

# Echonews

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# Oromoni's Death: We'll Appeal Coroner's Verdict-Father



Kunle Awosiyan

**M**r. Sylvester Oromoni Sr, the father of the late 12-year-old pupil of Downen College, Lekki, Sylvester Junior Oromoni has said that he will appeal the coroner judgment that blamed him and family doctor for the death of his son. While rejecting the verdict, Oromoni Sr had spoken to Echonews on his next step of action, revealing how he sought audience with Magistrate Mikhail Kadiri and told him that he would definitely appeal the judgment.

He said, "The magistrate was emotional as he broke down in tears for about six times reading the verdict and I knew he was not himself. This is a man who had earlier said that there is no emotion in law but later became emotional himself. He told me that the judgment was his own opinion and another justice can judge otherwise." Oromoni said the verdict was not the end of the case, as the medical expert did not give them a concluding result of the black substance that was found in his son's stomach. "The claims of chemical intoxication

were never proven, and the faces of those allegedly bullying the deceased weren't seen. The alleged confession of Sylvester was denied by several witnesses. Even if he was beaten, it didn't lead to his death." The family had claimed that the death was due to bullying by five senior students and that the school did not provide adequate medical treatment. However, the coroner found no evidence to support these claims. However, a coroner's inquest established to determine the circumstances surrounding the Oromoni Jr concluded that the

cause of death was septicemia due to an infection and that it could have been avoided if the parents had provided proper care. The coroner, Magistrate Mikhail Kadiri stated in a 255-page judgement that lasted for over seven hours that the deceased death could have been avoidable. He noted that the deceased went through avoidable excruciating pain and needless suffering until his death because of how his parents handled the issue. Magistrate Kadiri stated that he did not believe the version of the family doctor,

Henry Aghogho's evidence. "He did not provide the required duty of care for the patient whose home care treatment was "trivialized". despite the early diagnosis, the doctor was found to have abandoned the deceased for more than 32 hours and didn't carry out an X-ray and scan early enough which would have revealed his deteriorating condition. Despite the deceased condition, he completely neglected the victim, the clinical records show that he did not give quality treatment to the deceased, it also exposed the lies behind his evidence.

Magistrate Mikhail Kadiri blamed the parents for their negligence in handling the issue. "The parents neglected to seek medical attention for their son promptly, leading to unnecessary pain and suffering". Sylvester Oromoni Jr. reportedly died on November 30, 2021, at a private hospital in Warri, Delta, after alleged health complications at Downen College, Lagos. Magistrate Kadiri, who conducted the inquest while revealing his findings, said the death was avoidable.



# Oromoni's Death: We'll Appeal Coroner's Verdict-Father



Kadiri, said the teenager's death was avoidable and as well as caused by the negligence of the parents and the family doctor, Aghogho Owhojede, who didn't take him to the hospital until the day he died on November 30, 2021.

Among the evidence the coroner relied on included the findings of two autopsies conducted on the deceased at the Central Hospital, Warri, Delta State, with only the family present, and at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, where about 10 pathologists representing various parties including the family, Lagos State Government and Downen College took part in.

"He said that the autopsy conducted on December 14, 2021, in the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital by Dr. Sunday Soyemi and the toxicology report of post-mortem samples of the Central Hospital, Warri Delta State conducted by Pathologist Consultant Dr Clement were in agreement as to the cause of death namely, Septicemia, Lobar Pneumonia with Acute Pyelonephritis,

Pyomyositis of the right ankle and Acute Bacteria Pneumonia due to severe Sepsis.

"Death was caused by Septicaemia (a life-threatening health condition caused by a patient's body's response to an infection), following infections of the lungs and kidneys arising from the ankle wound," he said.

According to him, "No evidence of blunt force trauma in this body. The findings in the oesophagus and stomach are not compatible with chemical intoxication. Death, in this case, is natural."

Dr Sunday Soyemi, who led the Lagos procedure, stated in the autopsy report that sepsis, which led to the death of the boy, could have been treated with "massive doses of intravenous antibiotic, intravenous fluid and blood transfusion", but which was never done.

From the evidence, Sylvester was said to have sustained an injury on his ankle between November 20 and 21. Following first aid treatment, the school contacted his parents to come and pick him up for further treatment.

The deceased's guardian, Mr Clifford Tejere, was sent on November 23, 2021, to the school to pick him up and took him for an X-ray, but no fracture was detected.

The family doctor, Aghogho, was also lambasted for not providing the required duty of care for the patient whose home care treatment was "trivialised".

Meanwhile, Human rights lawyer, Mr. Femi Falana (SAN) has faulted the coroner judgment.

Falana who is also the counsel to the family of Oromoni said, "In spite of the uncontradicted evidence, the coroner said that the deceased died of natural cause. The coroner claimed that the negligence of the family doctor led to the death of the deceased but failed to refer him to the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria for appropriate sanctions,".

Falana said the Coroner disregarded further toxicological examination and withdrew initial recommendations for criminal negligence charges, despite glaring evidence and allegations of bullying within the

school, including the discovery of a mysterious substance in Sylvester's stomach.

Falana said the coroner ignored the evidence of the government pathologist that the "black substance" found

in the stomach of the deceased was not subjected to toxicological examination.

"It is curious that the coroner ignored the evidence of the government pathologist that the "black

substance" found in the stomach of the deceased was not subjected to toxicological examination. The allegation was that the deceased was forced to drink a poisonous substance.



# Sports Investments: LSSC Partners Ministry of Commerce

As part of measures to unlock investment opportunities in sports, and improve talent development for economic growth, the Lagos State Sports Commission, Ministry of Commerce and Investment as well as other stakeholders have activated a strategic partnership.

This was revealed recently when the LSSC played host to the duo of international American Football players, Odafe Oweh and Jesse Luketa and the Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade & Investment, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem and the Permanent Secretary, Olugbemiga



Ayoola Aina at an event designed to unlock opportunities for Partnerships in sports held at the Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere, Lagos.

The programme, which was tagged: "Pep Talk, Meet and Greet with Members of American Football

League", was organised as a platform to inspire young people, gain knowledge of diverse sporting interests of the youths, and give thoughts on how such passions can be effectively nurtured from the standpoint of the NFL.

Lekan Fatodu, the

Director-General, Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC) said opportunities abound in the state with the right infrastructure, expertise and collaboration with critical stakeholders for a well-rounded development of

budding stars. He added that the LSSC remains steadfast in its commitment to providing a platform for talents and athletes to thrive, as it is dedicated to unlocking investment and business opportunities in sports.

Furthermore, Fatodu described Lagos as a hub for sports development and the presence of the NFL players would enhance the opportunities for expanding sporting activities and engagements.

The duo of Odafe and Jesse who have played American Football to the highest level in the NFL posited that the sport has changed their lives totally and it's an opportunity for

anybody who uses the platform correctly, stressing that it is amazing coming back to invest in youth and giving back to the society particularly introducing the teachings of America Football.

The event went beyond inspiring the next generation; it also provided an avenue for the management of the Lagos State Sports Commission to engage with crucial stakeholders.

A tour of the Teslim Balogun Stadium and productive discussions on collaboration towards investment opportunities in sports particularly its infrastructure were held towards cultivating Lagos as a seedbed for future sporting stars, not just in American Football but across board.

The Management of the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) has again taken a significant step towards enhancing health care management with the inauguration of its Advanced Professional Diploma Programme in Hospital Administration and Management.

The diploma programme, aimed at bridging the gap in health care administration expertise, was formally inaugurated on Saturday at a ceremony attended by healthcare professionals, administrators, and stakeholders on Saturday in Ikeja.

In his address at the event, the Chief Medical Director of LASUTH, Prof. Adetokunbo O. Fabamwo, gave a brief insight to the reasons for the establishment of the school.

The MD said that the programme will bridge the current gap which would deny graduates employed as hospital administrators from progressing beyond Grade Level 14 unless they acquire a professional diploma.

# LASUTH Inaugurates Advanced Professional Diploma In Hospital Administration



The CMD said, "LASUTH is progressive, having excellently fulfilled its core mandate of a teaching hospital by continuously providing top-notch tertiary health services and acing so many medical interventions".

He disclosed that the hospital decided to focus a bit on another of its core mandates, to establish relevant training institutions, adding that LASUTH has established five training schools, which are School of Anesthetic

Technology, School of Orthopedic Cast Technology, School of Echocardiography, Caregiver Academy and the Institute of Advanced Professional Diploma in Hospital Administration and Management, which is being inaugurated today."

Mr. Jenrola Olanrewaju, who doubled as the representative of the Honourable Commissioner for Health, Lagos State, Prof. Akin Abayomi and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Lagos State, Dr.

Olusegun Ogboye, said the establishment of the institute aligns perfectly with the strategic objectives of the Lagos State Government in its quest to build a world-class healthcare system that is accessible and sustainable.

He further harped on the need for investment in the development of human capital, adding that it is a way of fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement, as well as laying the foundation for a healthcare ecosystem that is resilient, responsive and capable of meeting the evolving needs of a diverse population".

Mrs. Olubunmi Fabamwo, the Chairman Civil Service Commission while appreciating the effort of all health workers in the hospital, said the inauguration means a lot to her, noting that it is a step in the right direction.

Fabamwo said: "This move closes up a

yawning gap in professionalisation within a hospital environment, where virtually everyone is deemed to be a professional and everyone who is meant to manage them should be at par. This aligns with a circular passed in 2016, stating that the professionalisation of the administrative cadre was approved".

In the same vein, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Establishment, Training and pensions, Mrs. Busola Abidakun said certifications only show a quest for knowledge and a knack for improvement, and that is why this initiative really brings her joy.

Abidakun further promised that her Ministry is ready to support the institute in her capacity as the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Establishment, Training and Pensions, saying "My team and I have deliberated and we are ready to give everything

we need to put into the works to make this Institute stand firm.

Mrs. Rosemary Archibong, President of Institute of Health Service Administrators of Nigeria, referred to the inauguration of the school as an audacious move that could only spring out from a deep and forward thinking leadership. She further advised the students to take the programme seriously.

The occasion was graced by other personnel including the Director Clinical Services and Training (LASUTH), Prof. Adebowale O, Adekoya; Director of Hospital Administration and HR, Mr. Jelili Oyekan; Head of Nursing Services, Mrs. Adebola Aina; Supervising PS, Lagos State Primary Healthcare Board and PS, Lagos State Health District IV, Dr. Abimbola Bowale; Deputy Provost LASUCOM, Prof. Olufemi Idowu and Head of School, Mrs. Ronke Famakinwa among others.



# Lagos Govt Issues Urgent Drowning Prevention Advisory

In light of the recent tragic incidents of drowning in the State, the Lagos State Government has issued an urgent advisory to all public facilities, including beaches and swimming pools, to adhere strictly to the Lagos State Swimming Pool Regulations of 2021. The Director-General, Safety Commission, Mr. Lanre Mojola said the measure is to ensure the safety of all residents and visitors engaging in aquatic activities. He lamented that the increase in reported cases of drowning incidents, with several casualties



in the past few weeks, is saddening.

According to him, the unfortunate events have occurred across various locations, including hotel

swimming pools, beaches, and the lagoon. The government extends its deepest condolences to the families of the victims and is committed to preventing further loss of life.

In his words, "The Lagos State Swimming Pool Regulations were established to create a sustainable safety culture, outline critical safety policies, standards, and practices key provisions which include the presence of trained lifeguards, proper signages, incident reporting protocols, and restrictions on alcohol usage and fire around pool areas".

He noted that all operators of public swimming facilities must comply with these regulations to prevent further incidences.

Mojola said, among

other things, swimming pools are expected to ensure the presence of certified lifeguards during operational hours and display clear safety rules and emergency procedures while providing appropriate safety equipment, including first aid kits at the barest minimum.

He declared that the Lagos State Government is taking proactive steps to enforce these regulations and will not hesitate to apply penalties to any facility found in violation.

"The safety of our citizens and visitors is

of utmost importance, and we must all work together to prevent drowning and ensure a safe environment for aquatic activities", he added.

