagram account, Seun Kuti recounted how his father and uncles, Beko and Koye, were reportedly mistreated during Buhari's time as military Head of State. "There's nobody Buhari has offended and damaged like my

family. Buhari dealt with my family, but his death is not any type of justice or victory for my family," Seun Kuti said. He expressed regret that the men he looked up to died long before Buhari. He described his father and uncles

as "better men" than the former president. Seun Kuti added that while he cannot get back his loved ones, he finds a bit of comfort in the thought that they might gang up against Buhari in the afterlife. "My only regret is

that my dad Fela, and my uncles Koye and Beko died before him; all better men than him. The only solace I can take from his death is that the three of them will gang up against him (Buhari) in the afterlife if there's such a

thing." The singer's reaction highlights the lasting impact of Buhari's military regime on his family, particularly the 1984 raid on the Kalakuta Republic, which resulted in the death of Fela Kuti's mother, Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti.

Davido Hits Milestone with Silver Certification for Timeless



Kehinde Adeleye

Grammy nominated Nigerian singer Davido has achieved another major milestone in his career as his fourth studio album *Timeless* has officially been certified Silver in the United Kingdom. Released on March 31, 2023, *Timeless* has continued to break new ground, leading streaming charts on platforms such as Spotify Nigeria, Audiomack, Boomplay, and YouTube. The 17 track album highlights Davido's musical range, blending elements of Afrobeats, dancehall, reggae, konto, highlife, and Afropop. The album features a lineup of high profile

collaborations, including Asake, Skepta, Dexta Daps, Fave, The Cavemen, and Grammy winner Angelique Kidjo. In addition to its commercial impact, *Timeless* earned Davido a Grammy nomination for Best Global Music Album. Its standout singles "Unavailable" and "Feel" also received Grammy nominations for Best African Song Performance and Best Global Song Performance. The album was also nominated for Song of the Year at the Headies Awards. Following its release, Davido embarked on the *Timeless Tour*, performing to packed audiences in major cities such as Washington D.C., Toronto, New York, and London, further solidifying the album's international impact.

Portable Declares Tinubu as Nigeria's Best President

Kehinde Adeleye



Street pop artist **Habeeb Okikiola**, widely known as Portable, has once again praised President Bola Tinubu, calling him the best leader Nigeria has ever had. He made the remark in a viral video shared on Instagram on Monday, amid

growing online backlash from other celebrities who had supported Tinubu during the 2023 general elections but have since expressed regret over the nation's worsening economic situation. Portable claimed that, despite

public complaints and social media criticism, Nigeria is only beginning to experience genuine progress under Tinubu's administration. He said, "Since I was born and Nigeria has existed, people say 'Nigeria will get better'. Nigeria only gets better under the Tinubu

administration. It is President Bola Tinubu who makes the country great. He is the best president Nigeria ever had, though I don't know how future presidents will perform, but he is the best we ever had." The 'Zazu Zeh' crooner further claimed that while many insult the

president online, he believes Tinubu is simply focused on working quietly behind the scenes. "Whenever Nigerians and bloggers insult Tinubu, the president does not respond to their criticisms because he is

busy working," he said.

Portable also reflected on his past criticism during the EndSARS protest, recalling how he joined many others in accusing former President Muhammadu Buhari of allegedly authorizing the Lekki Toll Gate shooting.

He said, "He is working and just talking, I don't lie, because I was part of people who previously abused the president during the EndSARS, where former president Muhammadu Buhari allegedly ordered Lekki Toll Gate shootings, but Tinubu is indeed working as president."

He added that anyone who works hard under Tinubu's leadership will find a way to thrive, citing his own experience as proof. The video sparked widespread reactions on social media, just days after the singer also criticized Buhari's administration for increasing hardship and shutting down food borders across the country.

Jakande's Son Pledges To Uphold Father's Legacy

By Saheed Afolabi



Chairman elect of OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Mr Seyi Jakande has vowed to sustain his father's (Alhaji Lateef Jakande) legacies when he resumes office officially.

