

Oshodi 2021: I'll use woman power to influence development - Ajibade

PG.7

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Communities Edition - Oshodi, Isolo & Ejigbo

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Monday 22nd February - Sunday 28th February 2021

# YOUTH DRUG ABUSE WORRIES DOCTORS



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We'll break APC dominance in Isolo, PDP councillorship aspirant, KC Marshal

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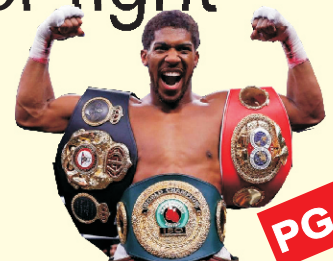
Olowogboyega of Ijeshatedo school emerges Best Principal

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Councillors urge residents to protect govt projects

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Anthony Joshua and Deontay Wilder fight will happen in 2022 – Hearn



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## Forever in our hearts

### EMINENT DOTUN ORIOWO

October 30, 1958 - February 10, 2021

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# Youth Drug Abuse Worries Doctors

By Saheed Afolabi

At 6:00am, every day, Omoniyi Adeetan (not real name) and his gang arrive at the Ejigbo mini stadium for their usual sport: smoking cannabis and drinking local gin.

Adeetan 21, shocked the EchoneWS reporter when he said he started smoking weed at 9 years and has no plan of kicking the habit.

To fund his habit, he does menial jobs and begs for alms from patrons of relaxation centres around the town.

"But it's not every time I get from them. I don't think I can stop my drinking and smoking habit because it's what I do everyday," he insisted.

Adeetan, hooked on cannabis, tramadol and codeine, represents youths who should be in school pursuing academic laurels or learning vocations as apprentices but lost to the drug world.

They pose a serious threat to innocent teenagers who are stepping out of the protective custody of their parents, curious and adventurous in their search to discover their environment.

Adeetan confessed to EchoneWS that similar peer pressure led him to become an addict too helpless to summon the courage to walk away from his bad ways.

Not less than 40 percent of the 2.1 million of the population of Oshodi-Isolo are below 25 years thus raising serious concerns about the exposure of teens to drug abuse in the area

ECHONEWS gathered that similar acts are being carried out by the youths in other areas such as Owoseni Primary School in Oshodi and some other schools without good fences and gates which they have turned to their abodes.

Other places within Oshodi-Isolo where drugs are being taken freely by the under-aged youths identified by ECHONEWS include a spot beside the LASTMA Secretariat.

Teenagers between the ages of 14 and 17 years form a group and gather as early as 5:30am

to smoke cannabis at the spot while using their Bluetooth hand speaker to play music and threaten anyone who dares them.

But what surprised our correspondent who visited the spot was that officers of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) frequently patrol the place but turned a blind eye to the group of boys.

Another abode of drug abusers is located at Jakande Estate Oke-Afa Ejigbo, where scores of youths freely engage in the illicit act.

In the course of this investigation, our correspondent discovered that women of easy virtue also create drug abuse hubs.

Our correspondent visited a hotel located at Mechanic Village at Bungalow area of Jakande Estate, Ejigbo.

Our correspondent met a sex worker who gave her name as Precious from Bayelsa State.

She confessed to taking marijuana before night falls and some bottles of local gin to prepare her for customers at night.

"I came to Lagos from Bayelsa one year ago and I decided to be a sex worker to make ends meet," she explained.

In order for Precious not to get suspicious, our correspondent ordered for a bowl of pepper soup for her so as to get more information from her.

Precious then continued: "I decided to be a sex worker to make ends meet and I take more than five wraps of cannabis and three small plastic bottles of Origin bitter to take me all night. I can't do without taking it as that is what will make me stand well all night. I charge between N1,000 and N1,500 for a short time and



N5,000 or N7,000 for a whole night depending on how my customer negotiates."

Our correspondent escaped Precious' seduction to have sex with her by telling her to allow him get recharge card outside just to leave the hotel as Precious was already pestering him to engage her in commercial sex.

Precious found herself in the mess due to parents negligence, her greed and peer group influence.

The problem of drug abuse bothers the community leaders.

Speaking with ECHONEWS, the Chairman of Ejigbo Community Development Committee (CDC), Prince Jelili Atiku, said drug abuse has become a serious challenge in Oshodi, Isolo and Ejigbo communities.

He claimed that parents are the major factors contributing to the increasing menace of drug abuse and other vices in the society.

According to him, many affected youths lack parental care and guidance which make them fall victims of circumstance.

Atiku, therefore, urged the governments to take urgent measures to curb the menace which, he said, is gradually destroying the future of the youths.