The Director-General, therefore, enjoined Lagosians to visit the Lagos State Safety Commission's website: [www.lasgsafety.com](http://www.lasgsafety.com) for more information on the State Swimming Pool Regulations and safety tips.

He also implored Whistleblowers to escalate any unsafe practices or infractions to 07000SAFETY, adding that human lives should not be compromised on the altar of profit.

# Environmental Sustainability: LAWMA Academy Takes Advocacy To Schools

LAWMA Academy, the Educational Arm of the Lagos Waste Management Authority, has welcomed a fresh set of candidates for its one-month internship in April. The interns were all recent graduates of various universities in the country, across different academic disciplines.

Addressing the participants, the Managing Director/CEO of LAWMA, Dr. Muiyiwa Gbadegehin, congratulated them for making the internship programme, adding that it would assist them to learn as much as possible about waste management and its inherent benefits.

He noted that waste was not waste but resource, urging them to embrace the business opportunities offered by

the circular economy value chain, where so-called waste becomes wealth and blessing, to individuals, society and the environment. According to him, "This internship will go a long way in exposing you to the positive and rewarding side of waste management. I am sure you are aware that nothing is a waste until you waste them. What used to be waste is now a resource that can be harvested to make money and improve lives. Indeed, it's a long value chain you can tap into, depending on your area of interest. It is a promising and highly rewarding venture". Speaking further, the LAWMA boss urged them to pay good

attention to the practical aspects of their training and arm themselves with determination, to become change agents and champions of environmental sustainability.

Speaking in the same vein, the Executive Director of LAWMA, Mr. Kunle Adebisi, urged the interns to maximise the knowledge gained, to leverage their areas of interest along the value-chain, for personal enterprise and good reward.

He said, "This is a good opportunity for you to acquire knowledge and make money from modern waste management initiatives. What is important for you here, is to pay attention to the various things you will be taught, so that



you can decide where to key in, for future enterprise and handsome financial rewards".

Similarly, LAWMA Academy, last month, ran a one-month internship programme for some graduate and post-graduate candidates, representing the first batch of interns for this year. The candidates who enjoyed in-depth training in modern waste management from various departments of the agency, received

completion certificates, after presenting their group final project.

LAWMA Academy, has since the beginning of this year, taken environmental advocacy to more than 5,000 pupils of public schools across the state, in Eti-Osa, Ikeja, Mushin, Ijora-Olopa, Agege, Victoria Island and other areas.

The pupils were enlightened on LAWMA's diverse operations, effects of indiscriminate waste dumping, making money from

recyclables, usage of trash bags and cans, shunning cart-pushers and the need to patronise assigned PSP operators.

The founding objective was to expand the frontiers of knowledge on waste management, by teaching it as much as possible, to the younger generation for new cultural orientation and perception of waste management, for environmental sustainability. It is the basis for stretching the dragnets to bring in as many young people as possible into the fold, to form the vanguard of environment ambassadors, for a new culture and orientation, for a people-friendly environment.

LAWMA Academy Internship is a monthly programme of environmental and waste management education for willing candidates.



# Lagos PMO, Heads of Parastatals Strategise on Power of Synergy

Lagos State Parastatals Monitoring Office (PMO) held a workshop to converge selected CEOs and Heads of Parastatals and Government-owned Companies to deliberate on the power of synergy. Interactive discussion centered on “Governance Advancement through Synergistic Deliverables”, emphasizing the crucial role that collaboration plays in

achieving collective goals. The Permanent Secretary, PMO; Mrs Adetutu Ososanya spoke on the importance of collaboration among parastatals, agencies, and government-owned companies. She highlighted how synergy is able to drive progress and improve government deliverables. She urged Participants to optimise efficiency, improve service

delivery, and ensure accountability to the citizens of Lagos State. The Facilitator of the Workshop and Managing Director of Nisrel Consulting, Mr. Ope Amusan highlighted the significance of improving internal re-engineering to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of Parastatals and Government-Owned Companies. He underscored the value of creating a strong team culture and urged collective efforts to



tackle existing challenges. He also stressed on continuous learning, enhancing cohesion and hard work as being essential to tackle challenges and improve performance

and productivity. The Workshop was a highly interactive one and many Participants contributed positively. The General Manager of Motor Vehicles Administration Agency

Mr Rasheed Muri-Okunola on behalf of all Participants gave the closing remarks and thanked the Organisers for an event well put together.

# LASBCA Seeks Better Collaboration With Cement Manufacturers ... Advocates Proper Labelling of Cement Bags

The General Manager of the Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA), Arc. Gbolahan Owodunni Oki has called on manufacturers of cement in Nigeria to properly label their products for ease of application by users. He made the call during a courtesy visit to the management of Lafarge Africa at their Corporate Head Office in Ikoyi, Lagos. The management team from LASBCA, was received by the management of Lafarge Africa led by the company's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Lolu Alade Akinyemi. The General Manager disclosed that the purpose of the visit was to seek better collaboration between the two organisations in

achieving a safer and sustainable environment devoid of building collapses as a result of the use of inferior building materials. He noted that cement is a major component in building construction and the producers of this component need to properly educate the users on the best way to apply the product for optimal results that will bring about reductions in building collapses. Oki advised the manufacturers of cement to enlighten and educate the users, especially block makers, by boldly writing or illustrating the number of blocks that a 50 kg bag of cement can produce. He said such illustrations boldly

written on every bag of cement will serve as a guide for block makers in producing quality blocks that can stand the test of time. According to him, “To prevent the use of substandard blocks, we need to work together to educate and enlighten the teeming masses, especially block makers on the best applications of your product. I strongly advised that the number of blocks that a 50kg bag of cement can produce should be boldly written or illustrated on every bag as a guide to users of your product”. He disclosed further that his office is working out a mechanism to randomly test every block being produced in the state for a safer environment.



He also used the visit to call on the company to assist the government in enlightening block makers not to hide under the guise of the harsh economy or increase in the prices of cement to reduce the quality of blocks being sold to the building

public. In his remarks, the Chief Executive Officer of Lafarge Africa, Mr. Lolu Alade Akinyemi thanked the General Manager for his advice and promised the readiness of the company to always work with the State Government in bringing

about a safe, secure and sustainable environment. Mr. Akande said the company has always been at the forefront of educating and enlightening users of cement on the best way to apply the product for optimal results.



# Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Economic Relief Program

Empowering the citizens of Ibeju-Lekki to Overcome the current economic challenges while fostering economic growth in Nigeria through collaboration with state and federal authorities.



## OVERVIEW

The Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Economic Relief Program aims to alleviate the impact of the current challenges in the economy on its citizens by providing targeted support in key areas.

Through this program, the local government will offer relief measures to ease the burden on households, ensuring a positive impact on the well-being of its residents, particularly the needy, while continuing to collaborate with state and federal authorities to foster overall economic growth in Nigeria.



## FOCUS SECTORS



HEALTH

- Free basic drugs at our Public Health Centres.
- Free medical tests for blood pressure and blood sugar.
- Medical Financial Assistant for vulnerable families through a new fund called Medical Support Fund.



EDUCATION

- #50,000 Bursary for Students of higher institutions of learning.
- School Fees Support for newly admitted students into higher institutions of learning.
- Free forms for students writing WAEC and GCE.

## FOCUS SECTORS



HOUSEHOLD

- Community Market to subsidize some of food items.



AGRICULTURE

- Ibeju Lekki Out-grower Scheme for Cassava and Plantain farming to boost food production.



MSME

- #30 million Traders Loans to be disbursed over a period of 6 months.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE

01

Provide support to cushion the effect of economic hardship.

02

To provide immediate support.

03

Support to help families with basic household needs.

04

Support SMEs through credit.

05

Provide medical Relief.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Ibeju Lekki Local Government Economic Relief Program is a strategic and compassionate response to the current economic challenges in our country. This initiative not only strengthens our local economy and improves public perception but also positions Ibeju Lekki as a beacon of resilience and sustainable development.

Through this, we seize the opportunity to uplift people, reduce poverty, and create a stronger, more stable environment. Together, we can embrace a future where citizens thrive, the community flourishes, and Ibeju Lekki becomes a model of progress for the nation.

# THANK YOU





# Lagos Leads Efforts in Tuberculosis Awareness Campaign

....Commemorates Y2024 World TB Day with an Awareness Walk, Stakeholders Engagement



In a concerted effort to tackle the ongoing challenge of tuberculosis (TB) in Lagos State, the Ministry of Health organized an Awareness Walk and Stakeholders Engagement to commemorate Y2024 World Tuberculosis Day.

The awareness walk held around the Secretariat, Alausa-Ikeja community, and the Stakeholders' Engagement and Briefing held at the Folarin Coker Staff Clinic Auditorium, was attended by stakeholders from various sectors, including healthcare professionals, international funders, and implementing partners.

Speaking at the Stakeholders Engagement and Briefing to commemorate Y2024 World TB Day, held at

the Main Auditorium of Folarin Coker Staff Clinic, Alausa Secretariat, the Commissioner for Health in Lagos State, Prof. Akin Abayomi emphasized the urgent need to tackle tuberculosis (TB) head-on.

Addressing a diverse audience, Prof. Abayomi highlighted the profound impact of TB on global public health, stressing its enduring presence as a significant challenge affecting millions worldwide.

Prof. Abayomi, who was represented by the Senior Special Assistant to the Lagos State Governor on Health, Dr. Oluwatoni Adeyemi, noted that despite advancements, TB remains a formidable foe, causing immense suffering and loss.

With a clear message

of hope and determination, Prof. Abayomi underscored the theme of the event, "Yes, we can end TB," emphasizing the collective responsibility to work towards a TB-free world. He commended the efforts of the State's TB and Leprosy Control Programme, which successfully treated 18,546 TB patients in 2023.

Acknowledging Lagos State's steadfast commitment to combating TB, Prof. Abayomi attributed progress to strategic partnerships, innovative programs, and relentless advocacy efforts. However, he cautioned against complacency, emphasizing the ongoing need for vigilance and action.

The Commissioner called upon all stakeholders, including government agencies, healthcare

professionals, civil society organizations, the private sector, and the general public, to join forces in the fight against TB. He urged increased awareness, improved access to healthcare services, and support for research initiatives aimed at prevention and control.

Expressing gratitude to those dedicated to the TB cause, Prof. Abayomi rallied support for decisive actions to end TB once and for all. He concluded with a call for unwavering resolve and optimism, urging belief in the power of collective action to effect positive change.

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye emphasized the significance of the world TB day, noting that the day serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about TB, celebrate survivors, and remember those who have lost their lives to the disease.

Dr. Ogboye who was represented by the Director, Disease Control in the Lagos State Ministry of Health, highlighted the continued threat posed by TB, citing statistics that reveal Nigeria's alarming rate of TB-related deaths. He emphasized the urgent need for collaborative efforts to address the

disease effectively, especially considering Lagos State's significant contribution to the national burden of TB.

Despite the government's commitment to combating TB, Dr. Ogboye stressed the importance of external support from international funders and implementing partners. He expressed gratitude to these entities for their ongoing assistance in the fight against TB, recognizing their vital role in providing financial resources and technical expertise.

Speaking in the same vein, the State Coordinator, World Health Organization (WHO) Lagos Office, Dr. Chinenye Okafor emphasized the urgent need for collective action to combat the persistent threat of tuberculosis (TB) in Lagos and beyond.

While commending the Lagos State government for its commitment to TB awareness and control efforts, Dr. Okafor stressed the severity of the TB crisis, citing alarming statistics from the African region, where one person is infected with TB every 30 seconds, resulting in 444 deaths per day in 2022 alone. "These figures underscored

the critical importance of sustained efforts to combat the disease". She said

Dr. Okafor reaffirmed WHO's support for Lagos State's TB control initiatives, highlighting the organization's Country Cooperation Strategy, which prioritizes research and intervention to address TB effectively. With approximately 100 WHO-paid officers currently working in Lagos State, Dr. Okafor assured continued collaboration to strengthen TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment efforts.

