

Lagos, CG Motor Sign Joint Venture Deal To Roll Out 5,000 New Smart Taxis

- Sanwo-Olu: 'We're changing Lagos transport narrative with \$260 million investment'
- New LAGRIDE operations to include car pooling, logistics services



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Lagos, CIG Motors Sign Joint Venture Deal To Roll Out 5, 000 New Smart Taxis

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By Kunle Awosiyan

The comfort and convenience passengers derived riding in Lagos Ride (LAGRIDE) — an e-hailing taxi scheme operated by the Lagos State Government — is about to get better with the making of a new investment into the transport initiative.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, supervised the signing of another Joint Venture partnership between a State-owned corporation, IBILE Holdings Limited, and CIG Motors Company Limited for the acquisition of 5,000 brand new vehicles to the fleet of LAGRIDE, bolstering Lagos economy with \$260 million investment.

In the coming weeks, the State is expected to take delivery of 2,000 units of the new vehicles in the first phase; the rest are to be delivered in tranches. The new fleet will have 1,000 electric vehicles, demonstrating the commitment of the State Government to reducing dependence on fossil fuels and pruning the carbon footprint.

Lagos Government, in 2022, launched its first LAGRIDE initiative with 1,000 brand new cars and mini SUVs, giving commuters better transportation options and riding convenience.

The new investment deal, Sanwo-Olu said, will further enhance efficiency and elevate smart mobility in the e-hailing sector. The vehicles, he said, will be tailor-made for Lagos terrain to operate on low carbon emissions, improved technological interaction and energy transition.

The Governor said the initiative was part of his administration's vision to transform and modernise

public transportation, giving the State an integrated urban transit system as a sustainable alternative to outdated vehicles being used for transportation.

Sanwo-Olu said: "This is a transportation solution that we are developing to meet all our citizens' needs to commute safely and comfortably within the metropolis. We are using our investment arm as a vehicle to execute what will become a successful Joint Venture partnership between Lagos State Government and CIG Motor Company Limited in the acquisition of 5,000 brand new GAC vehicles for LAGRIDE initiative.

"The partnership with CIG Motors started two years ago with 1,000 brand new cars and we have seen the benefits to our people in terms of job creation and economic empowerment.

We are set to enhance the scope and expand the fleet in order to extend the e-hailing service to other parts of the State. Introduction of electric powered vehicles into the fleet is to change the narrative. We will begin to see the drop in carbon footprint. This demonstrates our commitment to energy transition towards sustainable energy sources."

Sanwo-Olu said the partnership was not only about smart taxi and e-hailing taxi service, but added that the deal would also kick off car pooling services, chauffeur services and tech-driven logistics services.

The Governor said the strategic partnership would enhance safety, turnaround time and digitally enabled means of public transportation. He said the relationship with

the automobile company had been mutually beneficial, urging other private players in the transportation sector to key into the market and initiate schemes that would enhance mobility in the State.

"We will be seeing improvement in operation, advancement in technology, improved market share, extensive research and rapid movements. We will be seeing Lagos living up to its potential as a city operating an international standard, environmentally sustainable and smart mobility system deserving of its status. We are happy with the investment decision we are making today. We believe Lagos and its residents will reap the benefits of cleaner and better mode of transportation," Sanwo-Olu said.

Commissioner for

Transportation, Mr. Seun Osiyemi, said the deal would help LAGRIDE meet increasing demand and fulfilment ratio of customers, while also improving Fintech support solutions.

Aside creating more jobs in driving, maintenance and administrative roles, Osiyemi said the scheme would boost the local economy with increased accessibility, thereby improving the transportation systems.

"This is an investment in modern and sustainable transport solutions, in furtherance of the State Government's efforts in actualising a safer, cleaner, faster, and digitally equipped transportation system under the THEMES Agenda," the Commissioner said.

Managing Director of IBILE Holdings Limited, Mr. Tobi Lawal, said the collaboration would

deliver benefits, including enhanced transportation infrastructure. He added that the effort would also boost tourism, improve the aesthetics and efficiency of the State's transport system.

Managing Director of CIG Motor Company Limited, Chief Diana Chen, said the partnership had further built confidence and credibility in its business relationship with Lagos Government, stressing that the firm had kept all terms of its dealings with the State.

She said: "Whatever we promised, we delivered. We have kept to all terms of our previous agreements with Lagos and we will still honour the term of this new partnership. We are committed to helping Nigeria raise its GDP and economic growth. We will make LAGRIDE a Lagos' pride."