He added that many children are influenced by the environment populated by drug addicts.

He further advised that governments should identify the black spots in the communities and take over such areas from the hoodlums to save other innocent children living in the area from being influenced.

He said drug abusers are prone to violence and stealing to maintain their expensive habit.

Explaining drug use, an Isolo based medical doctor, Doctor Giwa Idris, said drug abuse can have a wide range of short and

long term, direct and indirect effects.

These effects, according to him, often depend on the specific drug or drugs used, how they are taken, how much is taken, the person's health and other factors.

He also differentiated between drug abuse and drug dependence or addiction, saying drug dependence or addiction indicates a psychological or physical dependence on the drug to function.

He explained: "Short term effects range from changes in appetite, wakefulness, heart rate, blood pressure, heart attack, stroke, psychosis, overdose, and even death.

"These health effects may occur after just one use.

"Long term effects can include heart or lung disease, cancer, mental illness, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and others. Long term drug use can lead to drug addiction.

"Drug addiction is a brain

disorder, not everyone who uses drugs will become addicted, but for some, drug use can change how certain brain circuits work.

"These brain changes interfere with how people experience normal pleasures in life such as food and sex, their ability to control their stress level, their decision making, their ability to learn and remember.

"These changes make it much more difficult for someone to stop taking the drug even when it's having negative effects on their life and they want to quit it.

"For the psychological effects, because they are dependent on the drugs, they are prone to disorders, depression. And the only thing they think about is using the drug. Some become withdrawn from the society thereby causing depression.

"Drug abuse also tears the abusers apart with some having personality disorder and immune disorder. Drug abusers come up with violent attitudes or approaches and there is a risk of harm to self and others. They also engage in homosexual habit, unprotected sex and they begin to exhibit dangerous behaviours as being normal.

He added: "Drug is any substance that is chemical, that means it has consequential effects on the body cells. Any substance that is a chemical and has consequential effect on the body

He added that parents, education and religious institutions must also play an important role to address the issue of drug abuse holistically but should not place the whole burden on the government alone.

## Mrs John bags SUBEB award for outstanding teaching

By Edith Igbokwe

A teacher in Hope Primary School, a public primary school in Oshodi, Mrs. Elejo John, who was awarded by the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB), for her outstanding teaching, has promised to work harder to

justify the award.

The primary five teacher was spotted by the Board and recommended for the award during its inspection of the schools in the local government area.

The award, according to the Board in its report to the head teacher of the school, Mrs. Titilayo Oyebo, is based on

the competence of the awardee and her teaching techniques.

Speaking with ECHONEWS on the award, John said she appreciated the award because it was given in recognition of her committed efforts in the teaching profession.

She said she has always been working with conscience, doing what would make the pupils'

lives brighter in the future and contribute to their morality.

She, therefore, advised other teachers to be hardworking and more dedicated to the service of teaching and most importantly, to take the pupils as they would take their children so as to establish the cordial relationship to enhance teaching and learning process.

Commenting on the honour, the headteacher said it is a well-deserved honour, confirming that the awardee truly merits the award.

She said she can confidently recommend the awardee in any aspect of the teaching profession because she is competent and always ready to accept any additional work.



# Release timetable for LG election, Olaifa charges LASIEC

By Damiola Kushimo

The Chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area (LGA), Hon. Sunday Olaifa has called on the Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission (LASIEC) to release the timetable for the local government election in the state to disclaim the rumour that the election might not hold. Olaifa claimed that there have been insinuations that the state may impose a caretaker

committee after the expiration of the incumbent political office holders in the local government areas across the state.

In a chat with ECHONEWS, the PDP chairman explained that any further delay in the release of the election timetable is a sign of unpreparedness for the election that could make the state government unconstitutionally set up interim council committees when the tenure of the incumbents elapse in July.

Olaifa, who is the Chair of Chair of PDP Lagos State LGA ed as

Chairmen and the National Deputy Chairman of PDP 774 LGA Chairmen emphasised that it is unconstitutional to have caretaker committees in place calling on the state government and LASIEC to ensure that the election is freely and fairly conducted as and when due.

His words: "It is completely unconstitutional to have caretaker committees across all LGAs and LCDAs in the state and our party is saying a big no to that because the constitution clearly explained e

that there must be elected representatives of the people to represent their interests.

"To further substantiate this, President Muhammadu Buhari, through the Attorney General, came out with an official position recently stating clearly that it's not only illegal to have caretaker committees in place of elected political office holders but it's unlawful and there should be elections as soon as possible so that we will have elected representatives of the people in the councils. By now we expect that the

timetable should be out to define how the election will go but we don't have that up till now which is very unfortunate. What we are saying, as a party, is that LASIEC, In a matter of days, should release the timetable for the local government elections. It is very important.