Drawing attention to the vulnerability of children to TB, Dr. Okafor emphasized the need for targeted interventions. She reported a notable increase in pediatric TB detection, signaling the importance of prioritizing this demographic in TB control strategies. Dr. Okafor stressed that protecting children from TB is essential for securing the future health of communities.

In recognition of Lagos State's leadership in TB control, Dr. Okafor praised the government's efforts and lauded Lagos as a trailblazer in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. She expressed gratitude to all stakeholders for their commitment to the TB cause and urged continued dedication to ending the TB epidemic.

# LSBTS Trains 340 Healthcare Workers On Safe Blood Practices

In a bid to enhance safe blood practices and ensure quality blood banking services in health facilities in Lagos, the Lagos State Blood Transfusion Service (LSBTS) recently concluded a comprehensive training exercise on safe blood practices for 340 healthcare workers, including medical doctors and laboratory scientists drawn from both public and private health facilities.

The seven-day event focused on various critical aspects of safe blood practices.

According to the



Executive Secretary of the LSBTS, Dr. Bodunrin Osikomaiya, the participants were trained on mobilization and conversion of blood donors, appropriate clinical use of blood and products, haemovigilance, and the role of laboratories in ensuring blood safety.

"With 200 medical doctors from Surgery, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics, and Emergency departments, alongside 140 medical laboratory scientists from private

blood banks, the training aimed to equip healthcare providers with the necessary skills and knowledge to improve service delivery", she explained.

Dr. Osikomaiya emphasized the importance of this training in line with international best standards and highlighted its role as a major activity evaluated during regulatory visits by the state Blood Monitoring and Enforcement sub-committee.

"The LSBTS, established to ensure

the safety of blood from collection to transfusion, remains dedicated to recruiting and retaining voluntary blood donors, screening all donated blood for transfusion-transmissible infections, and promoting efficient blood processing.

"This successful training underscores the LSBTS's commitment to providing safe and quality blood banking services to meet the needs of the community. It serves as a testament to their ongoing efforts to uphold the highest standards of patient care and safety", Osikomaiya stated.



# Dispatch Rider On Trial For Stealing Jewelry Worth N2.7m

By Felix Kuyinu

A dispatch rider has been arraigned at the Surulere Magistrate for absconding with a jewelry meant to be delivered to a customer at Sangotedo, Ajah, Lagos. The Police stated that

the accused, Kingsley Chigaenezu, 29, who fled away with the gold jewelry reported to be worth N2.7m is on trial on a two-count charge of obtaining by false pretence and stealing. Police Prosecutor, Insp

Courage Ekhueorohan, told the court that Chigaenezu, who resides at No. 8, Muyiwa Close, Off Ajayi Road, Ikeja Lagos, committed the offences on April 2. He further disclosed that efforts to reach the

defendant failed which led to the complainant, Bunmi Agbaje, who employed the services of the rider, reporting the matter at the station. The offences, Ekhueorohan said, contravened sections

287 and 314 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015 (evised). Magistrate Sanusi Adagun granted bail to the suspect in the sum of 1 million, with two responsible sureties in like sum. She ordered that one of

the the sureties must be a blood relation and must show evidence of three years tax payment to the Lagos State Government. The matter was adjourned till April 18 for substantive trial.

## Woman Arraigned For Stealing N2.1m From Dead Boyfriend

By Felix Kuyinu

A suspect identified as Ihuoma Onunyerere has been arraigned at the Ikeja Magistrates' Court for allegedly stealing the sum of N2.1m from her deceased lover's bank account. Onunyerere, a resident at building number 16, Joseph Harrison St in Iwaya area, Yaba, Lagos, is on trial on

station. She, however, pleaded not guilty to the charge. Prosecution Counsel, Innocent Odugbo, told the court that Onunyerere committed the offence between October 27 and November 20, 2023 in Yaba. The prosecutor stated the daughter of the late lover discovered series of withdrawal messages on his bank App account and reported at the police

station. The offence, according to the prosecutor, contravenes the provision of Section 287 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. The Magistrate, Moyosoluwa Onamusi, admitted the defendant to bail in the sum of 200,000 with two sureties in like sum. Onamusi adjourned the case until May 8 for mention.

## Man On Trial For Swindling Lover Of N380,000

By Felix Kuyinu

The Surulere Magistrates' Court has docked a 42-year-old man, Mordi Collins, for swindling his girlfriend the sum of N380,000. Collins was arraigned on a four-count charge of impersonation, issuance of cheque, obtaining by false pretenses and stealing. Mordi, in a deceitful act, had told his girlfriend, one Omolara Adebola, that they were to travel to the United States of America, according to the prosecutor, Inspector Courage Ekhueorohan. Ekhueorohan told the court that the suspect

obtained the sum of N380,000 from Adebola and promised to make a refund when the relocation process clicked, a proposal he knew was false. The prosecutor said that after so much pressure from the complainant to get Mordi to pay her back, he issued a dud cheque that was dishonored due to insufficient credit balance. Ekhueorohan said the the suspect who resides at Ring Road, Akala Way, Ibadan committed the offences sometime in July at No. 38, Ijesha road, Itire, Surulere, Lagos.

The offences, according to him, violate Sections 287, 314, 325 and 380 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. The Magistrate, Sanusi Adagun, granted the defendant bail in the sum of N200,000, with two responsible sureties in like sum. Adagun also ruled that the sureties must be gainfully employed and have their house addresses verified by the court. She adjourned the matter till May 2 for substantive trial.

## ALIMOSHO

# Igando-Ikotun LCDA Begins Construction Of Dosu Ekunrin Road

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Igando-Ikotun Local Government Development Area, Comrade Akinsanya Lasisi Ayinde, known for his impressive projects in Igando-Ikotun LCDA, is making headlines once again with a new groundbreaking project. He has successfully overcome obstacles to reconstruct the vital Egan Road, which had been neglected for

years despite its importance for commerce and traffic flow in the area. Akinsanya has taken the bull by the horn and reconstruction has begun earnestly on Dosu Ekunrin road in Egan. Most of the constituents interviewed expressed their happiness about this development and are showering praises on Chairman for the project





# Sanwo-Olu Reiterates Commitment To Making Badagry Tourist Attraction

● Governor tours ancient city, visits heritage sites

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has reiterated his administration's commitment to make the Badagry axis of the State a tourist attraction city.

He said the ancient city of Badagry, with many historical and tourist sites, has a lot to offer in tourism.

Governor Sanwo-Olu spoke on Thursday during a working tour and visit to Badagry Tourism sites and projects. The visit is a testament to Governor Sanwo-Olu's commitment to gaining firsthand knowledge of the needs and challenges of the



people of Badagry, paving the way for continued progress and development.

Sanwo-Olu, who was accompanied by Chairman/CEO of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, members of the Lagos State Executive Council and Lagos

State House of Assembly, as well as officials of the Lagos State Diaspora Commission, visited the Slave Market Museum International Vlekete Badagry, which was recently restored and upgraded by the administration.

He also visited the Badagry Heritage

Museum, the seat of the fallen Agia Tree where Christianity was first preached in 1842, the first-storey building in Nigeria, the first Christian burial site, the Hospital Road construction project, and the Old Governor's Lodge, a purpose-built 70-room and hotel complex.

Governor Sanwo-Olu also took a boat ride to the Point of No Return, where slaves were taken to different parts of the world during the slave trade era.

Speaking to journalists during the working tour, Governor Sanwo-Olu said his administration will complete ongoing projects in Badagry and restock some of the heritage sites to tell a compelling story about what Badagry holds for the tourism potential of Nigeria.

He said: "The visit is really part of our tourism ecosystem, and I have had to come and see things for myself to evaluate what we have done, additional things

that we need to do, and how we intentionally make Badagry, an all of the tourism potential that it has, a real destination.

"For us, it is to complete the ongoing projects that we have seen, to restock some of the heritage sites that we have seen, to generally preserve what we have, and to speak a compelling story about what Badagry holds for the tourism potential of our country.

"You have also seen that Badagry actually has a major face. There are lots of roads that you have seen, including dual carriage roads that are nearing completion, and you have all seen that we came around the last time to open a hospital. You have seen roads that have been done extensively.

"Indeed, I am very impressed with Badagry because it is actually wearing a

more cleaner road. We all came by road from Lagos Island, and you could see that it took us just about an hour and a half from Lagos and down to Badagry. So, these are journeys that have hitherto taken almost four hours. We have experienced it ourselves, and I can see that the citizens are very excited.

Speaking further, the Governor said his administration will ensure that no part of Lagos is left underdeveloped.

He said: "We will make sure that no part of Lagos is left underdeveloped, and with tourism being a major cardinal of our THEMES Agenda, I needed to come and see things for myself too and also see how we can help.

"You saw that there are a few projects we need to complete around the Marina in Badagry, but I am satisfied, knowingly, that we still have a lot of

## Lagos Govt Seals Up Four Properties In Ikoyi



Lagos State Government on Tuesday read the riot act to those flouting extant laws regulating building in the State, saying anyone who goes to site and starts construction without a revalidated authorisation by the Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA) would be brought to book.

The decision of the Lagos State Government was made known on Tuesday by Dr. Olajide Babatunde, the Special Adviser to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on EGIS and Urban Planning, during a routine inspection in Ikoyi.

Speaking to journalists in the company of the General Manager of LASBCA, Arc Gbolahan Oki, after sealing off some buildings that contravened the state building regulations, Dr. Babatunde said those embarking on construction without building approvals should stop work immediately.

He said: "The reason we came to sites today is to carry out enforcements against people who contravened building

regulations. From today on, if there is anyone in Lagos State who is building without approval or not following his or her building approval, he or she should stop. If we get there and you are working, we are going to bring it down.

"We have issued authorisation to different developers that have building permits from the Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Authority. However, from today, Tuesday, April 9, 2024, we have cancelled the entire authorisation we issued. It means that every site that is under construction in the State must stop.

"All you need to do is quickly rush to either the headquarters or district office of LASBCA to have your authorisation revalidated. It doesn't matter who you are; stop work. All authorisations are cancelled. You must go and revalidate your authorisations for you to continue construction. If there is no Green sticker on your properties and you are building, we are going to bring down your structure.

"Anyone who goes to sites and starts construction without a revalidation would be brought to book. Anyone who does not have any building approval at all and has embarked on construction should stop work today. We will punish anyone - any land owner, land speculator - who is flouting our laws."

Also speaking, the General Manager of LASBCA, Arc Gbolahan Oki, advised developers to desist from sharp practices, saying anybody who contravenes the building regulations will be dealt with.

He said: "There are laws and procedures. What we said is that before you can go to the site to start construction, you need to get your planning permit and have authorisation. We found out that some started construction without any approval, not even ownership of the land, which is very wrong. And because of that, we decided to seal up the properties.

"The problems we have are with the developers. They don't tell the owners of properties the exact truth. So, we have stopped construction on many sites and sealed up many places so that the owners of the property can do the right thing.

"We are looking at opportunities to work with other professionals. Other

## Lagos Govt, Industry Leaders Outline Strategies For Real Estate Development

The Lagos State Commissioner for Housing, Akinderu Fatai Moruf, his counterpart in the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, Oluyinka Oluyide, the Special Adviser on Housing, Barr. Barakat Odunuga-Bakare and other key stakeholders in the Real Estate sector have outlined strategies for Real Estate Development and Regulation in Lagos.

Speaking at the opening of a two-day Nigeria Investment Summit organised by the Association of Estate Agents in Nigeria (AEAN) held recently in Lagos, the Commissioner for Housing listed strategies to address challenges and sustain progress recorded in the real estate sector.

Hon. Akinderu Fatai Moruf pointed out the deliberate efforts of Lagos State since 1999, under former Governor Bola Tinubu's leadership, to lay the groundwork for sustainable development.

He emphasised the collaborations with Private Public Partnership to provide affordable housing schemes and

also to uphold the original master plan of the State and praised LASRERA for bringing order into the Real Estate Sector.