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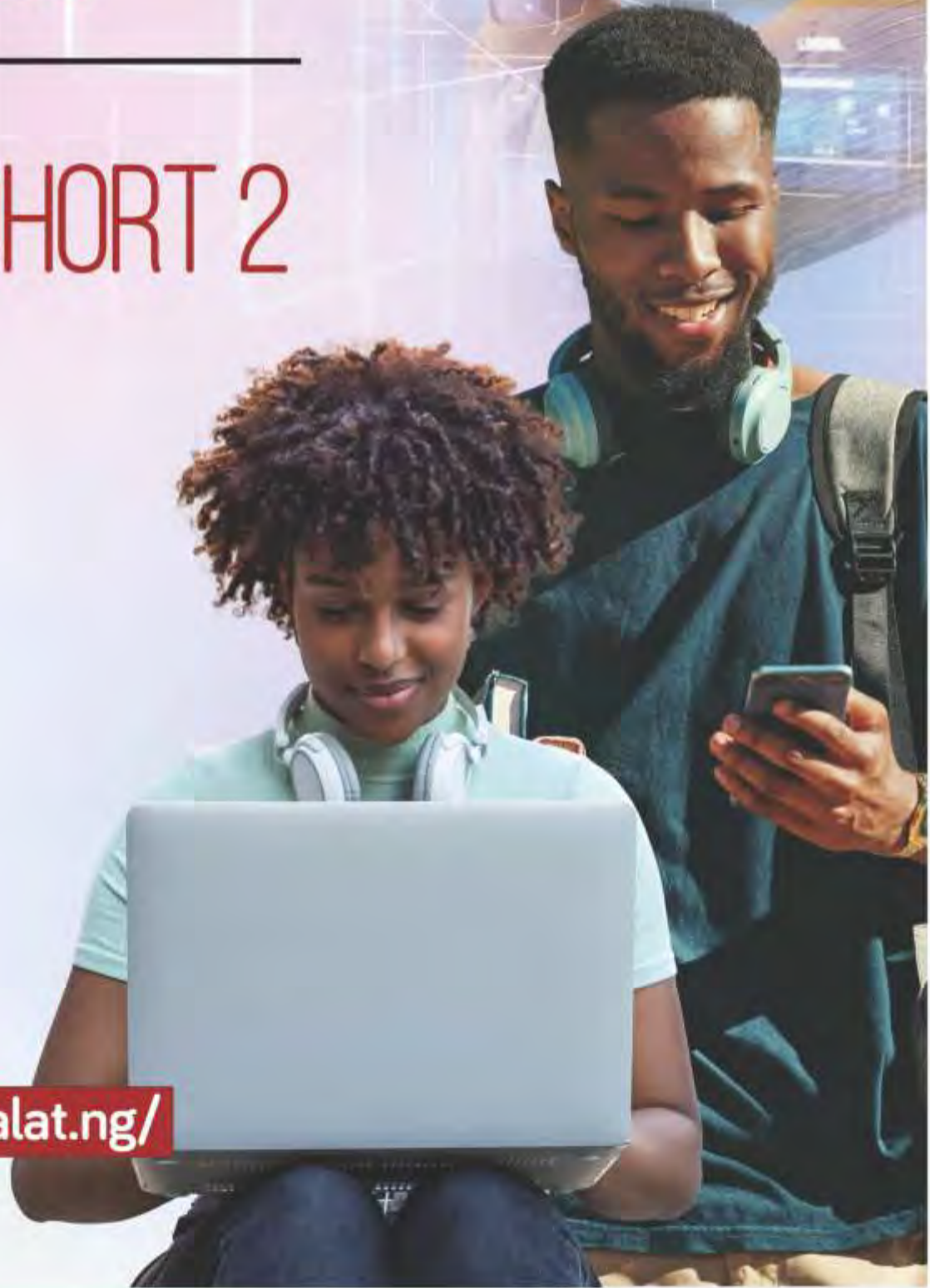


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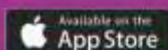


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The General Manager of the Lagos State Materials Testing Laboratory Agency (LSMTL), Engr. Olayinka Abdul has disclosed that stiffer measures will be meted out to agents in the rebranding process of testing building materials in Lagos State.

Speaking recently at a meeting with some Consultants on Malpractices identified in conducting extant rules against the Agency, Engr. Olayinka stated that the LSMTL will not back down on ensuring compliance with guidelines for buildings' safety in

LSMTL To Sanction Fake Materials Testing Agents

... To Commence Electronically Generated Geographic Information Systems

Lagos State.

She said, "An overhaul of the processes of engagements and service delivery exerted in conducting Materials tests across Lagos State is underway. These new orders of operations will adequately curb every form of mismanagement encountered so far and

make sure there is transparency and absolute customer satisfaction".

Furthermore, Engr. Abdul informed that for seamless service devoid of sharp practices, all Consultants affiliated to LSMTL, in serving notices for Materials tests on projects, will be listed on the Official

Website for feasibility and credibility in restoring confidence of Professionalism to Prospective Clientele.

She averred that the upcoming overhauling process by the Agency will include the use of an Electronic Geographic Information System to sort operational modes of testing building

materials to curb discrepancies orchestrated by saboteurs, as Consultants will henceforth work through designated codes/zones to fill the Agency's operational space.

Engr. Abdul reiterated that in fulfilling the mandate of the Lagos

State Government's T. H. E.M.E.S Plus Agenda, stakeholders in the riverine communities of Lagos State should be wary of using soil materials in such geographical areas, for they have salt constituents that erode and weaken the steel capacity used in construction processes.

OPL&CE Gets New Permanent Secretary

The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has approved the redeployment of Engr. (Ms.) Sholabomi Mosunmola Shasore as the new Permanent Secretary, Office of Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement.

Engr. Shasore joined the Lagos State Civil Service in 2009 and served in various capacities in different Ministries, Departments and

Agencies (MDAs) including the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Office and Lagos State Public Procurement Agency. Before becoming a Permanent Secretary on February 4, 2021, she was the Director, Procurement Agency. Shasore was a key player in the Agency's state wide repositioning and development initiatives leading to process and performance optimization.

Shasore is a member of the Council for the Regulations of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) and the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS), in the United Kingdom.

The former Permanent Secretary of the Office, Engr. Abiola Kosegbe has been redeployed to the Lagos State Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Shasore's former Ministry.



LASODA Reaffirms Commitment To Integration of PWDs

The General Manager of the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA), Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal has reaffirmed the Agency's unwavering commitment to promoting the inclusion and integration of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Lagos State.

She disclosed this during a meeting with the Physical Cluster, a group representing individuals with physical disabilities, held at the Ikeja Local Government on Saturday.

Mrs. Oyetunde-Lawal emphasised that LASODA will continue collaborating with both government and private organisations to create an enabling environment for PWDs.