"The tenure of the current otal

political office holders comes to an end in the first week of July. There's no substitution, you cannot have a caretaker chairman or Executive Secretary, it's an aberration and a total disregard of the constitution of this country. I want to believe that the authority in Lagos will not do what's unconstitutional."

## Akhabhoa urges residents to donate blood

By Damiola Kushimo

The Medical Director/CEO of Isolo General Hospital, Dr. Godwin Akhabhoa, has made a passionate appeal to members of the public to embrace voluntary blood donation to save lives.

Dr Akhabhoa made the appeal during a voluntary blood donation drive organised by the hospital in conjunction with Lifebank.

Speaking on the theme: "Give blood, save life", the Medical Director said blood is life and is constantly needed to save lives.

According to him, the purpose of the voluntary blood donation campaign is to sensitize the general public on the need and importance of voluntary blood donation and to encourage them to embrace the same.

He noted that blood is needed in emergency cases most times, calling on the public to not only donate blood, but to also join in sensitising their friends and families on the need to donate blood.

Also speaking, the Assistant Director Laboratory Services, Mrs Omolara Eniyewun, said the need and importance of blood donation cannot be over emphasized.

She said: "If for no other reason, the love for our neighbours should propel people to donate blood voluntarily."

One of the donors, the Principal Auditor of the hospital, Mr. Sogunro Oluseye, said he has so far donated blood 27 times.

Another donor, Mr. Alayande Ayandoyin, said he has been donating blood since 2012 and has so far donated 27 times also. He said it is his own way to help humanity, adding that the thought of saving life encourages him to keep donating blood.

Another regular donor, Dr. Timothy Abodunde of Isolo General Hospital said that he has



Dr. Akhabhoa attending to a donor

so far donated over five times.

He said he had donated for a woman who was bleeding after a hysterectomy and especially for the People Living With HIV (PLWHIV).

"I feel lighter, healthier and happy after each blood donation," he said.

A first time donor, Clara Chukwudi said: "This is my first time I have donated blood. For me, finding ways to help people in my community has been my dream. Although I have not had anyone who needed blood, I have always wanted to find ways to help people in need of blood."

Mr David Anozie, a brand developer and digital advertising practitioner, said the need to save lives had motivated him to donate blood four times.

He narrated how his younger brother was attacked and stabbed by armed robbers, and was transfused with blood when he was rushed to the hospital.

He said his brother would have died if there were no blood.

The Medical Director said all the donors were certified medically fit, adding that their blood samples tested before they were allowed to donate.

Besides donating blood to save lives, he said donors have a number of health benefits which include reduction in risk of cancer, low cholesterol level, replenishes blood, enhances production of new blood cells and helps burn up to 650 calories per donation.

## US begins mentorship programme for AUD students

By Damiola Kushimo

The United States Government through its International Visitor leadership Programme Alumni Association (IVLP) has begun a leadership and mentorship programme for students of Ansar-ud-deen Comprehensive Senior High School, Okota, Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA).

The students of Central High School and Ajumoni Senior Grammar School had earlier benefited from the programme in 2019 and 2020 respectively. The programme, which commenced last week, is scheduled to hold for six weeks during which the students would be taken through intensive sessions of mentorship about leadership and other life skills as well as Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics (STEAM).

After the training, the students would be assessed by the US Consulate to ascertain their understanding of the skills.

The facilitator and team leader, Hon. Remy Shittu Remy, said the program is to prepare the youngsters who are known to be the future leaders for the national and global tasks ahead of them by instilling some leadership traits and other life skills in them.

Remy, the Council Leader of Isolo LCDA and the Deputy Chairman of Lagos State Councillors' Forum, disclosed that the programme will be extended to other 24 Senior Secondary Schools in the

Council Area.

"Basically, the programme is meant to train the students on leadership to prepare them for the future. I encourage them (the mentees) to take the programme with utmost seriousness and carry out the various activities in the workbook. As seen in other mentees from other schools, I

believe that at the completion of this programme, this set of students will be more inspiring to their contemporaries and the world can confidently count on them."

Some of the mentees, who spoke with ECHONEWS, promised to live up to the expectations of the programme

One of them, Aliyah Aregbesola, said: "I'm happy to be part of this programme. So far, it has opened my mind to the various things I need to do as a future leader and those I shouldn't do. I'm eager to learn more. I am grateful to the US Government and our councillor for bringing this programme to our school."