On his part, the Commissioner for Physical Planning, Oluyinka Oluyide

underscored the need for mandatory registration of buildings, vowing that violators may be prevented from accessing bank loans.

While revealing that the State government has initiated a review of the expired Model City plan for another 20 years to ensure continuous urban development, Oluyide challenged the association to raise the alarm when building and layout plans are violated for necessary action by the present administration.

The Special Adviser on

Housing, Barakat Odunuga-Bakare said that several proactive measures taken by the Lagos State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (LASRERA) have helped in curbing the risks associated with unregistered agents and briefcase operators in the State.

Also speaking, Industry Experts like Dr. Lolia Idu stressed the importance of integrity, excellence, and continuous monitoring of sector activities for effective networking while Dr. Christie Kanu emphasised market knowledge and client understanding

The theme of the two-day Nigeria Investment Summit organised by the Association of Estate Agents in Nigeria (AEAN) was "Building Enduring Partnership for a Better Future".





# Juliana Defends Akindele, Reveals Actress' Act of Kindness

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Actress Olayode Juliana has come to the defence of her colleague, Funke Akindele, amidst criticism following allegations of neglect from the family of late actress Jumoke Aderounmu, who appeared in the TV series "Jenifa's Diary," produced by Akindele. Juliana's statement comes in the wake of accusations leveled against Akindele for purportedly ignoring pleas for help from Aderounmu's family before her demise. However, Juliana took to her Instagram to share a heartfelt tribute to Akindele, recounting a personal experience where the actress emptied her account to



finance treatment for Juliana's mother's fibroid condition. In her Instagram post, Juliana hailed Akindele

as a woman of grace, resilience, and unwavering kindness, emphasizing her generosity behind the

scenes and her willingness to help without seeking publicity. Quoting Juliana's

statement, she expressed her gratitude and admiration for Akindele, affirming her unwavering support and divine protection over her life and endeavors. She said "Mamaaaaaaaaaaaaaa @funkejenifaakindele Olufunke Omo Akindele, the one who the Lord delights in. "The apple of God's eyes, the one who has found favor in the sight of God, the one who God has clothed with so much grace and glory, the one who God has enthroned!!! The one whose path is like a shining light, the one whose light can not be dimmed! "Olufunke Omo Akindele, the one who has gone through fire and came out without smelling like smoke, a strong woman, a

resilient woman, an amazon, a phenomenal woman, a pace setter, a record breaker, a good woman. "My mum would have died of fibroid years ago, had you not emptied your account to make sure that she was taken to a private hospital and treated immediately. "You do a lot of good but you don't post about it, you don't do it for publicity, a lot of people are on your payroll, you have done so much, instagram caption would not be enough to talk about it. "You have worked so hard to be where you are and God backed you up. You will never fall and you will never fail, the mighty hand of God will continue to carry for the rest of your life. You, your children and everything that concerns you is covered by God!!!! I LOVE YOU MAMA

# Emeka Ike's Son Quits School to Pursue Music Career

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The son of Nollywood actor Emeka Ike has sparked a social media frenzy after revealing his decision to forego his education in pursuit of a music career. In a video that has since gone viral, the actor's son showcased his musical talent, captivating viewers with his performance of one of his original songs. Asserting his newfound passion for music, the young artist explained his decision to abandon



formal education, stating, "Music is my new calling, and I had to embrace it wholeheartedly, even if

it meant leaving school behind." The video elicited a range of responses from netizens, with

some praising the son's musical prowess, while others expressed concern over his choice to prioritize art over

academics. @i\_am\_big\_daddy01 raised doubts about the son's resemblance to his father, suggesting a

DNA test might be necessary to confirm their relationship. @temimine\_tm cautioned against sacrificing education for artistic pursuits, emphasizing the importance of individual paths and life choices. @he\_la\_ urged the young musician to reconcile with his father before garnering support for his music career. Despite the mixed reactions, many social media users commended the son's musical abilities, hailing his song as a potential hit and acknowledging its quality and appeal.



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## KNOW YOUR LAWMAKER

# Focus - Hon. Mustianu Tobun (Member representing Epe Constituency 01)

By Felix Kuyinu

**H**onourable Mustianu Tobun is a legislator at the existing 10th Legislative Assembly having represented his constituency since 2015. He was born in Lagos State on 25th, April 1963 to the family of Tobun in Epe.

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Hon. Tobun attended St. Michael's Anglican Primary school for his First School Leaving



Certificate education before proceeding to the Epe Grammar School to pursue his West Africa

Senior School Certificate Examination.

He later became a student of the Lagos State Polytechnic, LASPOTECH, to study Agric Economics and Extension Management and bagged a Higher National Diploma certificate in the institution. Later, he was offered a provisional admission at the Lagos State University to study Business Administration and eventually got a Masters Degree. Furthermore, he obtained another Masters' Degree in Legal Studies in the same institution.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Tobun worked as a Community Development Officer with the Lagos State Government Service Commission for about 21 years. Thereafter, he was promoted to the designation of Head of Department, Community and Social Development.

## POLITICAL CAREER

The Lawmaker retired from service in 2011 to join active politics and became a member of the House of Assembly in 2011. He later

became the Chairman House Committee on Environment, a position he held from 2011 till 2015.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS:

- i. D'merit Award 2013 Most Accommodating Honourable FASA-LASU
  - ii. Award Of Excellence Lagos State Council of Tradesmen Epe Local Government
  - iii. Most Outstanding Legislator 2011/2012
- Comments  
Communications West Africa-Network.

## BADAGRY

# Onilude Commends NDLEA For Fight Against Illicit Drugs

By Saheed Afolabi



**T**he chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude has commended the Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) for the fight against illicit drugs.

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA destroyed a total of 304,436kg kilograms and 40,042 litres of illicit substances seized from Badagry, Lagos.

Speaking at a brief ceremony where the seized drugs were publicly destroyed in Badagry, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the Agency, Brig Gen Mohamed Buba Marwa (Retd) said the open destruction of the seized illicit drugs followed court orders, even as he called for more public support for ongoing efforts by

NDLEA and other stakeholders to curb the menace of substance abuse and illicit drug trafficking in Nigeria.

"Though a routine exercise and an established process of removing dangerous substances from our society, the public destruction of confiscated illicit drugs is usually conducted at the end of their related cases in court."

The NDLEA boss stated adding that the exhibits being destroyed were of mixed types, "which include illicit drugs in solid and liquid states as well as in various classes such as cocaine, heroin, cannabis, and tramadol, among others."

He said the drugs were seized by NDLEA operatives across different formations of the Agency in Lagos

and Ogun states from January 2022 till date especially at the Lagos seaports, airports, and land borders.

"To be destroyed here on the order of the court are solid drugs, weighing 304,436.055kg and 40,042.621 litres of liquid drugs. The sheer volume of the drug haul speaks volumes about the extent of the nefarious activities of the drug underworld." He expressed appreciation to traditional rulers, heads of security agencies, the clergy, members of NGOs and CSOs as well as other stakeholders who witnessed the ceremony.

"The destruction of these seizures complies with the NDLEA Act, which mandates the Agency to destroy all drug exhibits after prosecution. We want to say that your presence here is a testament to this important occasion. To this end, we appreciate all stakeholders and members of the public for witnessing this exercise." He seized the opportunity

to acknowledge the support of the Agency's local and international partners, especially the American Drug Enforcement Administration (US-DEA); United Kingdom NCA, Border Force; the Germans, the French; Indian NCB, among others who had worked with us on a number of busts. Similarly, he appreciate the Nigerian military and other law enforcement agencies such as the Customs; Immigration; Police; Civil Defence; FRSC; NFIU, NAFDAC and others that have been supporting our efforts to rid Nigeria of illicit drugs.

While assuring that NDLEA will not relent in its effort to end the drug scourge in the country, Marwa called for more public support for the activities of the Agency.

"The safety of our society is the responsibility of every one of us. Every citizen shall be fulfilling his or her civic duty by assisting the Agency's War Against Drug Abuse (WADA) campaign to clean up our communities and cities. Together, we can make this country secure", he added.

Lagos state governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu represented by Chairman, Badagry Local Government, Mr. Olusegun Onilude expressed satisfaction with the efforts of NDLEA to tackle the scourge of illicit drugs in the country.

"Almost all crimes and criminalities are fueled by illicit drugs, so the Lagos state government appreciates NDLEA and its leadership in their resolute fight against illicit drugs.

"The volume of illicit drugs being destroyed here today speak volume and every right-thinking person should be worried."



# Burna Boy Named Among Times Magazine's Top 100 Most Influential Persons

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In an exclusive statement by Times Magazine, Burna Boy, born Damini Ebunoluwa Ogulu, solidified his position as a musical powerhouse and cultural advocate, asserting the importance of preserving and celebrating traditional African music amidst global musical trends. Times Magazine detailed Burna Boy's remarkable musical journey, highlighting his unique style and rhythmic prowess that have captivated audiences worldwide.

Drawing inspiration from Nigerian folk music's captivating drums and the legacy of



African singer-songwriters, Burna Boy has carved a path reminiscent of the

iconic Fela Kuti, blending Afrobeats with activism and cultural pride.

In 2023, Burna Boy shattered barriers by becoming the first African artist to sell out

a U.S. stadium, marking a monumental achievement in his career.

Building on this momentum, he continued to break ground in 2024 as the first Afrobeats artist to grace the prestigious Grammy stage, further cementing his status as a trailblazer in the music industry.

Burna Boy's ascent to global prominence symbolizes a shift in musical landscapes, inspiring a new generation of African artists to embrace their cultural heritage and push artistic boundaries.

His words "Ten years ago or so, when young African musicians would come to me for

advice, I would tell them, 'You don't need to mimic American artists! The world needs the amazing richness and beauty of our traditional African music and our culture. This land is where most of modern music comes from.

"This source of inspiration is inexhaustible. Its freshness and its elegance will get the world's attention for sure," Burna Boy remarked in his statement.

As accolades and achievements continue to accumulate, Burna Boy's influence resonates far beyond the realm of music, leaving an indelible mark on the cultural tapestry of the world.

## Man Seeks Advice After Girlfriend Leaves Him Over iPhone XS Max

By Nurudeen Adebayo

A young man has turned to social media for advice after his girlfriend ended their relationship because he couldn't afford to buy her father an iPhone XS Max. The distressed individual, whose identity remains undisclosed, shared his plight with Twitter influencer Wizarab in a bid to seek guidance. According to his account, his girlfriend insisted on him purchasing the expensive smartphone for her father,