Jakande who's the present vice chairman of OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA made the revelation after collecting his Certificate of Return from the Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission (LASIEC).

He said his administration will key into the vision of the first

civilian governor of Lagos State, Late Alhaji Lateef Jakande, people centric programmes and policies to drive economic growth in the Local Government.

Jakande added that his father's people friendly policies will be brought on board while impactful innovations will be established to move the council forward.

"We are going to key into the vision of Alhaji Lateef Jakande, organising people-centric programmes and policies.

"We are definitely going to sustain them (Jakande's policies) in a way we are going to put in new innovations to move the council forward."

Jakande Promises Continuity In OdiOlowo

Chairman elect of OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Mr Seyi Jakande has assured of the continuity of the present administration projects when he resumes office as elected chairman.

Jakande boasted that the APC have always delivered on their campaign promises for the past eight years and his administration won't be different in sustaining the present

By Saheed Afolabi

administration projects.

The vice chairman of OdiOlowo Ojuwoye LCDA said all present programs done in the past eight years will be sustained in the next administration while

new innovations will be brought on to ensure smooth running of operations.

"We have always delivered on all our campaign promises in the past eight years. We will continue to do.

"It's a continuity of all of the programmes that we have actually done in the past eight years as vice chairman of the council.

"We intend to sustain the people-centric programmes that

have impacted on the lives of people in the community.

"We are bringing in new innovations to impact on the people of Oduwoye Local Council Development Area."

LASU Graduate Emerges Best Graduating Female Student at Law School



Maryam Lawal, a proud Lagosian and graduate of Lagos State University's Faculty of Law, has been celebrated for her outstanding achievement at the Nigerian Law School.

She was named the Best Graduating Female Student and the Second Overall Best Student nationwide, receiving eight academic awards, including one for Corporate Law Practice.

Maryam's exceptional performance highlights her dedication and discipline throughout the rigorous one-year professional training program required for all law graduates before they are called to the Bar in Nigeria.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has publicly congratulated Maryam, describing her success as a shining example

of what can be achieved through hard work, talent, and quality education. He also praised Lagos State University for nurturing such academic excellence.

Maryam's achievement places her among the top law graduates out of more than 5,000 candidates nationwide who sat for the Bar Final Examinations. The Nigerian Law School awards honors to a select few based on excellence in subjects such as Criminal Litigation, Civil Litigation, Property Law, and Corporate Law Practice.

Her remarkable accomplishment has drawn widespread acclaim on social media, with many praising her intellect, perseverance, and the solid legal foundation provided by LASU.

Maryam Lawal's success story stands as an inspiration to aspiring lawyers, especially women, and reflects the growing reputation of Lagos State institutions in producing top-tier legal professionals.

Lagos Assembly Commences Mid-Year Performance Assessment Of MDA's

The Lagos State House of Assembly has begun scrutinizing Ministries, Department and Agencies in the state to check on fiscal and other activities in the middle of year 2025.

The lawmakers held that the measure is embarked on to ensure compliance to transparency, accountability and diligence in their various offices.

The lawmakers also noted that

the initiative, under the leadership of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, is in line with effective delivery of good governance to the people of the State.

Speaker of the House, Mudashiru

Obasa, said "There are financial regulation laws and there are sanctions. At the floor of the house, whatever agency that is found culpable in its performance, the head of that agency or the officer responsible

normally faces the penalty for whatever they have committed, in line with financial regulation law.

"This exercise is meant is to ensure the MDAs comply with the law, the Appropriation Law. It is

important for our own oversight purposes and also to ensure the negotiation gets value for money.

"We in the House of Assembly are taking it upon ourselves because it is a constitutional responsibility for us to do proper oversight."