She said the Agency actively engages with various ministries, departments, agencies, and private entities to empower people with disabilities through skills development, financial assistance, medical support, advocacy and other impactful interventions.

"One notable initiative involves working closely with the Lagos State Scholarship Board to compile a comprehensive list of students with disabilities in higher institutions. This effort aims to ensure that these students can benefit from the state government's scholarship Programmes", she added.

Urging stakeholders to champion policies and initiatives that foster diversity and inclusivity, she encouraged PWDs to join cluster groups

aligned with their specific disability type, emphasising that group membership facilitates awareness of available policies and initiatives.

In response, the State Chairman of the Physical Cluster, Mr. Rotimi Adeniyi expressed appreciation for LASODA's efforts and assured continued support for the Agency.

The high point of the meeting was the presentation of Crutches to the Association for dinner distribution to all members.



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Ilera Eko: Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates Five Virtual Booths

- Governor commissions five Virtual Booths
- Becomes Grand Ambassador of Universal Health Coverage

In line with his administration's commitment to provide quality, affordable and efficient health care services for Lagos residents, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has launched the Ilera Eko Standard Jaara Health Insurance scheme.

The Governor also commissioned five Ilera Eko Virtual Booths installed in five locations across the State to provide accessible healthcare to people in the informal sector, particularly market men and women, artisans and other stakeholders at the grassroots.

The Ilera Eko Standard Jaara Health Insurance scheme has Telemedicine as part of its permanent component, annual medical screening, Cardiology, Ear, Nose and Throat, Orthopedic treatments, among others.

Governor Sanwo-Olu was decorated during the programme as the Grand Ambassador of Universal Health Coverage in Lagos. His deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat was also decorated as Ambassador for Ilera Eko.

According to the Governor, the initiatives launched on Tuesday further confirmed the Lagos State Health Management Agency, LASHMA's long history of improving healthcare accessibility.

Speaking at the event,



Governor Sanwo-Olu said the new initiatives marked a significant milestone in health insurance for Lagos State and Nigeria, assuring Lagos residents that his administration will continue to introduce policies and reforms that make healthcare accessible and affordable.

He urged the residents to take good care of their health for their benefit, family and for the good and prosperity of Lagos State.

Governor Sanwo-Olu called on the informal sector which constitutes 70 percent of the population in Lagos State to seize the opportunity of the new initiatives and enroll on ILERA EKO in order to reduce out-of-pocket and huge payment of medical bills.

He said: "The focus of our administration, as outlined in the T.H.E.M.E.S + Development Agenda, includes improving

health outcomes. To this end, we have enrolled all public servants in the ILERA EKO scheme, with the government covering 75 percent of their premiums. Starting in August 2024, all Lagos State pensioners will receive free one-year ILERA EKO coverage which will ensure their access to healthcare in retirement. We are doing all these to enhance our UHC goal.

"The initiatives we are launching today, further confirms LASHMA's long history of improving healthcare accessibility. One of them is the new ILERA EKO Standard Jaara Health Insurance Plan, which offers additional benefits and peace of mind by reducing the financial burden of medical bills. In this plan, we have heavily subsidized the health insurance premium to

ensure that everyone can access healthcare.

"The Virtual Booths are designed to bring healthcare closer to the people and expand the reach of LASHMA's health insurance scheme; Ilera Eko, across the state. It is particularly useful for our hardworking market men and women who usually find it difficult to leave their shops and wares to take sometimes long trips to hospitals when they are sick. They will serve as first-line health services in the different informal business clusters around the state.

"I invite the formal sector also, to come on board and ensure that their employees are registered and enrolled on ILERA EKO as this will automatically reduce the expenses of the companies especially for the payment of medical bills."

Governor Sanwo-Olu said he just signed an

Executive Order to further strengthen the new Health initiatives and therefore urged Lagos residents to embrace Lagos State Health Scheme.

"The Enforcement team to handle the implementation of the Lagos State Health Scheme, (LSHS) Law and the domestication of the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) Act, has been constituted and trained. Even though this administration believes more in enlightenment than enforcement, the law still needs to be implemented and obeyed. Therefore, violators of the law will not go unpunished when the Enforcement takes full effect."

Speaking earlier, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Health, Mrs. Oluwakemi Ogunyemi, commended the Sanwo-Olu administration's commitment to the health initiatives,

noting that Lagos State places value on the lives and health of its citizens.

The Chairman, Governing Council of LASHMA, Mr. Adebayo Adedewe, who said a total of 300 Virtual booths are being proposed across the State to take care of the people at the grassroots, said the new initiatives by LASHMA is to ensure that more residents have access to quality and affordable healthcare.

According to Adedewe, the Ilera Eko Virtual Booth Initiative launched by the Governor will be available in five locations of Lagos State, which are Yaba, Ketu Bus Stop, Ketu; Adamo market, Ikorodu; Sabo market, Ikorodu and Ayetoro market, Epe.

He said: "To enjoy the Standard Jaara Health Insurance Plan, an individual will pay a premium of N15,000 per annum. Payment of premium on our family plan has been stratified in line with the feedback received from our Enrollees. While a family of four consisting of the father, mother and two children below 23 years, will pay N55,000 per annum, a family of six, consisting of the father, mother and four children also below 23 years, will pay N80,000 per annum. Additional dependents below 23 years old will pay N10,000 per annum."

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has stated that the state government has disbursed about N25 billion in grants and loans to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF), to enhance productivity and economic growth in the state.