Hon. Remy with students

## Ansar-Ud-Deen honours 10 in Oshodi-Isolo LGA

By Damiola Kushimo

Ansar-ud-deen Society of Nigeria, Lagos State Council has conferred its prestigious state award on 10 of its members in Oshodi-Isolo branches.

The 10 are among the 48 awardees in all branches across the state.

They were conferred with the awards during the 12th annual merit awards ceremony held recently in its state secretariat at Fagbile along Ijegan Road.

The award ceremony was the first official event held at the council multi-million naira secretariat named Ansar-Ud-Deen Society House, in Ijegan since its commissioning on Sunday, November 1, 2020.

According to the Council Chairman, Alhaji Abdul-Rahman Olabode Salaudeen, the award recognises the awardees' contributions to the society and Islam in general.

The awardees are Alhaji Ganiyu Taiwo, Alhaja Risikat Aramide and Alhaja Afusat Odotolu from Oshodi Branch, Alhaja Mudirat

Badmus, Alhaja Sidikat Oshinaike and Alhaji Abdul Rauf Fasasi from Ejigbo branch and Alhaji Abdul-Razak Famuditi, Alhaji Rafiu Awolesi, Alhaji Musliudeen Soetan and Alhaja Khadeejah Shobayo from Isolo branch.

The Chairperson of Isolo branch, Alhaja Fauziah Abereijo, commended the awardees for their selfless contributions, urging them to keep up the great work.

She also advised other members of the society to remain steadfast and selfless in their contributions.



# Anthony Joshua and Deontay Wilder fight will happen in 2022 – Hearn

By Saheed Afolabi

The explosive showdown between Anthony Joshua and Deontay Wilder will not happen until 2022, boxing promoter Eddie Hearn said. Joshua's attempt to agree a deal with Wilder has been frustrated over the years until Tyson Fury snatched the WBC belt from Wilder by knocking him out in a brutal way. Joshua, who is currently the holder of the WBO, IBF and WBA boxing belts, is holding talks with Tyson Fury over a 2-match fight which will unify the belts in the heavyweight division. "Deontay Wilder knows he turned down the deal of a lifetime to fight Anthony Joshua but he made his bed and respects him. I want to see him back in the ring. "All we're focusing on is the Tyson Fury fight, and anything else happens in 2022, because those two fights will be our plan for 2021," Hearn said.



Anthony Olasheni Joshua

He added: "For me, I would like to see Dillian Whyte fight Deontay Wilder but he has to deal with Povetkin. "Focus on the now, focus on the reality, and Deontay Wilder, I'm sure he'll be in big fights but for us, we know our plans for 2021."

# Messi yet to receive offer from Manchester City



Messi

By Saheed Afolabi

A disappointing performance from Barcelona against PSG in the Champions League has fuelled another speculation that Lionel Messi is on his way out of Nou Camp. The 33 year old Argentine forward remains uncertain due to the ongoing presidential elections at Barcelona with all the candidates determined to keep hold of him. Messi has won a total of 6

Ballon D'Or in a glittering career and he is out of contract in the summer. Messi has been constantly linked to City due to the link with former Barca boss, Pep Guardiola. Paris Saint – Germain are also interested in the 33 years old player. A club source at City denied any offer from the club, stating that the club has not proposed any offer for the Argentine, noting that there are no talks between the two sides presently.

# FC Brave secure 3-point goal to remain in LCL

By Saheed Afolabi

FC Brave returned to winning ways in the Lagos City League (LCL) by grabbing the 3 points away win over Rechabites FC. Fascinating attacking midfielder Aliu Ali scored the only goal of the match. Both teams showed early signs of attacking mobility in a move to find the back of the net. Rechabites FC playing in front of their home fans dominated early proceedings of the game as expected of them. FC Brave shocked the home fans in the 13th minute to take the lead through attacking midfielder Aliu Ali, who showed great skills to put the ball at the back of the net. Despite playing away from home, FC Brave showed their attacking prowess to keep their opponent at bay. Rechabites FC attacking starlet failed to find the back of the net

in the first half as they fired blank at their home ground. Chances came the way of Rechabites FC in the second half but most were wasted as they cut a frustrated figure over lack of goals. FC Brave held their ground and were able to curtail the attacking threat of their opponent in a very tough game. The second half did not record any goal as both teams fired agonisingly wide off the goal



FC Brave celebrating

post. Aliu Ali was awarded the man of the match as he outshined he other players on the field of play with his exquisite passes and eye for goal.