OSHODI

APC Dominates Isolo LCDA with Chairmanship and Councillorship Seats

Kehinde Adeleye

Following his decisive victory in last Saturday's chairmanship election in Isolo Local Council Development Area, the Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission (LASIEC) presented the Certificate of Return to Olasaju Adebayo of the All Progressives Congress (APC). Olasaju and his running mate,

Hon. Shakir Sadiq Adeola, received their certificates along with 56 other chairmen-elect and vice chairmen-elect from across the state earlier today.

It is recalled that Olasaju secured his mandate with 22,331 votes on Saturday, comfortably defeating the candidates of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and Labour Party



(LP), Isiaq Shonubi and Salako Fasasi, respectively.

The APC also achieved a clean sweep of the councillorship seats, winning all

seven available positions. The councillors-elect are expected to receive their

certificates of return from LASIEC as the process continues.

Nigeria Women's Table Tennis Team Crowned West Africa Champions

By Saheed Afolabi

Nigeria's women's table tennis team, spearheaded by Ajoke Ojomo, secured a resounding 3-0 victory over the Benin Republic to claim the women's team title in the opening day of the 2025 ITTF Africa West Regional Championships



in Lagos. The regional tournament, hosted at the Molade Okoya

Thomas Sports Hall inside the Teslim Balogun Stadium in Surulere, marks

the first of five major table tennis events scheduled for Lagos this year.

This decisive win not only earned Nigeria the women's team crown but also secured their qualification for the prestigious 2025 ITTF Africa Senior Championships in Rwanda. With the regional title in hand, the team will now shift focus to the highly anticipated WTT Contender Lagos event, set to take place from July 22

to 26 at the same venue. In the men's team event, Nigeria's trio of Taiwo Mati, Matthew Kuti, and Abdulbasit Abdulfatai delivered strong performances in Group One, advancing to the final after a walkover against Liberia and dominant 3-1 wins over the Ivory Coast to qualify for the semi-final.

Nigeria Star, Rotimi, Shares Ambitious Future

Nigeria U17 star, Muinat Rotimi has set her sights on an ambitious future in her career. The Nakamura FA midfielder was a standout performer for the Flamingos in their run to qualifying for the 2025 FIFA U17 Women's World Cup in Morocco. The ecstatic youngster said her experience playing through the qualifiers was an epic show of memorable moments which

improve her abilities as a midfielder, while experiencing other countries culture and traditions. She described the Flamingos qualification to the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup as an exciting experience for her despite the rigorous qualifiers phase which the team passed successfully. "Firstly, playing for Nigeria at the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup qualifer was an epic one full of memorable

moments which will linger on forever. I experienced some countries cultures while the competitive level of the qualifiers improved my overall abilities as a midfielder. "I'm so excited being part of the team to qualify Nigeria for the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup that will be held in Morocco. It was a rigorous qualifiers no doubt but I'm glad we came top and it will be a surreal experience to be at the World Cup once again." Rotimi added that her target is to play a



vital team role in winning the age grade trophy for Nigeria. She revealed that Brazilian midfielder star, Carlos Casemiro is her mentor who she looks up to due to their similarities and style of play. "I learnt to be disciplined, focused on the

pitch at all times, all this played a major role in me during the qualifiers. "My target is to first make the final list of players for the World Cup in Morocco and also play a major part in winning the trophy for the first time for Nigeria. "Carlos Casemiro

is my mentor in the World of football. We play in the same position and I watched his clips a lot which has also added positive impact to my game. Real Madrid remains my favorite club to play at due to their rich history."



For News Round Lagos Read Echonews

Read Echonews Online

Subscribe for Echonews Whatsapp E-Copy

 www.echonews.ng  Publisher@echonews.ng

Published by Echonews Newspapers Limited

21, Ona Iwa Mimo Street, Ori Oke Bus Stop, Ejigbo, Lagos. www.echonews.ng Email: echonews1111@yahoo.co.uk
Managing Editor: Obe Rasheed • Editor: Kunle Awosiyan Circulation: Opeyemi Akinlade • Adverts: 08025378799