Sanwo-Olu disclosed this on Thursday at the 2024 Business Day Newspaper CEO Forum, with the theme: "Governors in Conversation – Innovative Governance: Steering States through Economic Turbulence", held at the Balmoral Hall, Federal Palace Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos.

The Governor, who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, revealed that the grants and loans have helped to empower entrepreneurs to flourish in doing their businesses and stimulating the economy.

According to Sanwo-Olu, "The Lagos State Employment Trust Fund over the past six years has given out close to 25 billion naira in terms of grants and assisting people with loans. In this case, single-digit loans were offered to them to sustain and train them on how to manage their businesses".

Sanwo-Olu added that the state government also helped them to source products, have access to the market, and help them interact with NAFDAC, BOI, CAC, and Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) among other agencies in order to understand how to run their businesses within the framework of the laws. "It is for us to create those types of environments that allow private people to run their businesses and create jobs for the future", the Governor stated.

He added that such initiatives are what the state government usually embarked upon to ensure that businesses within the state increase, noting that his administration aimed

Lagos Govt Disburses N25bn as Grants, Loans To SMEs

to enhance the Nano SMEs and provide access to grants and loans for their businesses to continue to thrive and succeed.

Sanwo-Olu stated further that his administration is committed to the ease of doing business, enhancing businesses, and helping the citizens to grow. "These are the goals of our administration as embedded in the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus developmental agenda with the M representing Making Lagos a 21st Century Economy", said the Governor.

He highlighted some of his administration's initiatives to create an enabling environment for business development including Knowledge,



Innovation, Technology and Employment (KITE), a hub that houses younger people who don't have funds to rent an office or shop to operate. He also listed LASRIC, for Fintech

and other technology-driven businesses as well as Lagos Financial Centre which creates a zone for financial services, among other initiatives.

He also informed that his

government is creating the largest food hub in Imota, which will allow the state to aggregate what comes into Lagos and also aid proper food storage and food security,

emphasising that all the initiatives encourage young individuals to bring forth creative ideas that help them to develop them into reality through the needed support.

Lagos Govt Inaugurates Iraye-Oke Primary Health Centre ... Says Health Centre Will Boost Fight Against Cholera Cases

The Permanent Secretary of Lagos State Health District III, Dr. Monsurat Adeleke, on behalf of the State Government, launched the newly built Iraye-Oke Primary Health Centre, facilitated by Hon. Wale Raji representing Epe Federal Constituency at the Federal House of Representatives. The Health Centre, which was completed in 2023, became operational following its staffing by Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu.

In her address during the ceremony, Dr. Adeleke described the event as a timely intervention for the residents of the area and the state. She said, "The launch of this health centre, coming at

a time when Lagos is contending with cholera cases, couldn't be more timely. Together, we strive to ensure no one is left behind in accessing quality healthcare".

She outlined the services offered at the centre, including card registration, child delivery, blood pressure checks, immunisation, family planning and health education.

In his remarks, Hon. Raji thanked the Lagos State government for providing the necessary medical staff and resources crucial for the centre's operation. He also expressed gratitude to Eredo LCDA residents for their continuous support since 2015, promising to facilitate more developmental projects for the benefit of the residents.

The lawmaker praised the Eredo LCDA Chairman for

his outstanding efforts, which contributed to the project's success and community well-being, stressing the importance of community support and the proper use of the new health centre for a healthier future.

The Executive Chairman of Eredo LCDA, Hon. Ismail Monsuru Akinloye pledged his support for the health and well-being of community members. He highlighted the

facilitation of the health centre by Hon. Raji and the cooperation from the LCDA as evidence of the council's commitment to multi-sectoral collaboration in providing essential health services. Applauding Hon. Raji for the gesture and other past interventions that have immensely benefited the Eredo Community and its environs, the Council Chairman emphasised that the new Health

Centre marks a significant advancement for the community, improving access to essential healthcare services for Iraye-Oke residents and surrounding areas in Eredo LCDA and Epe LGA. He, therefore, urged residents to take ownership of the facilities, emphasising the need to take proper care of the centre and ensure its effective use for long-term benefits.



Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, said on Monday that his administration will deepen its relationship with the Indian government culturally, economically, and medically for knowledge sharing and human capacity building.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, who commended the Indian companies in Nigeria for being the second largest employer of labour after the Federal Government, said his administration will continue to improve the Ease of Doing Business and provide a safe and secure environment for businesses to thrive in Lagos State.

Governor Sanwo-Olu spoke during a courtesy visit by the High Commissioner of India to Nigeria, Mr.

Lagos Govt'll Deepen Relationship With India - Sanwo-Olu

• We'll strengthen bilateral relationship with Lagos – High Commissioner

Balasub Ramanan, at the Lagos House, Ikeja.

The Governor acknowledged the support of the High Commissioner of India to Nigeria and other officials when the fellows of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy visited India last month for their internship.

He said, "There have been several decades of relationship between India and

Nigeria even before our independence. India and Nigeria have so much in common that they have learned and will continue to learn from each other. We will continue to create a mutually beneficial partnership between the two countries.

"For us to take the first set of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy fellows to India wasn't a difficult decision at all. We looked at the

economy that has similar issues and challenges with us but have taken their own issues forward and begin to make good sense of it. We saw that in India and I told them that is where you need to go because that is the only place you will see it, feel it and also learn

"I have heard from them that the trip worth every moment of it and I am sure they are better citizens. There are

things they have learnt and things they have seen. We will continue in that trajectory."

Speaking earlier, the High Commissioner of India to Nigeria, Mr. Balasub Ramanan, expressed the readiness of the Indian Government to strengthen the country's bilateral relationship with Lagos on capacity building, technology, scholarships, and Corporate Assembly

in line with the Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration's T H E M E S + development agenda.