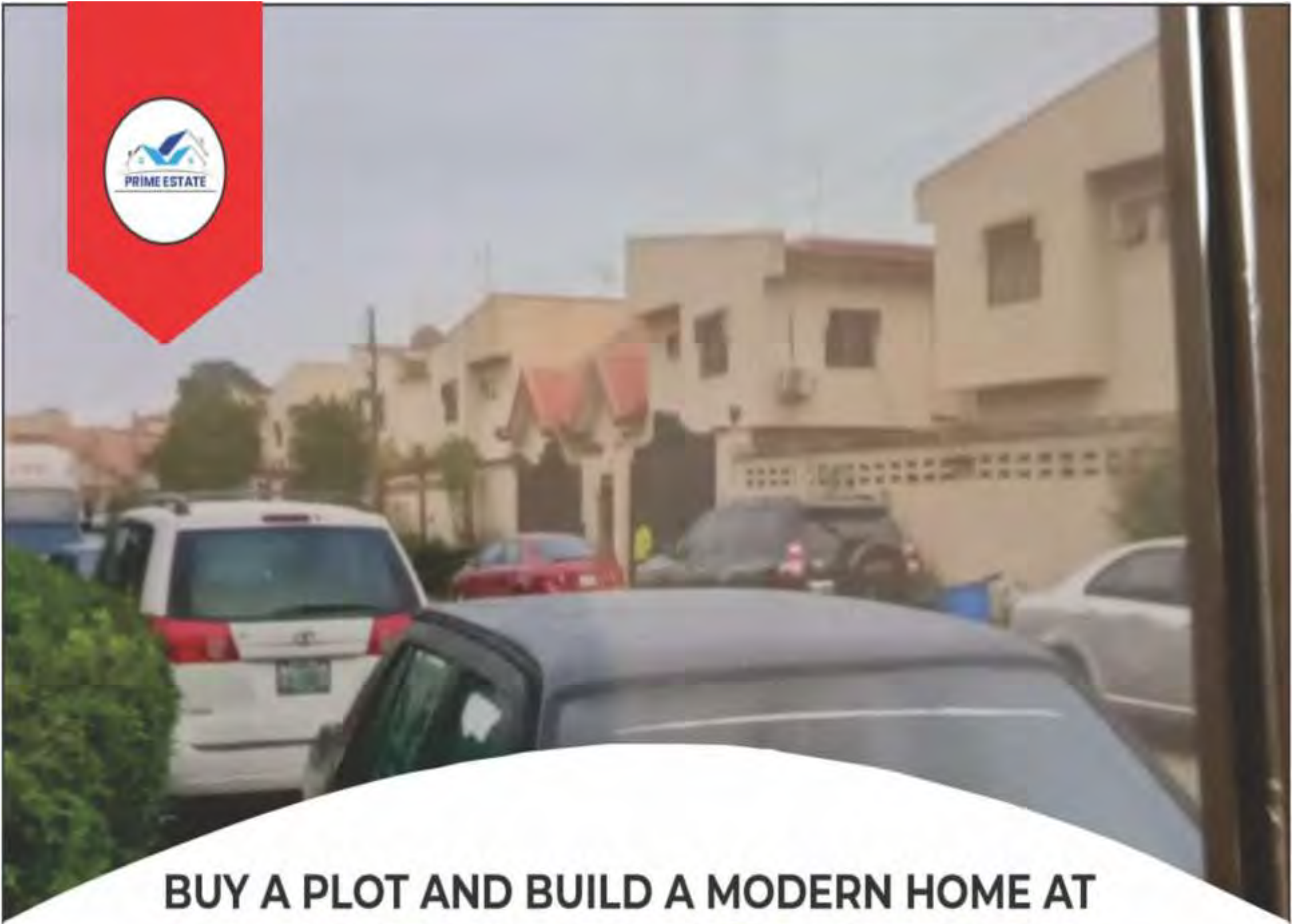
expressing dissatisfaction with the smaller device he currently uses. However, the man explained that he had exhausted his savings of approximately 3 million naira to establish a business, leaving him unable to fulfill his girlfriend's demand. Despite the breakup, he emphasized his continued affection for his former partner, stating that she was the one he envisioned a future with. In his plea for advice,

the man contemplated whether he should appeal to his ex-girlfriend's understanding, explaining his financial constraints and assuring her that he aimed to save up for the iPhone XS Max by December. Highlighting his recent endeavors, including starting a business and renting accommodation, the man sought counsel on how to navigate the situation and potentially reconcile with his ex-girlfriend.

send me anonymous messages!

**1. My girlfriend broke up with me because I couldn't buy iPhone Xmas for her father which I don't even have the money now, she says she doesn't like the small phone the father uses, I love her, I have no one again, this is a girl I want to settle with, should I beg her to try to understand that I'm**





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# Agboyi-Ketu: Oshinowo Partners Optiva Capital to Upgrade Health Centre

Kehinde Adeleye

The Ketu Primary Health Centre in Mascara is being revitalized by the administration of Mr. Dele Oshinowo in collaboration with Optiva Capital Partners Limited, with the aim of lowering maternal mortality via the provision of quality healthcare.

The groundbreaking ceremony within the health facility's precinct marked the beginning of the upgrading adventure.

Agboyi-Ketu LCDA Chairman Mr. Dele Oshinowo welcomed attendees to the ceremony and expressed gratitude to Optiva Capital Partners Limited for working with his administration to



provide health care to the LCDA's citizens.

The chairman of the council further described the partnership as a passionate commitment to providing a healing sanctuary, while also urging other well-meaning organizations

and private individuals to follow in the footsteps of Optiva Capital Partners Limited and take advantage of Agboyi-Ketu LCDA's conducive environment.

"The gratitude of our administration goes to Optiva Capital Partners Limited for their

commitment and cooperation in putting their resources towards the revitalization of this important health structure.

I hope other well-meaning organizations and private individuals will emulate them in this regard."

"As we embark on this journey collaboratively, it

is important for us to acknowledge the gravity of our mission. By investing in this health facility, Optiva Capital Partners Limited is heavily investing in the well-being of our people and prosperity of our LCDA."

"To us in Agboyi-Ketu LCDA, the groundbreaking event is not merely about constructing, it showcases our passionate commitment to providing a sanctuary for healing."

Dr. Jane Kimemia, the Chief Executive Officer of Optiva Capital Partners Limited, also spoke at the event and stated that her organization's maternal healthcare program would offer a unique chance to end

preventable deaths among mothers and their newborns.

She went on to say that the medical center will be greatly expanded to make room for more beds, a delivery room with all the amenities, more doctor offices, state-of-the-art equipment, and an overall more aesthetically pleasing building that will improve the surrounding area and give residents a calm environment.

Chief Stephen Oyedele, State Treasurer of the Lagos APC, Abiodun Akhigbe, Lagos Lawmaker, Mr. Sanni Ganiyu Okanlawon, Mr. Abiodun Salami, and Alhaji Sunday Odekomaya were notable attendees at the occasion.

## SOMOLU

# Residents Lauds Somolu LG Boss On Road

By Saheed Afolabi

Residents of Oyedele Close in Somolu Local Government have heaped praises on the council chairman, Abdulhamed Salawu for recognizing the reconstruction of the road which after completion will ease vehicular movements. The once dilapidated roads and inadequate drainage systems is undergoing a facelift, now replaced by well-

interlocked stone roads complemented by covered drainage systems.

The residents appreciated the council chairman for deeming it fit to reconstruct the Oyedele close. They hailed the project as a special gift for the people of Somolu, underscoring its profound impact on their daily lives.

The council boss reiterated his unwavering

commitment to enhancing the welfare and development of Somolu residents.

Emphasizing alignment with the T.H.E.M.E.S. project initiated by Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, he affirms his dedication to delivering top-notch developmental and welfare initiatives to the communities in Somolu Local Government.





By Rasaq Adebayo

Organisers of the SABRE awards have adjudged 9mobile winner in two distinct categories - The SABRE Award for Superior Achievement in Reputation Management and Special Event/Sponsorship based on the telco's innovative and transformative campaign titled The Hack, Expand Your Hustle.

The SABRE Awards, organised by PProvoke Media, is a Public Relations awards programme dedicated to benchmarking the best PR works across the globe.

It recognises exceptional campaigns, by brands, and agencies that exhibit the highest levels of strategic planning, creativity, integrity, effectiveness, and business results across Europe, North America, Asia and Africa.

Expressing her delight at the global recognition, the

# 9mobile clinches 2 Trophies at SABRE Awards 2024



Director, Marketing Communications, 9mobile, Saidat Lawal Mohammed, stated that 9mobile carted home the awards based on its recognition of the importance of SMEs in driving the economic

growth of Nigeria, thus positioning itself as an SME-friendly company to support their development and success to thrive and scale their businesses.

"This drive to see SMEs succeed led the telco to

launch a novel entrepreneurship programme - The Hack, an Enterprise Business Growth Series designed to empower entrepreneurs by giving them the knowledge, technology, and access to the market required to help them grow, with imprints in various Nigerian cities and university campuses.

"With the Hack, 9mobile showed the endless opportunities in the SME sector while addressing challenges that business owners confront, assisting them in expanding their enterprises and overcoming obstacles, taking them through the hacks the SMEs need for business growth.

"It gives us great joy to see our work recognized by such

a prestigious and globally respected organisation such as PProvoke Media, organisers of the SABRE Awards. We know that this is a highly sought-after award and based on other projects we beat to clinch these awards, we are super delighted to be recognized on a global stage. What is key for us are the results we achieved and the impact we made which has served as an elevation for this recognition."

She appreciated the management of 9mobile for its support of the Hack initiative, and the marketing communications team for the synergy in driving the campaign.

Mohammed affirmed that through the project,

9mobile burnished its reputation as Nigeria's SME friendly telecommunications company, adding that "in the end we reached over 23.7 million people online, had over 20,000 knowledge participants, 382 entrepreneurs exhibit and over N10 million in Grants to budding entrepreneurs. The journey of the Hack has been fun and equally impactful".

The SABRE Awards for Superior Achievement in Reputation Management recognises public relations work that has played a central role in corporate strategy, positioning and messaging. In its submissions 9mobile demonstrated that its PR professionals took a lead role in creating and developing a corporate reputation platform and explain how that platform shifted perceptions, built stronger stakeholders' relationships, and ultimately contributed to corporate performance.

The Special Event/Sponsorship category recognises the creative spark and execution by brands and agencies in how to bring to life their ideas and strategy and propel their campaigns into the target audience consciousness, raising brand exposure and providing a competitive advantage.

9mobile had previously won Certificates of Excellence under the Corporate Social Responsibility category for its Health Talk Series and Health Workers Appreciation as well as Future CEO Initiative under the Technology category.

The 2024 Awards for Superior Achievement in Branding Reputation and Engagement (SABRE) will be held on May 16 in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire, on the sidelines of the annual Conference of the African

## First Set of Winners Emerge in PalmPay Eid Mobile Bonanza

By Rasaq Adebayo

PalmPay has announced the first set of winners in its ongoing Eid campaign tagged PalmPay Eid Bonanza, which kicked off on April 10th and will run until April 30th, 2024.

Since the start of the bonanza on April 10th, five lucky winners have been emerging daily simply by performing tasks on the PalmPay App such as transferring funds, airtime and data purchases, bill payments, and savings. Comfort Udoh from Lagos, one of the proud recipients of an iPhone 15 Pro, expressed her sheer delight. "I simply won by recharging my phone with airtime on the PalmPay app. I received the exciting news via a call from

PalmPay Nigeria. I thank them for the generous reward of a brand new iPhone 15 pro."

Also, Mr. Abegurin Patrick Segun's winning entry came about when he placed a N100 bet using his PalmPay app. It was a delightful surprise for him to receive a call from PalmPay Nigeria, informing him of his victory in the daily raffle draw, and he's now the proud owner of an Infinix Hot 40i.

To participate in the remaining weeks of the campaign, download the PalmPay App from Google Play or App Store. Sign up for an account and include your BVN or NIN to complete the process and click on the Eid Bonanza Feature.

There are still numerous

phones to be won daily, along with the bonus of daily free transfers to any bank via the PalmPay App.

Enakeno Umuteme, the Head of Marketing and Communications at PalmPay Nigeria, notes that "Our primary objective is to reward

and acknowledge our loyal customers. This campaign stays true to its promise of appreciating Nigerians who are PalmPay users."

PalmPay offers an array of services including money transfers, bill payments, credit

services, and savings on its app and via its mobile money agents.

Since its inception in Nigeria in 2019 under a Mobile Money Operator license, the platform has amassed over 30 million app users as part of its cashless payment ecosystem.





# Mohbad : Court Orders Mohbad's Wife to Undergo DNA Test

By Nurudeen Adebayo



ensuring she is aware of the ongoing legal proceedings. The Chief Magistrate granted the order, directing that Wunmi be served by posting the

court documents to her last-known address. The Aloba family is disputing the paternity of baby Liam and has filed an application before the Family

Court, seeking an order for Wunmi to present herself and baby Liam for a DNA test at a recognized laboratory in Lagos, as stated by Odumosu.

**A** Magistrate Court in Ikorodu, Lagos, has mandated that Wunmi, the wife of the late singer Mohbad, be served notice of a pending DNA test application through substituted means. In a statement released by Monisola Odumosu, a member of the legal

team representing the Aloba family, the court order was disclosed. Joseph Aloba, Mohbad's father, initiated the application through the family's legal team, seeking permission to serve Wunmi by posting all necessary court documents to her last-known address.