# Golden Star crowned champions of pre season tourney

By Saheed Afolabi

Golden Star defeated local rival, Alpha FA to win their first trophy in 2021. Emeka Athanatus brace and an assist from Seun Atari and Wasiu Majekodunmi were all Golden Stars needed to brush aside Alpha FA. The first half was a tight encounter as both teams

displayed high attacking skill. It was a derby which attracted fans from the community to watch the match at the grassroots. Golden Star had better chances in the first half but the youngsters could not utilise them. Alpha FA also had few chances but could not connect the dots in the final third. Golden Star's second half display was more technical as

they took the lead in the 65th minute through Emeka Athanatus and was assisted by Seun Atari who provided a sublime pass. Emeka Athanatus doubled Golden Star's lead in the 75th minute to grab a brace and was set up on goal by Wasiu Majekodunmi. Alpha FA was dealt a big blow as Golden Star scored two goals in the space of ten minutes.

# Ms Success FC sink Collins Edwin FC

By Saheed Afolabi

Ms Success FC retained their top position in the league standings of the Lagos City League (LCL) by defeating Collins Edwin FC 2-0. Kingsley Chibueze of Ms Success FC grabbed both goals in the encounter, scoring the 1st goal in the 32nd minute and wrapping up the win for his side from the penalty spot in the 56th minute. AbdulSalam Toheeb pulled a goal back for Collins Edwin FC in the 88th minute. Ms Success FC dominated the encounter in the first 45 minutes and ascertained their presence playing on their home ground. Kingsley Chibueze opened the scoring from a counter attacking move which left Collins Edwin FC open at the back as Chibueze displayed his finishing technique by scoring from close

range. Collins Edwin FC trailed by a lone goal at the end of the first half but showed promising display to outclass their opponent. Ms Success FC secured a penalty in the 56th minute which Kingsley Chibueze converted successfully to give his side a two-goal lead. Collins Edwin FC woke up from their slumber and started pressuring their opponent defense who stood gallant to prevent any blushe. Ms Success FC goalie was called into action by making a great save to deny Collins Edwin FC in the 81st minute. AbdulSalam Toheeb pulled a goal back for Collins Edwin FC in the 88th minute to set up a tense final moments of the match. Exciting young talented playmaker of Ms Success FC was awarded the man of the match with his impressive eye catching display.



**THE DEPARTURE OF  
AN ICON  
FROM EARTH TO  
THE GREAT BEYOND**

We commiserate with the Families and Associates of Eminent Adedotun Oriowo.

Your sudden departure from Earth came as a shock to many, most especially we the entire residents of Jakande Estate Oke Afa.

Our hearts are wounded as a result of your unexpected departure; though we love you but God loves you more. We pray that God forgives you of all your shortcomings and grant you an eternal rest.

May your lovely wife and wonderful kids be given the fortitude to bear your irreplaceable loss.

**You will forever  
be in our hearts.  
Dotun Oriowo as  
fondly called by all.**

Signed

- RedGrape Foundation
- Estate Youth Parliament (EYP)
- Idera Support Group
- The Estate Pacesetters

**LATE  
EMINENT ADEDOTUN**

**AYOOLA  
ORIOWO**



# Councillors urge residents to protect govt projects

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The councillors representing Ifoshi and Fadu Wards in Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Grace Okere and Hon. Shonde Tajudeen, have appealed to the residents to utilise and maintain the Governor Babjide Sanwo-Olu sponsored projects in each ward after completion.

They made the appeal while supervising the ongoing David Ogunti road construction in Ifoshi ward and a public library being constructed in Ejigbo Primary School compound in

Fadu ward.

Okere noted that the ongoing road construction was a collective agreement of the principal officers of each Community Development Association (CDA) in the ward.

"We had a community meeting where all important necessities for the community were tabled and we selected in order of importance to the community. The project was approved not only for us to have a remarkable project done during our tenure but to also relieve our community of their needs."

On his part, Hon. Shonde revealed that the public library

project which is 60 percent completed was selected among others as the first phase of the N25 million project by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to encourage excellent learning in Fadu ward.

He, therefore, called on students and other prospective users of the project to maintain order while making use of the library after completion.

He also charged the residents to take ownership of the project.

"Principal officers in the community and I chose the project to assist youths in our ward and Ejigbo at large, to create a conducive reading

centre for the youths preparing for both external and internal examinations.

"I hope that the seven CDA chairmen of Fadu ward would effectively take charge in monitoring readers after completion so that it would be beneficial to generations to come."

The councillors, therefore, appreciated Governor Sanwo-Olu for reaching out to help the community through the councillors across Lagos State while encouraging residents to sustain the projects and avoid disposing refuse in the drains to avoid flood.