The India High Commissioner to Nigeria, who noted that Lagos is to Nigeria what Mumbai is to India as the financial capital of the country, made a promise for more collaboration to increase Indian companies over N27 billion investments in Nigeria.



The Lagos House of Assembly has encouraged officers of the Lagos State Waste Management Authority, LAWMA, to practice satisfactorily and meet up with the expectations of the residents in the state. The House Committee on Environment headed by its Chairman, Honourable Adebola Shabi, gave the counsel during an oversight visit to the agency's headquarters in Ijora. Shabi told the host members that it is important to sustain a clean environment in the the state, a target which requires significant efforts by the agency. The lawmaker stated that the regulations and operations set out up by LAWMA is remarkable needing compliance by it officers to get it to a more

Lagos Assembly Charges LAWMA On Operation Compliance, Good Practice

By Felix Kuyinu

commendable stage. The Committee Chairman said that one of the motives behind the lawmakers visit was to note ways to see note out ways the Assembly can be helpful to the agency in ensuring best practice. The Managing Director/CEO of LAWMA, Muyiwa Gbadegesin, thanked the committee members for the visit and shared the successes and challenges of the Agency with them. Gbadegesin told the legislative team that the agency will continue to work assiduously in ensuring a cleaner Lagos.



Lawmakers Seek Peaceful Coexistence In Lagos Mainland LG

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State House of Assembly, LAHA, has sought for a peaceful cohabitation in Lagos Mainland Local Government in fostering healthy relationship in the area. LAHA, in a visit to the community emphasized on the need of harmony not just in the area alone but Lagos at large in alliance with the directives of the Lagos State Government. Leading the Assembly Committee was Honourable Ladi Ajomale, who represents Oshodi-Isolo Constituency 02. Ajomale disclosed to the community members that the state is keen on providing access to community engagement in it's target for grassroot

development. Chairman of the Local Government, Omolola Essien, said that Tapa area, in Oko Oba, is a primary focus in the

realization of peaceful cohabitation. She noted that the visit and sensitization on peace and harmony will help propel the

residents in the area to imbibe in themselves the spirit of unity. Residents who attended the event expressed

gratitude to the legislative team for their efforts in promoting peace in the community. They also commended the

community's Chairman for her dedication in attending to the issues affecting the Local Government.



Ogunsnya Takes Over as New Permanent Secretary For Home Affairs

... Charges Staff to Embrace Change

Sequel to the recent deployment of some Permanent Secretaries by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu last week, the newly deployed Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Adewunmi Ogunsanya has assumed duties at the Ministry.

Mr. Ogunsanya, addressing staff of the Ministry, charged them to embrace change as they discharge their duties, adding that no matter the strength of a foundation, there is always a level of change that can be applied to make things better and stronger.

He assured that his tenure at the Ministry

will be an all-inclusive one as his policy of open door will be available for all members of staff to explore as he is predisposed to fresh and innovative ideas.

He charged that there is more work to be done to sustain and improve the successes recorded in the recent past, imploring all staff to put in their best to achieve more success in the coming days.

Mr. Adewunmi Ogunsanya was appointed to the Body of Permanent Secretaries in 2023 by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and served in the Cabinet office before his recent deployment to Home Affairs last week.



World Robot Olympiad: Model College Meiran, New Era Girls Emerge Winners

The teams representing Lagos State Senior Model College Meiran and students of New Era Girls Junior Secondary School Surulere have emerged winners of the World Robot Olympiad finals for junior and senior secondary schools held in Lagos. The two schools, in addition to trophies and other prizes won, will represent Nigeria at the World Robot Olympiad (WRO) scheduled to hold in the city of Izmir, Turkiye in November, 2024.

The two schools edged out the other 50 schools that participated in the Robot Olympiad competition at both the preliminary and the finals.

While commending the participating schools and their teachers, the State Commissioner for Basic and Secondary



Education, Mr. Jamiu Tolani Alli-Balogun reiterated the significance of science education for school children at an early stage.

He added that the administration of Governor Babajide

Olusola Sanwo-Olu will continue to invest in education and 21st Century Technology as enunciated in the THEMES Plus Agenda.

The Commissioner appreciated the teachers who also doubled as coaches to

their various schools and acknowledged the students' efforts of the participating schools for their ingenious creativity in robot building as displayed at both the preliminary and final of the competition.

Mr Ali-Balogun assured

the students of the State Government's plan to provide more computers in public schools to ensure an increased spread of digital learning and skills among pupils and students.

Earlier, the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor of Lagos State on Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Eniola Opeyemi admonished the students to put more effort and sharpen their critical thinking and problem-solving skills by using robots to solve problems around them. He praised Governor Sanwo-Olu for the opportunity given to the students to explore technology at an early stage of their lives.

The Robot Olympiad competition is an annual event organised by the Lagos State

Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education to help students exhibit their learnings through practical demonstration, increasing their curiosity and enthusiasm for technology and robotics. The theme for this year's competition is Earth Allies.

The various school teams explore through robots how nature and natural events can affect us.

Other winners in the State final include Akoka Junior High School, Bariga and Okesuna Junior High School, Lagos Island who came second and third respectively. In the Senior category, Ojo Senior High School, Ojo and Lagos City College, Sabo Yaba picked the second and third positions respectively.



Lagos, ROLAC Train Magistrates On Restorative Justice

The Lagos Restorative Justice Centre, in collaboration with the State Attorney-General and Permanent Secretary, Lagos Ministry of Justice, Mrs. Titilayo Shitta-bey Jeje, (RoLAC), on Thursday, organised a training programme for Lagos Magistrates on Restorative justice at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos. Speaking at the opening ceremony, the State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro, SAN, stressed that Restorative Justice is not alien and has been practised for over three decades in other countries, hence the need for it to be adopted into the Nigeria Justice System to ensure the peaceful resolution of criminal cases.