The statement outlined that despite attempts by the sheriff to serve Wunmi the court documents, they were unsuccessful. Emmanuel Oroko, leading the legal team, argued that serving Wunmi through her last-known address would constitute valid service,

## AOSTEM Centre Awards Scholarships To Ikorodu Youths

By Nurudeen Adebayo

**I**n a bid to foster educational empowerment and academic excellence among the youth, the Dr. Akin Ogunlewe Steam Education Center held a Media Press Conference today at its premises on Akin Ogunlewe Street in Igbogbo.

Led by the Director of the AOSTEM Center, Alhaji Qudus Oduntan, the event showcased the center's remarkable journey since its inception.

Over the past two years, the AOSTEM Center has successfully empowered over 200 students and plans to expand its reach further within the next five to seven years.

Highlighting its commitment to fostering

talent from an early age, the center announced full scholarships for outstanding primary school students, enabling them to advance to model colleges.

Moreover, the AOSTEM Center has forged collaborative partnerships with the Igbogbo Student Union to provide free WAEC and GCE classes, offering scholarships to deserving students up to the university level.

Recognizing the importance of digital skills in today's world, the center also offers free training to youth, ensuring they are equipped with essential skills and certifications.

Addressing the

audience, Alhaji Qudus Oduntan urged the youth to become ambassadors of the center, emphasizing the importance of being resourceful in their pursuits.

The event also featured seasoned educationist Mr. Adeyemi Benson, who praised Senator Adeseye Ogunlewe for his contributions to the development of Ikorodu Division, particularly the establishment of the CBT Resource Center.

Mr. Benson encouraged students to remain steadfast in their ambitions, emphasizing the significance of research and extensive studying, particularly in preparation for their upcoming computer-based JAMB exams.

## Ikorodu Commodities Expo Boosts Local Businesses

By Nurudeen Adebayo



**T**he inaugural edition of the Ikorodu Commodities Expo concluded triumphantly today after four days of celebrating local entrepreneurship and economic vitality within the Ikorodu division. The event Organized by the Ikorodu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the expo served as a dynamic platform for business owners to showcase their products and services, fostering growth and connectivity

across the region. Central to the success of the event was the generous sponsorship extended by the Ikorodu North Local Council Development Area (LCDA). Led by Builder Adé lá Adébiṣi Banj, the council's support enabled several business owners who had previously benefited from the council's entrepreneurial training and start-up assistance programs to participate

in the expo free of charge.

Builder Adé lá Adébiṣi Banj, the Executive Chairman of Ikorodu North LCDA, reaffirmed the council's commitment to supporting local businesses by personally attending the closing day festivities alongside counterparts from Ijede LCDA and Imota LCDA, Hon. Motunrayo Gbadebo-Alogba and Hon. Wasiu Agoro respectively.

Also present were Honourable Abimbola Adaramola, Councilor representing Ward E1 (Odogunyan), and Hon. Sulaimon Adewusi, the Council's Supervisor for Information.

During their visit, council officials actively engaged with exhibitors, showcasing their solidarity with the local business community by purchasing various items on display.





# Impending Flood: Ifako-Ijaiye Council Begins Clearing of Drains

Kehinde Adeleye



To prevent floods, the Ifako Ijaiye Local Government has started a vigorous drainage clearing project that would extend from the Pen-Cinema junction to College Road and Mokuolu Street in the Ogba district.

On Saturday, April 13,

2024, workers from the Ifako Ijaiye Local Government's Environmental Health Service Department continued to clear and desilt drainage along Pen-Cinema junction to College Road and Mokuolu Street, Ogba, Ifako Ijaiye.

According to Prince Usman Akanbi Hamzat,

the Chairman of Ifako Ijaiye Local administration, the administration is clearing drainage canals in the local government in anticipation of the impending rains.

He warned residents against dumping waste or refuse products into the drainage system, as this

reduces flooding issues, and explained that clearing and dredging the drainage channels and water channels became necessary to allow easy passage of rainstorm water.

The Chairman assured the locals that when the rains start, the water will flow into its natural

routes provided significant drainages, manholes, and canals are continuously cleared.

Additionally, he pleaded with everyone who had built any kind of device on drainage alignments and setbacks to either remove it right away or

get someone to do it for them.

He, therefore, called for a change of heart from the people, warning that the continued dumping of refuse in the canals and drains would come back to haunt them if they did not desist.

## Road Construction: Tijani, Emmanuel Seek Cooperation of Residents

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman of the Ojokoro LCDA, Mr. Hammed Idowu D. Tijani, and Mr. Olotu Emmanuel, the member of the Lagos State House of Assembly representing Ifako-Ijaiye II, met with stakeholders and residents of Taiwo Street in Moshallashi, Orile-Alagbado area of Ojokoro, in an attempt to ensure the successful completion of four separate upcoming road construction projects.

Securing the community's support and discussing the terms and processes involved in the initiatives was their main goal.

Tijani emphasized the need for cooperation while acknowledging the expenditures involved, especially as the LCDA plans to build three more highways.

Tijani Applauded the former assembly member and commissioner, Mr. Makinde, and thanked Mr. Babajide Sanwoolu, the governor of Lagos State, for always seeing to Ojokoro's needs.

It was Olanrewaju Rasheed Makinde and Mr. Salako that started the process that is currently transforming Taiwo Street.

Prince Jamiu Taiwo expressed reservations about the road's size and compensation during the meeting, particularly with

regard to the burial places along the setbacks.

Mrs. Ramota Adegoke, in the meantime, expressed gratitude to the Tijani led government for making the project possible and promised support by volunteering to bury her departed family members behind her building once construction gets underway.

The community also called attention to the serious problem of criminal activity in Taiwo and urged the government to step in to guarantee safety in tandem with development initiatives.

Although Tijani acknowledged that the development had been long overdue, she expressed confidence about the project's potential to improve community facilities and the local economy. She also expressed joy that the project is now moving forward.

He clarified the compensation process, emphasizing that individuals must prepare necessary documents and liaise with the appropriate authorities as the council is not in a

position to provide compensation directly.

Mr. Olotu Emmanuel reiterated that the road's size had been carefully determined for public benefit, featuring two lanes and one parking lane.

This statement was affirmed by Alhaji M. A. Kazeem, the Community Development Committee Representative, who cited numerous meetings with the Lagos State Urban Renewal Agency (LASURA) with the help of the Ojokoro LCDA officials that led to a reduction in the road's width to its present proposed structure.

Among the attendees were prominent figures such as the Orile-Alagbado Community Development Association Chairman, Mr. Bamigboye Adesina, Prof. Alelamil Akanni J, Chief Jubril Tijani, Deacon Ademiluyi Samuel, Mrs. Fakayode Bolanle, L/Evang. M.M Ayinla-Fakayode, Mr. Olumakinwa Oyekola, Mr. Taoheed Tijani, Archbishop (DR) G.A Faleye (JP), Oyekola Adeniyi Julius, Mr. Femi Olawale Babatunde, Mrs Oyekola Idowu, Mrs. Kehinde Eniola, Mrs. Ademuyiwa Balikis, and Mrs. Afusat Adeyemi.

On the flip side, Mr. Jelili Oseni; Ojokoro LCDA APC Party Chairman, Mr. Coker Oladipo, Vice-Chairman of the council, and Mr. Tunde Oyekunle, Leader of the Legislative arm of the LCDA, Comrade Kolajo Omisore and the HOD Agriculture and Rural Services; Mrs. Akonye E.O were also present at the meeting and reaffirming Tijani-led administration's commitment to the project's success.

## Olabinjo Empowers POS Operators in Ifako-Ijaiye

Kehinde Adeleye



The Member of the House of Representatives for the Ifako-Ijaiye Federal Constituency, Mr. Benjamin Adeyemi Olabinjo, has extended his commitment to supporting financial inclusivity, the economic growth of entrepreneurs, traders, and small-scale business owners in his community - all in line

with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda.

Olabinjo has given the recently empowered point-of-sale (POS) operators a platform in his cooperative structure.

During the process of integrating the new members into the system, BAO stated

that the platform will significantly improve their business by enabling them to set more ambitious goals and practice financial discipline.

The excited POS operators were full of praises and appreciation for this gesture especially when heard that Mr. Olabinjo has sponsored their membership registration to the tune of N150,000.

Echonews reports that few months ago, Mr. Benjamin Adeyemi Olabinjo (BAO) empowered 25 persons with POS machines coupled with N30,000 take-off capital for each person.



# Court Restrains Police From Arresting Epe Royal Family Head

By Mohammed Adekola

A Lagos State High Court sitting in Epe has restrained the Inspector General of Police, IGP and his officers from arresting, detaining or inviting Otunba Abduwasiu Musa-Adebamowo in connection with his headship of Ewade Ruling House of Igboye. The IGP was also restrained from doing or taking any action against his powers and rights of management of the family landed property in Abapawa, Gbojuwara, Talase, Idotun and Legumo villages of Igboye land, in Epe Eredo, Lagos State.

Justice Wasiu Animahun, who issued the restraining orders in a judgment in a suit by



the applicant, said the order would subsist until the determination of the suit on which the order of injunction was made.

Others restrained by

the order of injunction by the court include Assistant Inspector-General of Police (Force CID Annex, Alagbon Close, Ikoyi, Lagos State); Assistant

Inspector-General of Police (Zone 2 Headquarters, Onikan, Lagos State); Commissioner of Police (Lagos State Command, Ikeja, Lagos

State); Commissioner of Police (Special Fraud Unit), Milverton Road, Ikoyi, Lagos State); Deputy Commissioner of Police (State Criminal Investigation Department, Panti, Yaba) and the Area Commander, Nigeria Police Force (Area J Command, Elemoro, Lagos State) who were listed as 2nd to 7th defendants in the suit.

The court granted an order restraining the 1st to 7th respondents and their officer, men and agents from harassing, intimidating, inviting, arresting, detaining and compelling the applicant to render account of the family landed property

to the 8th to 14th respondents under whatever guise or means, until the final determination of the suit. Justice Animahun also restrained the 1st to 7th respondents and their officers, men and agents from re-investigating the applicant on the same criminal allegation made against the applicant. by the 8th to 14th respondents and/or their privies and cohorts in respect of the management of the account of the family landed property, until the determination of the suit in which an order of interlocutory injunction was made.

A sum of N2million was also awarded as cost of action jointly and severally against the 8th – 17th respondents.

# Community Jubilates as Raji Breaks Ground For New Classrooms

By Mohammed Adekola

Epe federal constituency Representative at the Green Chamber, Hon. Wale Raji, marked a significant milestone with the groundbreaking ceremony for a new block of six classrooms at Community High School, Igbooye. The event, held on Tuesday, April 16th, 2024, attracted a multitude of political, religious, and community leaders, underscoring the project's importance in advancing education and community development.

The House of Rep member emphasized the project's significance, stating,



"It's simply meeting the needs of our people, our intervention is not limited to education. We have a special interest in education because it is going to prepare the young ones for the challenges of the future." His commitment to

educational empowerment resonated with attendees, reflecting a dedication to equipping the youth with the tools for success.

Former Chairman of Erdo LCDA and Director of LASACO Assurance PLC, Hon.

Adeniyi Saliu, praised Rep. Raji's exemplary leadership, expressing optimism for further developmental strides in Igbooye. He remarked, "The MHR has gone beyond limits," underscoring the transformative impact of the lawmaker's

initiatives on the community's progress.

Addressing the significance of the classroom block, the revered Adegbojo of Odogbawojo, HRM Oba Adelani Adeniyi, emphasized its vital role in enhancing educational opportunities for students and uplifting the entire community. His endorsement underscored the project's far-reaching benefits, fostering a brighter future for generations to come.

Pa Oguntimehin hailed Raji's relentless efforts to advance education in Igbooye. However, he lamented the existing disparities in accessing democratic dividends

despite overwhelming electoral support. His sentiments echoed the community's aspirations for equitable development and inclusive growth.