Ongoing David Ogunti road construction drainage

## We'll break APC dominance in Isolo, PDP councillorship aspirant, KC Marshal

By Damilola Kushimo

One of the councillorship aspirants under the platform of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Okota Ward, Kazeem Ilelabowo (aka KC Marshal) has said that his party will break the dominance of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) at Isolo Local Council Development Area, saying the situation has led to underperformance of some councillors.

According to him, many political office holders especially the councillors have not been performing as expected since there is no competition which is supposed to be among various political parties.

He noted that there would be development in the community if there are opposition parties competing with one another at the local council.

He said achievements should be celebrated rather than victory at polls as many political office holders do after winning elections.

He said his own would be different if elected as he promised to base his celebration of his achievements but not on his victory at the poll.

He explained that beyond being diligent in the activities of lawmaking and other oversight functions as constitutionally expected of a councillor, he would focus on the security and other factors that can bring development to his ward when



Kazeem Ilelabowo (aka KC Marshal)

elected.

He emphasised on focusing on bridging the communication gap between himself and his constituents and facilitating more developments into his ward.

He said: "We have cases of voters' apathy to local government elections in my ward and that can't be unconnected to their fear of insecurity, the fear that their votes might not count and you will see that they prefer to participate in federal and state elections. I will do better to address the issue when elected by making law in this regard.

Berating the dominance of one party in the local government, Ilelabowo alleged that it has not helped the community to grow: According to him:

"The dominance of one party in the community has not helped the community to grow better. There hasn't been serious competition among elected officers in the community and that's what I want to challenge. I urge the people to come out in their thousands to exercise

their franchise, they should not feel insecure, they should make sure that their votes count so that we can make history together."

Ilelabowo is currently pursuing his Master's degree in Public and International Affairs (MPIA) at the University of Lagos (UNILAG) having had his B.Sc in History and International Relations from Lagos State University (LASU).

**A** non-governmental organisation (NGO), Angela Johnson Empowerment Foundation, is set to engage youths in Ejigbo in vocational training to empower them and enhance their talents.

According to the Foundation, the youths will be trained for 10 days on skill acquisition in Fashion Design, Catering, Make-up and Hairdressing, Computer Training, Craft Making and others starting from February 22.

The founder of the Foundation, Miss Angela Johnson, said the initiative which has been in

## Booksellers berate sales of customised books

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Booksellers in Ejigbo have continued to lament low sales, claiming that private schools are causing their predicament.

According to them, the habitual sale of customized books and stationeries to students by private schools is the major factor contributing to their low sales.

In separate interviews with ECHONEWS, booksellers in Ejigbo complained that they have not made good sales seven weeks after schools resumed..

Owner of Needs Bookshop, Mr. Obidike Chukwudi, disclosed that private school owners prefer patronising authors who do not distribute their publications for sale in bookshops for fear of piracy.

He also noted that private schools have cultivated the habit

of using customised exercise books rather than allowing their students to buy from bookshops.

He stated: "The state government usually purchases books directly from authors who, for fear of market competition and piracy, restrict the circulation of their publications while private school owners get theirs from available open market. This has been a setback for us over the years.

"Presently, the costs of books we have now are higher due to the hike in the cost of purchasing them because bookshop business is capital intensive but it is a setback for us because few customers that patronize us are already complaining of the high price of our books.

"Most of the books you see on our shelves are not produced in Nigeria because of the capital required for production. Many authors prefer producing their books outside Nigeria to save cost for the amount spent on

electricity, papers, ink and others is higher here in Nigeria. We believe that the government can help to reduce the cost of production."

Also speaking, the owner of Cosmos and Co. Bookshop explained that bookshop owners in Ejigbo do not have an organised body to oversee their affairs in a coordinated manner.

"I believe that if we have a registered body, something like Booksellers Association of Nigeria (BAN), Ejigbo branch that would cooperatively relate with Lagos State Association of Bookshops and Stationers in Nigeria (LASBAN), we would have long reached out to people higher than us that would help regulate our business."

He condemned the private schools for not patronising bookshops, appealing to them not to restrict students from buying books and stationeries outside school.

## NGO to train youths to own business

By Motolani AbdulGafar

existence since 2013 has over the years empowered more than 300 youths and sponsored about 36 best students after training.

She said she has informed the instructors for the upcoming training to motivate and enlighten different categories of youths in rediscovering different parts of them in the entrepreneurial world.

She expressed the foundation's determination to further empower unskilled

youths despite setbacks caused by the coronavirus pandemic through collaboration with other sponsors.

"Over the years, youths discover their skills and have the opportunity to enrol in sponsored technical schools where they get to know more of their gifted skills.