The AG, represented by the Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Lagos Ministry of Justice, Mrs. Titilayo Shitta-bey Jeje, noted that RJ is an approach to justice that aims to get offenders to take responsibility for their actions, to understand the harm they have caused to the victim, and also to allow the offenders to redeem themselves. "The conventional criminal justice response of 'punishment' has suffered many setbacks such as recidivism, increase in the rate of crime, long prosecution process, overcrowding of correctional facilities, and overloading of court dockets amongst others", he said.

While reiterating that the need for justice reforms necessitated the introduction of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law, 2021 (as amended), Pedro revealed that the ACJL has provisions that aim at protecting both the victim, the offender, and the society, also known as Restorative Justice. The Attorney-General further explained that the purpose of the Law is to ensure that the Administration of Criminal Justice in Nigeria promotes efficient management of criminal justice institutions, protection of the society from crime, protection of the rights and interests of the suspect, the

defendant, and the victim while ensuring a speedy dispensation of justice in the State.

Pedro, therefore, urged Magistrates to take full advantage of the training programme as this will help them develop new skills and strategies for resolving cases that focus on repairing harm and rehabilitating offenders, leading to higher satisfaction with the justice system of the State.

The State Coordinator of The Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC) programme, Mrs. Ajibola Ijimakinwa in her opening remarks said that ROLAC has partnered with the State's Ministry of Justice to sensitise

stakeholders, judges, magistrates, prosecutors and law enforcement officers on the Administration of Criminal Justice System in the State.

She applauded the Lagos State Government for being a pacesetter in the administration of the criminal justice system while urging other states in the federation to emulate the giant strides that the State has continuously achieved.

Giving the vote of thanks, Mrs. Anifat Onafowokan expressed gratitude to the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, RoLAC, facilitators and other

participants for the success of the training. She added that she looked forward to more partnerships and engagements in the near future.

Facilitators and dignitaries at the training programme include the DPP, Lagos, Dr. Babajide Martins; The Coordinator of Lagos Restorative Justice Centre, Mrs. Adenike Oluwafemi; Chairman, Lagos State RJC Steering Committee, Dr. Akeem Bello; Managing Consultant, Atticus Allen Consulting, Mrs. Adeyinka Aroyewun and the Acting Director of the Lagos MultiDoor CourtHouse, Mrs. Achere Cole amongst others.

Traditional Rulers in Lagos State recently reiterated their commitment to continuously support the administration of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu in the development agenda of Lagos State and in Making Lagos State a 21st Century Economy. They made this pledge at a three-day Retreat for Traditional Rulers organised by the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development held recently in Epe, Lagos. The Traditional Rulers, who affirmed their support for the present administration, also appealed that the State Government should continue to involve Traditional Rulers in governance. In his keynote address at the opening ceremony, the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by his Chief of Staff, Mr. Tayo Ayinde, reiterated the State Government's commitment to the welfare of Traditional Leaders, assuring that the State would continue to engage them in its efforts to ensure continuous social development, peace and prosperity. Mr. Governor commended Traditional Rulers for the crucial role they play in helping the Government understand better the impact of governance on the people. He stated that his administration will continue to support and enable Traditional Rulers to keep making meaningful contributions to the development of the State, especially in the areas of security and welfare. Speaking in the same vein, Chairman, House Committee on Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development, Hon. Sanni Okanlawon reiterated the key roles Traditional Rulers play in governance in ensuring peaceful co-existence and harmonious relationships amongst diverse people residing in their domains. He revealed that it is in consideration of their important roles that the present administration is involving traditional rulers in governance towards sustaining the peace and progress that Lagos State enjoys. Earlier, the Commissioner for Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development, Mr. Bolaji Kayode Robert thanked Mr. Governor for his inclusive policy which has allowed Traditional Rulers to contribute to the development of the State through their wisdom and rich experience. He explained that the retreat is an opportunity for the State Government and Traditional Rulers to have robust interfaces and interactions on how they can have conversations on ways to maintain the peace in Lagos State. He added that it is important for traditional institutions as stakeholders to be aware and equipped with adequate knowledge that will assist in conflict resolutions and the promotion of peaceful co-existence in their domains and by extension, Lagos State. The Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Kikelomo Bolarinwa also applauded the unrelenting efforts of Mr. Governor in prioritising Traditional Institutions in the State which has engendered ease in the discharge of their roles as Traditional Rulers. The three-day retreat themed: "Traditional Rulers: Anchors in Times of Social Crisis", was attended by Honourable Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Special Adviser to the Governor on Rural Development, Dr. Nurudeen Agbaje and other top government officials in the State.



Lagos Reaffirms Support For Artisans , Tradesmen

... Swears-In Newly Elected LASCOTA Executives

The Lagos State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to support Tradesmen and Artisans so that they can maximise their potential in their various Professions.

The Commissioner for Wealth Creation and Employment, Hon Akinyemi Ajigbotafe made this known while welcoming attendees to the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected Executive members of the Lagos State Council of Tradesmen and Artisans (LASCOTA) after a successful election to vacant offices supervised by the Ministry.



Ajigbotafe congratulated the newly elected Officers to the Council as they took the oath of office, charging them to uphold the Constitution of the Association while contributing their quotas to the vision of a #Greater Lagos.