Representatives from the education sector, including the Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary of Education District II, Dr. Idowu Oyetola, who was represented by Mrs. Mosunmola Adefuye, commended Rep. Raji's initiative, recognizing its potential to elevate educational standards and empower the youth. Their endorsement underscored the collaborative efforts driving progress in Igbooye's educational landscape.



# Mushin LG Public Servants Get Free Medical Screening

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government has provided free medical services for public servants to prevent sudden health issues in the workforce.

The programme, conducted monthly, offered various services such as health education, counseling, screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, HIV, eye health, COVID-19 vaccination, medical consultation, tuberculosis screening, family planning, free drugs, and cervical cancerscreening.

Participants, including staff from different agencies and security personnel, received free drugs and eye glasses.

The initiative aims to

monitor the health of the workforce and refer secondary cases to the state's general hospital for further treatment.

Echonewa gathered that the program has effectively reduced emergency health cases and sudden deaths among the local government staff.

The Chairman who is dedicated to improving health services in Mushin, as evidenced by the provision of equipment to the Mushin General Hospital and primary healthcare centers, as well as the delivery of upgraded ambulances for emergency operations.

The free medical screening witnessed massive turnout from staff across the Area office in Mushin Local Government.



## Medical Services: Mushin LG Civil Servants Commends Bamigboye

By Saheed Afolabi



The staff and political office holders in Mushin LG have commended the council

chairman Emmanuel Bamigboye for the monthly free medical services availed to them.

The civil servants enjoyed the Free Medical services provided by the Executive Chairman of

Mushin Local as part of measures to curtail sudden health challenges among the workforce.

The programme which is a monthly exercise, included Health Education and Counselling, Blood Pressure Check, Blood Sugar Check, HIV Screening, Eye Screening with Free Eye glasses, COVID - 19 Vaccination, Medical Consultation, Tuberculosis Screening, Family Planning, Provision of free drugs and Cervical Cancer Screening. Staff of Mushin Local Government, political office holders at the council, staff of other agencies and parastatals working in Mushin and other security personnel went home with free drugs and eye glasses. The programme is a monthly exercise which

aims at monitoring the health status of the workforce in Mushin Local Government and ensures that secondary cases are referred to the state's general hospital at Oliyide for further treatment. Since its inception, the programme has helped to reduce the number of emergency health cases and sudden death among staff of the Local Government. Recently, the chairman presented laboratory equipment to the management of Mushin General Hospital. He also gave medical equipments to the seven Primary Healthcare Centres in Mushin with delivery of 3 refurbished and upgraded Ambulances for emergency operations.



# Two Soldiers Arrested For Stealing Cables at Dangote Refinery

By Mohammed Adekola



Two personnel of the Nigerian Army have been arrested for vandalising and stealing armoured cables at the Dangote Refinery in Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos. The suspects are identified as CPL Innocent Joseph and

L/CPL Jacob Gani. Dangote Refinery owned by Dangote Group was inaugurated on the 22nd of May 2023 in the Ibeju-Lekki area of Lagos State. When in full operation, it is expected to have the capacity to process

about 650,000 barrels per day of crude oil, making it the largest single-train refinery in the world. The investment is worth over \$19 billion.

According to a military signal, the soldiers were arrested on Tuesday 16th of April after they were caught moving out of the facility with 897 armoured cables cut to size.

The signal read, "On 16/04/2024, two military personnel named CPL Innocent Joseph and L/CPL Jacob Gani, who were identified to be working with

DFL/Refinery came into the facility with one Acura jeep with registration number LAGOSJJJ 594 HS.

"On the process of exiting the DFL main gate during the routine search, they were caught with eight hundred and ninety seven cut to sizes armoured cable.

"During investigation, they confessed to get this cable at the refinery with the help of one Smart which is at large. The vehicle is under custody together with the exhibits.

"The OC Army have been informed and the soldiers have been taken to custody while investigation continues.

# Bet9ja Chairman Hails Organizers of Idera Dee Football Fiesta

By Mohammed Adekola

Gaming mogul Hon. Kunle Soname (Bet9ja Chairman), lauded the organizers of the 17th Annual Idera Dee Football Competition in Epe on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, reiterating his commitment to continually partner with other organizations to entrench peaceful coexistence via football and other sports.

Soname, the event's chairman, who was represented by Mr Tijani Hammed (Super Agent of Bet9ja in Epe), hailed the tournament as a standout affair. Highlighting the bond football creates among Nigerians, he underscored the importance of sports in promoting peace among communities.

"There is no gain saying, that this event is one of its kind in the Epe division. The entire



division and beyond have always looked forward to this competition, which also coincides with the holy month of Ramadan. Also, to have held 17 editions of this special event is highly commendable. On this note, I give kudos to the Idera Dee Foundation under the tutelage of our very own amiable Hon. Segun Agbaje. God bless you, sir."

In a rallying call, Hon. Soname urged corporate organizations, individuals, and stakeholders to invest in football and similar events to promote societal development. He thanked the Epe Divisional Football Association, the Epe Referees Association, and the leadership of the Epe Local Government under Princess Surah

Animashaun for facilitating a peaceful environment for the tournament.

"The unity football brings among us all, whether indigenes, residents, visitors, and all sundry, cannot be overemphasised. Football unites all. I want to, therefore, call on all corporate organisations, well-meaning people, as well as stakeholders in our

communities to invest in football in our society, especially in the aspect of organizing other beautiful competitions similar to this, facilities, and talent development.

"This will go a long way in making our society better in ways we can't imagine. Conclusively, I appreciate the Epe Divisional Football Association, (EDFA), the body of Epe Referees, and most importantly, the Epe Local Government in general, under the chairmanship of Hon. Surah Animashaun, for creating a peaceful environment for this event. This is because no good thing thrives in a hostile setting," he said.

The Bet9ja team gifted branded souvenirs to outstanding performers and organizers. Recreation FC emerged victorious, with Kingsley Denis of Noforija FC earning the

Top Goalscorer award and Ogundimu Jamiu named MVP. Erepto FC received recognition as the Most Disciplined Team, highlighting the competition's commitment to fair play.

Dr. Akeem Shittu, the Chairman of LASUBEB, Hon. Adeola Jokomba, the Secretary of Lagos APC, and Hon. Kehinde Adeniyi, the Welfare Secretary of Lagos APC, along with other stakeholders. The joyful gathering marked the successful conclusion of yet another thrilling edition of the Idera Dee Football Competition.

Bet9ja's commitment to the Idera Dee Foundation signifies a shared vision of promoting peaceful coexistence in the Epe Division through sports. Together, they strive to harness the unifying power of football to create a harmonious and prosperous community for all.





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# Akinsanya Reiterates Commitment To Road Development In Egan

By Edith Igbokwe

Residents of Dosu Ekunrin Road in the Egan area of Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have appreciated the LCDA chairman, Comrade Lasisi Akinsanya to have embarked on road construction in their community. According to reports, the numerous landmark projects of Akinsanya across the LCDA have won the heart of most of the constituents. Reports also stated that the road has experienced neglect for several years, considering the road relevance and its commercial and traffic decongestion possibilities, attention was given to its rehabilitation. As the ongoing road construction is in progress, Akinsanya reiterated his commitment to the overall development of Igando-Ikotun LCDA.



## Jelili Adds New Feather To His Cap

By Edith Igbokwe

Member of the House of Representatives representing the Alimosho Federal Constituency who also doubles as the Deputy Chairman of the House Committee on Interior, Hon. Ganiyu Ayuba (Mayor KK) has congratulated the Chairman of Alimosho Local Government Area, Hon. Sulaimon Jelili on his Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) Degree from the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) Lagos State Ayuba stated in a statement: "I congratulate my dear brother and political ally, Hon. Jelili Sulaimon, on his graduation from the National Open University of Nigeria with a Bachelor of Laws Degree. It is, indeed, a great achievement and more feathers have been added to the cap. "He has been a committed humanitarian, a quintessential administrator, and a progressive politician. His outstanding support, dedication, and commitment to the affairs of our people remain



exemplary and noteworthy. "I wish him all the best in the noble profession and all his future endeavours to positively impact humanity." Few months back, it was announced that jelili will be graduating after completing all course work and projects for the B.LL.B (Common law) programme in NOUN. He was pronounced a graduate of the institution at a convocation ceremony held at the convocation arena of the institution on Saturday, April 12. Well wishers stated that Jelili remains a testament to the fact that one can be whatever he/ she wants to be regardless of ones schedule and the activities ahead of one. They affirm that Jelili remains a true motivation to the youth and everyone who appreciates personal development.

## Igando-Ikotun NYCN Cleans up Environment

By Edith Igbokwe

The National Youth Council of Nigeria, Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area (LCDA) Branch has taken clean up exercise to Igando BRT Bus Stop. According to reports, the exercise is the second edition of its cleanup and breakfast initiative tagged "Igando Cleanup2.0!" Interested volunteers were invited to participate in the course to ensure efficient clean up exercise for a cleaner community. The clean up exercise cut across Igando BRT Bus Stop axis, cleaning

up the dirty environment and it's axis within. The Host of the event, Igando-Ikotun NYCN Coordinator, Comr. Muh'd Mustapha appreciated participants that made themselves available for the clean up exercise.



# Agege Council Boss Promises To Complete Ongoing Projects

Kehinde Adeleye

Ongoing projects started by the Mr. Egunjobi led government within Agege Local Government Area were inspected by the Chairman Mr. Ganiyu Egunjobi and Mr. Gbenga Abiola, his deputy alongside Council's Supervisor for Works. The Chairman visited some locations where

current projects are ongoing, such as the Agege Maternity Center, where the contractors reassured the Chairman that they would beat the project delivery deadline. Additionally, the team made an impromptu visit to the Agege Nursery and Primary School Play Center, where renovation is underway.

The Council Chairman stated that the primary school project's goal is to give students at the school a comfortable environment for learning and pleasure. Since doing so would enhance their mental health and alertness. The group then proceeded to Akerele Street to examine the current road and drainage construction



# Agege LGA Empowers 100 Residents With N100m

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman of Agege Local Government, Mr. Ganiyu Kola Egunjobi has empowered one hundred residents with cash sum of N100,000.00 (One hundred thousand naira) each. The Supervisor for Women Affairs & Poverty Alleviation

department of the council, Alhaja Aramide Abdulsalam, represented the council chairman at the presentation ceremony on Friday, April 12, 2024. She stated that the financial assistance is a part of the commendable programs that the Egunjobi led administration has

been implementing since its inception. Alhaja Abdulsalam pleaded with the recipients to use the money wisely in order to lessen hardships. The recipients took turns thanking Council Chairman Egunjobi for his care for the underprivileged in the Agege community at large.

project.

The people of Akerele, led by Alh Lateef Otubu, also referred to as 'Eba Agege', showed the Chairman a great deal of appreciation and praised him for the ongoing street renovation.

The group also went to the Papa-Uku Maternity Center to observe the extensive renovations of work done there. Before the end of the day's ongoing projects tour the chairman, led his team to see how far

the contractor awarded the Road Construction project at Oredapo street has gone. At Oredapo street, the team met all the workers working vigorously to ensure it complete the work on time. Addressing the people and available pressmen after the end of the projects tour, the council boss assures all that his administration will not rest on its hoax, until the developmental

face of Agege improves more than it is, as his terms as the helmsman at the Council ends next year. In the projects tour entourage with the Council boss were the Vice Chairman Agege Local Govt Council, Mr. Gbenga Abiola, Council Chief Engineer, Engnr Adesanya Adé lá Sulaimon, M.O.H. Dr Aiyebusi Oluwabunmi and the Councilor representing Ward C Agege, Mr Haruna Adeshina.