"My team and I believe that every human has a distinctive feature that makes them different from one another but some need help to discover that gift. So, we, at Angela

foundation, have a collective understanding that we are to reshape the orientation of the youths which is what inspires us to keep doing what we are doing," she explained.

One of the sponsors of the programme, the Chairman of Estate Youth Parliament (EYP), Mr Adeyemi Yusuf explained that EYP was motivated to sponsor the training by its interest in developing the youths coupled with the manner the foundation follows up on the trained youths.



## Oshodi LG chairmanship: PDP aspirant, Akinbiyi challenges APC counterparts

By Edith Igbokwe

**A** People's Democratic Party (PDP) chairmanship aspirant in Oshodi-Isolo LGA, Comr. Akinbiyi Ridwan Akanni (aka ARA), has challenged other contenders in the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) party, confirming his assurance to overcome them and win the election.

Being a royal family member of Ewutuntun Kingdom, Oshodi from the lineage of Erufa Royal Family of Ewu Awori kingdom of

Oshodi-Isolo, Akanni said he stands the chance of indigene's influence to amass votes for his success at the poll.

A nephew to the incumbent Oba of Ewuland, His Royal Majesty (HRM), Oba Shakirudeen Adeshina Kuti Erufa 1, Elewu of Ewu Kingdom, Akanni boasted of having royal backing despite contesting under the PDP platform.

"As an indigenous citizen of the local government, it is very bad to see many of those opportunists who don't have the charisma and human feeling for

paradigm shift development. It is time for the radical revolutionary youths agenda to take over the mantle of leadership at the third tier of government which is the closest to the masses.

"As a member of PDP, I have served in various capacities. In 2015, I was the Ward E2 collation officer and I delivered my ward starting from the state assembly to presidential elections. The PDP won two state assembly seats and two federal house of representatives. In 2019, I was also the Lagos State Coordinator of Atiku Friends Organisation

(AFO) and currently, I am the National Publicity Secretary Of PDP Restore The Nation 2023.

"My movement is a paradigm shift development agenda as no indigenous citizen has ever become the chairman of that local government from the beginning of democracy. I strongly believe I can't be intimidated because many of the APC aspirants do not have the charisma and leadership skills that I have. I am versatile in leadership as I am a product of Late Comr Barr. Gani Oyesola Fawehinmi (SAN) and Comr. Dr.

Bekolari Ransome Kuti."

While soliciting votes from the electorate, Akaani unveiled his five point agenda which he referred to as HEERS, spelt out to be Health, Education, Empowerment initiative, Road construction and Sports empowerment.

As an architect with HND qualification from the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro and Engineer who owns Ridtech Design and Construction Company, he promised to reconstruct many roads in less than a year if supported to become the LG



Comr. Akinbiyi Ridwan Akanni

chairman, bringing his skills in construction to the fore.

In the aspect of education, he said he has 15 years of teaching experience which is enough to sustain him.

## Iyaloja aborts traders' protest against KAI

By Edith Igbokwe

**T**he Iyaloja of First Folashade Tinubu Ojo Market, Banjoko Oshodi, Alhaja Chief Mrs. Sikirat Ejide Adeyanju (Socopao), has explained how she was able to abort a protest planned by traders against officials of the KAI brigade and the state's environmental task force.

She said the traders were against alleged extortion and unjust harassment by the taskforce and KAI officials while carrying out their commercial activities legally in the market.

Some of the traders who spoke to ECHONEWS explained that they were

about to embark on the protest when the Iyaloja intervened and stopped the officials from harassing them.

According to them, the market atmosphere has been peaceful as they have hitch-free transactions without any disturbance and or harassment from anybody.

"Before we could not transact peacefully, every Thursday, the KAI officials would come into the market lines such as the Macathy line, Araromi line, Brown line, Banjoko line, Ajorin line, and Agege Motor Road line to disturb our legal business transactions, forcefully collecting money from us.

"When the extortion became worrisome to us, we the

traders cried out to our Iyaloja, Mama Adeyanju that we will carry out a protest to end KAI harassment in the market but she pleaded with us to give her some time to speak with the taskforce leaders at Bolade office which she did and the result was favourable to traders who are now enjoying peaceful sales without the unjust disturbance of the KAI and taskforce officials.

"We, the market women, are very grateful to our Iyaloja who has been our backbone. We know that when she becomes the Iyaloja General of Oshodi market as she has been appointed for the position, we will enjoy her more because she will use her good office to

ensure that the market runs smoothly as expected," they said.