The newly elected President, Engr. Lawrence Ajayi appreciated the Commissioner for his efforts and support, pledging to be a leader with a listening ear while prioritising the interests of the

members above all consideration and working tirelessly to advance the mission of the Council. Facebook X LinkedIn Tumblr Pinterest Reddit VKontakte Share via Email Print Photo of oolasunkanmi2

A suspect, Israel Onwe, has been arrested for allegedly obtaining the sum of N18,600,000 under false pretence. Onwe, 29, was arraigned by the police at the Yaba Magistrates' Court on Thursday.

Police Prosecutor, Haruna Magaji, submitted that the alleged who resides at No 9, Idi-Iroko Street, off Lagos Road, Ogolonto, Ikorodu, Lagos, is facing a two-count charge of obtaining money by false pretence and stealing. Onwe pleaded not guilty.

Haruna, nonetheless, stated that the defendant committed the offences on May 19 at Shop 148, Ori-Iyanrin Market, Ebute-Ero, Lagos. The prosecutor claimed that Onwe collected goods worth the amount from three vendors

Suspect Remanded Over N18.6m Fraud



By Felix Kuyinu

and promised to pay up in installments. Haruna uttered that the vendors gave the goods to him on the grounds that he is a

regular customer, who has not defaulted in the past. "He refused to pay the money. All efforts by the vendors to get their money or goods back proved abortive.

"His offences contravened Sections 287 and 314 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015." Having heard the prosecutor's

presentations, the Magistrate, Oladele Adefope, granted the defendant bail in the sum of N5 million with two sureties in like sum. He added

that one of the sureties must be a blood relation of the defendant. The case was adjourned till July 25.

Man Remanded Over Sexual Assault On 12-Year-Old Boy

By Felix Kuyinu

A 43-year-old man, Adema Ogunbiyi, is facing prosecution for an alleged sexual assault on a 12-year-old boy.

The alleged offender, who is on remand at the Kirikiri Correctional Centre, is a housemaster at St. Catholic Secondary School, Idimu, Ikotun Lagos.

Police Prosecutor, Inspector John Iberedem, said that the suspect assaulted the victim, a student of the school, on June 18

between the hours of 10:00 and 11:30 pm. Iberedem disclosed that the offence contravenes the provisions of Section 261 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

In another sexual crime case, the Magistrates' Court in Ikeja has held trial against one Friday Abu for defiling his 15-year-old niece.

43-year-old Abu, who was remanded on Friday was accused of committing the act on May 29 at about 5:50 pm where he resides. Iberedem, the prosecutor at the court,



said that the victim was living with the suspect at Alapere, Ketu when the incident happened. The prosecutor

informed that the offence contravened Section 137 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State 2015. Presiding Magistrate,

Ejiro Kubeinje, who presided over both cases directed the police to send files of both cases to the the

Lagos State Director of Public Prosecutions, DPP for advice. Further sitting on both trials will hold on July 24 and 23 respectively.

Onilude Gives Reasons For Renovating Badagry Town Hall

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude has revealed the reasons for embarking on the renovation of the Badagry town hall. Onilude said the historical Badagry town hall will serve as an avenue to host community activities. The council boss reiterated his administration's commitment to remodelling the symbolic and monumental Badagry townhall as a public

auditorium that showcases historic communal values and gathering of traditional and modern celebrations and festivities among other purposes.

While inspecting the Agric-Isalu road project under construction, Onilude expressed satisfaction with the quality of job done so far.

The council boss said the road construction is a testament of his administration's commitment to delivering quality and beneficial projects to the citizens.



Tree Planting: Onilude Calls For Environmental Preservation

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude is urging residents of the community to preserve their environment and plant trees for human comfort.

Onilude advocates residents to make personal commitment to the environment by reducing carbon footprints, recycle more, support local environmental conservation initiatives. The council boss stated that it is the collective efforts of individuals that drives meaningful change and creates a better environment for all.

Onilude disclosed at the event to commemorate the Year 2024 Tree Planting Day with the

Theme 'Nurture Our Future' which was held at the Topo-Idale Primary Healthcare Center.

Onilude hammered on the benefits of planting and preserving trees stating that trees has more benefits to the environment beyond producing fruits and shades for humans.

"Trees are not mere ornaments of nature; they are the lifeblood of our planet. Strategically planting trees in our environment have tremendous benefits and contribute to the environment and help fight climate change.

"As we plant trees to commemorate this year's tree planting day, we are not just adding greenery to our

landscape; we are planting the seed of a brighter and healthier for ourselves and for generations to come."

The vice-chairman, Elizabeth Pedetin Kappo emphasized on the essence of trees, forests and environmental conservation as well as policies and measures that promotes sustainable land management practices.

The council manager, Asokere Sejuro Philip said that in addition to raising citizens' awareness about combating climate change, the event is also meant to sensitize citizens about reducing global warming by planting trees and storing carbon.

Why I Ventured Into Music-Rema

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Afrobeats artist Rema has stated the reason why he ventured into the music industry at a very young age. According to the music icon, his desire to pursue a music career was spurred by his mother's hardship and poverty. Rema recounted in an

interview with Capital Xtral London that he was driven to succeed since his mother couldn't afford transportation costs while she went about her everyday job. "I was tired of my mum trekking every day; she didn't even have money for transport to use a bus or bike. So I had to take it to the next level ASAP.

"The moment I made money, I got her a car ASAP. We went for dinner, then I gave her that car. A lot of boys would go for their own cars first but I was still trekking, but I had to get a car for my mum first. "She's a great mum. She's the reason I'm successful. Her prayers. She's really proud of me."