# Top UTME Candidate To Benefit From Ahmed Scholarship

Kehinde Adeleye

The Lawmaker representing Agege Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, Dr. Wale Ahmed, has volunteered to award university scholarships to worthy students from his constituency who have the highest JAMB scores. The Agege political leader and Speaker of the Lagos Assembly, Rtn. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, is the

donor of the scholarship, the federal legislator said. According to Mr. Hammed, "Rtn. Obasa leadership has brought various dividends of democracy to Agege and Lagos at large both in human and infrastructure development" Scholarships to study at any state or federal university would be made available to the

students with the highest JAMB score across all political wards. This is in fulfilment of his promises to his constituents to encourage indigent students from Agege Federal Constituency towards their education pursuit. "This scholarship will encourage and motivate them to do more in future and also serve as an example to other students in Agege"



# Jimi Solanke: The Indestructible

## by Oluwatoyin Sutton

**B**iography and autobiography are one genre of literary work that succinctly depict the originality of a persona.

Books that give vivid accounts of the person in question and relive his or her activities within and beyond humanity.

But when a biography presents a movie and the personality in the book becomes the lead character, the credit is better shared with the author of the book.

In "Jimi Solanke; The Indestructible", the author, Toyin Sutton, has indirectly created a movie script out of the life of one of the Nigerian great dramatists; singer and a creative mind, Sir Olujimi Adeboye Solanke.

Knowingly or unknowingly, Sutton captures the rebellious beginning of a tough but focused persona that would end as a drama hero, singer, storyteller and role model to generation unborn.

In her 354 page-book, divided into 10 parts of 66 chapters, Sutton revives Solanke's early beginning in the first part, "The Early Years 1942-1959" with 12 chapters that opens up the birth and time of the great singer at Olowogbowo area of Lagos, his decision to follow his mind instead of the plan his father had for him.

Part two of the biography captures the movement of Solanke to Ibadan with the title, "Ibadan: the

emergency years" after a series of battles with his father, which of course led to the separation of his parents. This part consists 18 chapters that begins with description of Ibadan as a city of seven hills,

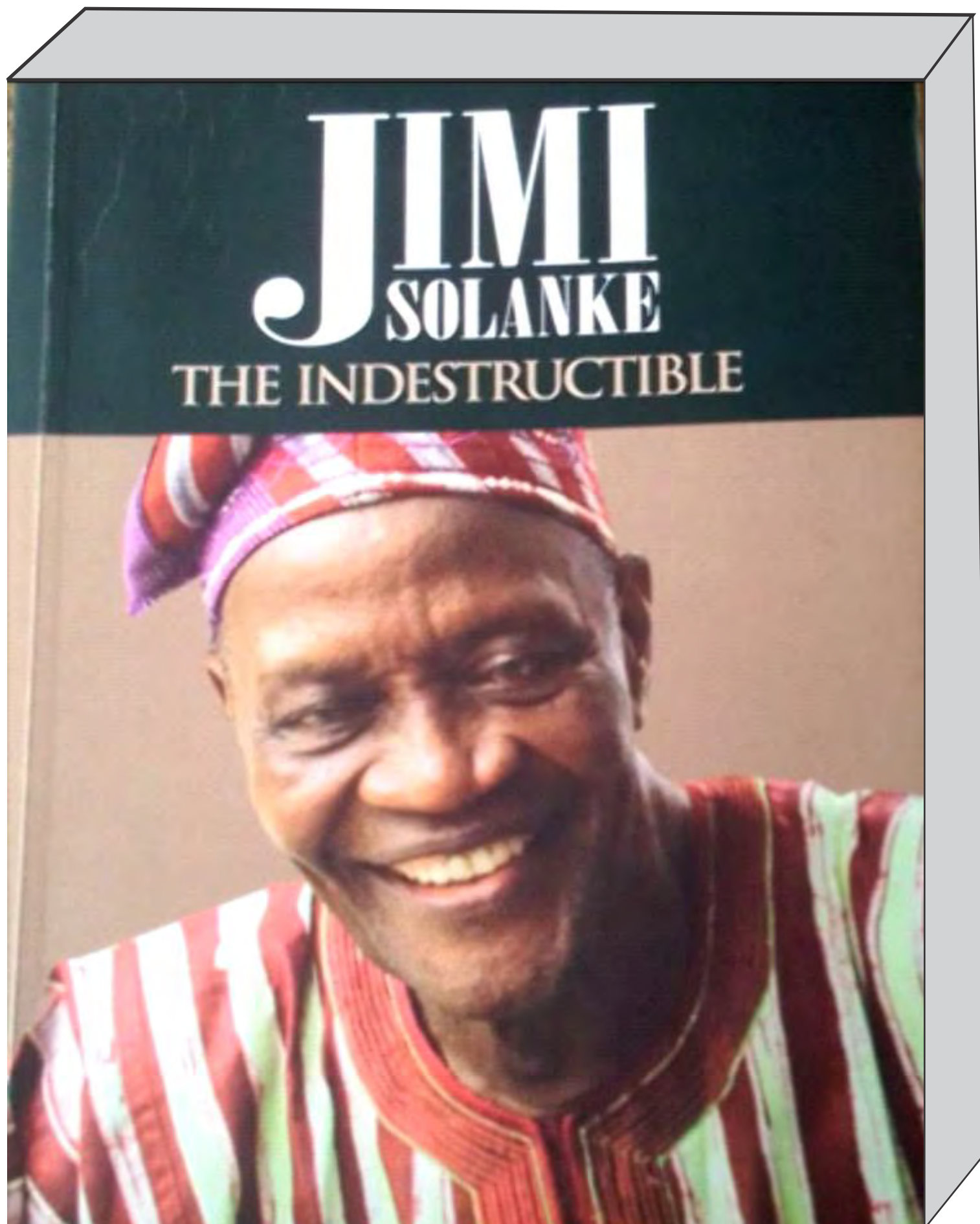
the sojourn of Solanke at Caxton Printing Press, his abandonment of this job as an assistant engineer and his road to highlife, radio and television. It is in this part that Solanke first met Professor Wole

Soyinka, who would later become his God sent angel towards realising his dreams. From the opening chapters, the author begins to show her power of description, which of course makes the book more

engaging with intermittent quotes from Solanke himself and those he met across his various endeavours.

For instance, on page 20, Solanke was quoted as saying,

"During my elementary school, I had everything I wanted. I remember I could walk into Kingsway stores or UTC and buy whatever I wanted. Those were the times I enjoyed my parents tremendously"





# Jimi Solanke: The Indestructible

## by Oluwatoyin Sutton

Each chapter is filled with memorable events as it happens in the same part two when Solanke met his first lover and mother of his first three children, Bisi. The part also tells much of Solanke's apprenticeship under Soyinka at Orisun Theatre.

Part three of the book captures Solanke's sojourn at Ori Olokun, one of Professor Ola Rotimi's projects, at the University of Ife, now Obafemi Awolowo University. This contains 10 chapters and it details Solanke's lead role in two major plays, Kurunmi and Oba Ovonramwen Nogbaisi that eventually catapulted him to limelight.

Here, Sutton's capacity for quality research is handy. Her writing style, her use of language to graphically illustrate the mood of Solanke even in the most terrible times as put in the book evoke nostalgia that will live on our mind for a long time to come.

The author mentions dates, places, names of almost all the people that Solanke came across and worked with within and outside Nigeria.

The author did a lot of researches, writing from what she had gathered from Solanke himself, his friends, bosses, parents, wives, children to what she knows through her practical experience and visits to places and people.

This reflects in the opening of every chapter in which she writes about places, things, personalities as it affects Solanke's life and activities. Sutton, just like Solanke, immersed herself into this book

and breathed life into it. For instance on page 88, "Professor Soyinka And The 1960 Masks: Where it all began, Solanke was quoted as saying" In fact, what drew me into theatre I think is the sense of community. You build a community when you are in commercial theatre. People come to audition from all over the place. The first thing for me is to work at creating a community for a particular purpose."

Part six of the book paints the relocation of Solanke from Nigeria to the United States after FESTAC 77. His performance as a stage actor at the FESTAC 77 had attracted friends beyond Nigeria, including America that would make him to fly abroad to promote the black culture, especially the Yoruba mythology.

This book details Solanke's strength, excitement, challenges, predicament and weakness. The eight chapters in this part, with the title "America", reminisces the resilience of a man who is set to prove naysayers wrong that he can succeed anywhere using his talent to break all barriers. Of course, his five years in the USA gave birth to his African Review, a project he must abandon to save his own life over a jealous American wife, Betty.

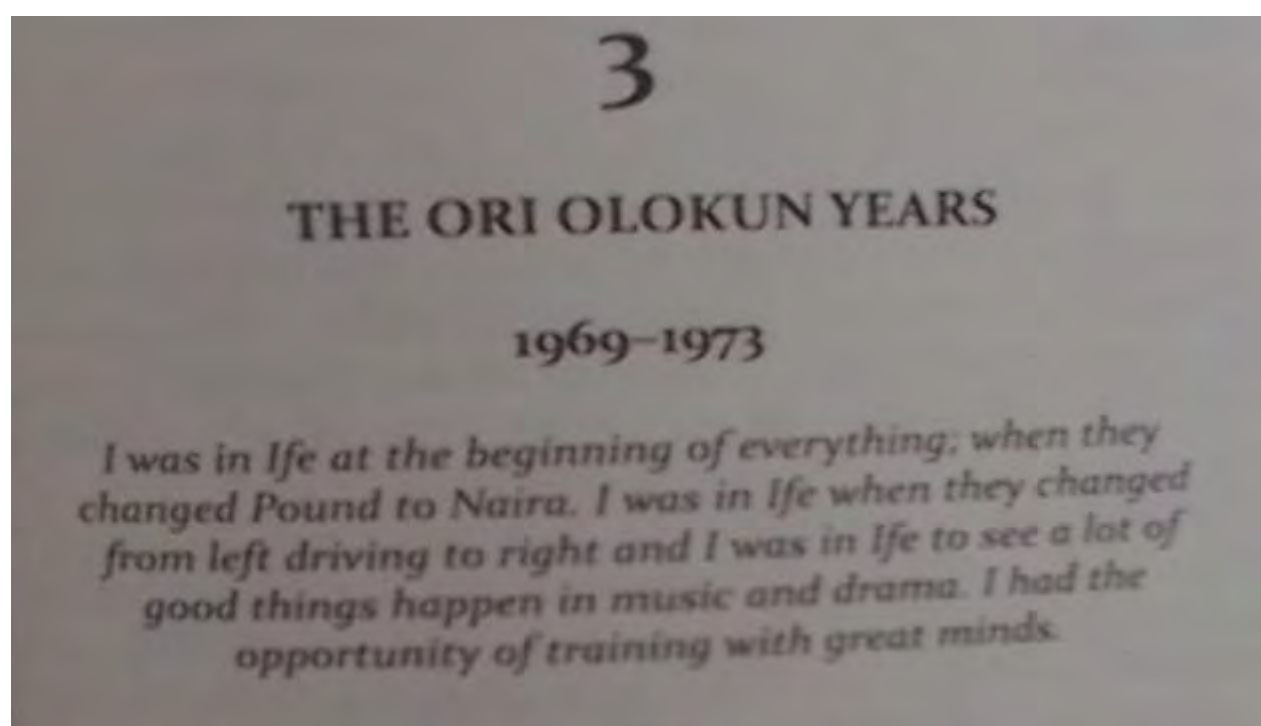
The author, Sutton, must have deliberately created many chapters, using short statements and lesser pages to lure the readers to want to read more. From one part to another; one chapter to another; the author slides into new experiences and findings about Solanke's

professional, social and love lives that continue to glue our eyes to the book.

Jimi Solanke: The Indestructible is thoroughly edited with a few or no typographical errors or visible grammatical gaffes. It is printed on quality paper that easily supports the resolution of the old photographs provided by Solanke,

In Part seven, Sutton writes on Solanke's spirituality even though she has kept on highlighting this in previous chapters. It is in this chapter "The return to Ile-Ife: The spiritual home" that the author infuses her deep knowledge of the ancient town. She must have spent a lot of time with Solanke to know that the foremost dramatist worships Sango while his former boss, Soyinka believes in Ogun, the two revered deities in Yoruba land.

Published by Bookcraft, Jimi Solanke-The Indestructible defines a man who knew where he was going from childhood and got there against all odds.







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