Explaining how she resolved the issue to ECHONEWS, Mrs. Adeyanju stated that she marched to the taskforce office at Bolade when the traders complained and informed her about their plan to carry out #EndKAI protest to express their plight concerning the unjust extortion from the market and engaged in dialogue with the leadership of the agencies.

During the peaceful dialogue at the task force office, Adeyanju said she told the KAI officials that they have no right to invade the market to disturb lawful commercial activities.

She maintained that their official duty is supposed to remain at the main road where

they are meant to control illegal street trading.

"After dialogue with the KAI leaders, we arrived at a peaceful conclusion that put an end to the KAI invasion of the market," she explained.

It was gathered that other markets across the state including Iyana Ipaja, Egbeda were also planning a similar protest against KAI and Task Force officials.

## Oshodi 2021: I'll use woman power to influence development - Ajibade

By Edith Igbokwe

**A** female aspirant jostling for the position of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Chairman under the platform of All Progressives Congress (APC), Mrs. Bolaji Bayode Ajibade, has pledged to facilitate more developments into the local government area if elected as the first female chairman of the local government using her power as a woman.

She said the females can make significant differences in governance if given the chance to use their prowess in politics to bring developments.

Mrs. Ajibade declared that she has been serving in leadership capacities right from her university days as a Botany student in the University of Lagos where she was Welfare Secretary in the faculty of Sciences.

She noted that she moved on to become the deputy chairperson of National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Lagos State Chapter, adding that she has toured around the 36 states in Nigeria in the course of her youth leadership.

According to her, she was given the appellation 'Action Lady' due to her activities.

Ajibade, who claimed that the

governance especially at the local level is dominated by men, urged the stakeholders to give women the chance to make the long-expected difference in governance.

If elected, she promised to reform various sectors such as health and education, provide infrastructures to improve the standard of living of Oshodi residents.

"Well, I am not saying that I am the Messiah that will do everything 100 per cent but, with the plans that I have for Oshodi, the point remains that it has to come in the form of delegating duties, working hand-in-hand to achieve a better Oshodi.

"I need my team to be a fantastic one, right from the post of the chairperson to the vice, to the supervisory councillors and the legislative arm, to make the right decision and implementation that will positively turn things around in the Oshodi environment."

To achieve her aim, she plans to have representatives from each ward to make up her cabinet, saying that she would have the best team to run the government.

Mrs. Ajibade is a businesswoman dealing in landscaping and beautification, events and self-management, interior and exterior decorations, clearing and forwarding and general consultancy.

## Olowogboyega of Ijeshatedo school emerges Best Principal

By Damiola Kushimo

**T**he Principal of Ijeshatedo Senior Grammar School, Mrs. Olayemi Adeola Olowogboyega who emerged as the best principal in District VI has attributed her success to hard work and diligence.

She came first in the best principal category (senior school) after a thorough assessment of the performances of the selected principals across the district.

Olowogboyega beat Mrs. Folake Omosule and Miss Monisola Ogunmefun of Metropolitan Senior College and Community Senior Secondary School who came second and third respectively during the 14th edition of the district's annual ceremony organised in Ikeja

Senior Grammar School.

Speaking with ECHONEWS on her recent feat, the principal explained that she never expected the award, saying she was only inspired by the intention to be diligent and upright in the discharge of her duty while trying to bring out the best in the teachers in her school.

The programme which was tagged 'Recognising Outstanding Performance' would have ordinarily been held last year but was hindered by the ravaging pandemic.

Olowogboyega dedicated the award to Almighty God and appreciated the district and the award committee for being unbiased.

Her words: "I never thought that what I was doing, which was the needful, could be recognised without having to lobby or

whatever. With my winning it, I know it's just God and in recognition of hard work without any bias. In Lagos, there's a saying that the reward of hard work is more work. I know, so I don't intend to relent because I wasn't doing what I was doing to get any award initially. So I can't do less because I cannot afford to disappoint God and those who look up to me.

She promised to put more effort in imparting knowledge and encouraging her teachers, "There are many areas I can still improve on. I have someone that I look up to and that is the principal who won the best principal award consecutively for two years, Mr. Safiyu. He won the best principal (Junior category) for 2018 and 2019. So, it is possible to keep winning it as long as you keep delivering. The

award is not meant for compensation, as long as you consistently give your best you will be awarded. I intend to do more and be better.

She urged teachers to show more

"My own teachers have been made to understand better that doing the needful has rewards. I urge them to be diligent and to always do the right thing. My advice to them is that they should keep doing over and above the call of duty. They should keep developing themselves, they should teach the children as if they are their biological children."

It was gathered that students, teachers, vice principals and Non-teaching staff were also awarded for their outstanding performance as determined by the strict evaluations.





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