Nigerian Biochemist, Oluwole, Sets GWR In Video Game Marathon

By Nurudeen Adebayo



Guinness World Records has officially recognized Nigerian biochemist Oside Oluwole for achieving the longest video game marathon. Oluwole, 24, played a soccer video game continuously for 75 hours, surpassing the previous record of 50 hours set by Englishman David

Whitefoot in 2022. Oluwole undertook this feat in his hometown of Ijebu-Ode, Nigeria, with the aim of raising funds for a local hospital. His remarkable achievement was acknowledged by Guinness World Records on social media, highlighting

that he "smashed the record considerably." In their announcement, Guinness World Records stated, "Before, no one in the past has broken this record by such a large margin as Oside has. It was first set in 2010 with a time of 24 hours and gradually increased to 50 hours after being beaten seven times in 11 years."

I lost Everything After Divorce -Carolyna Hutchins

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Scottish-Nigerian actress Carolyna Hutchings recounts the experience of losing everything following her divorce from her ex-husband, Musa Danjuma. In a lengthy Instagram post on Wednesday, the actress revealed that she lost her identity and dreams after the divorce. Reflecting on her journey, she explained that the separation forced her to start over, facing

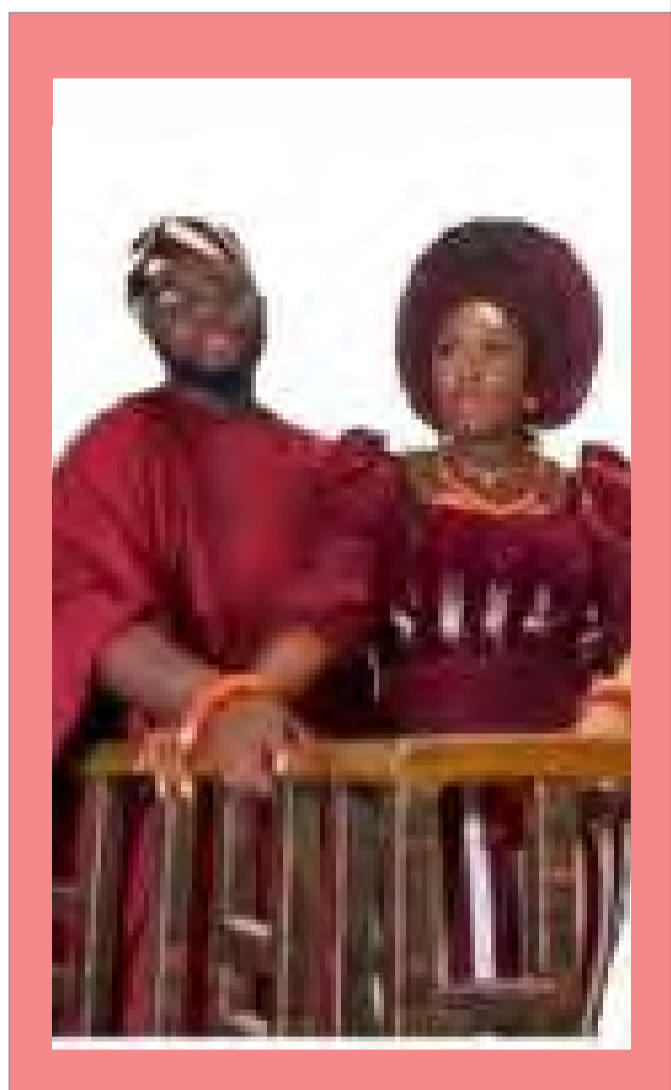
discrimination and rejection along the way. "I was once a promising makeup artist and hair guru, actress, film producer and fashion consultant. CEO Luxury Addict, CEO Kinetic Media. But I lost my identity and dreams because of divorce. "I walked away from it all for my own sanity. I started my journey from scratch facing all the fake rumors, discriminations, rejections and uncertainties at 29+ years. "A conversation that

women who have walked the same path hate to talk about. A bittersweet journey to a place unknown. This is my story. How I was able to become better than who I was financially and mentally. I will be telling it my own way. I am here to listen to you and heal with you .. my story will only be to encourage the broken, the shattered ones .. THERE IS LIFE AFTER Divorce, rejection, pain, hurt or death..



NYSC Camp Marriage Sparks Social Media Buzz

By Nurudeen Adebayo



A Nigerian woman has sparked a viral sensation online after sharing her unexpected love story on TikTok, where she revealed that she married a man she met at the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) camp, despite him being in a long-term relationship at the time. The woman, known as @oxyjene on TikTok, recounted how she fell in love with a man from Port Harcourt during her NYSC camp in Kubwa. The story took a dramatic turn when the man's girlfriend of seven years reached out to @oxyjene to confirm

that there was nothing happening between her and her boyfriend. In a surprising twist, @oxyjene revealed that she married the same man last week. Reflecting on the experience, she said: "Sitting here with my lashes and drinking Mirinda and eating pizza because life didn't end when I went to NYSC camp and fell in love with a Port Harcourt boy just for his ex to call me one spring chicken Sunday evening to tell me she's his girlfriend of 7 years and she wanted to make sure there was nothing between us... anyways I married him last week."



Hope For Epe, As Raji's Bill Passes Second Reading

By Mohammed Adekola

Epe Federal Constituency representative in the lower chamber, Hon. Wale Raji's bill to establish a Federal Medical Center in Epe has passed its second reading.

Raji, emphasized the urgent need for advanced medical facilities in Epe, highlighting the region's population growth and increasing health demands.

"This bill is about saving lives and ensuring access to quality healthcare," Raji stated during the plenary session.

The bill received strong support from

lawmakers, who noted its potential to reduce pressure on existing medical centers in Lagos State.

With the bill moving past its second reading, it will proceed to the committee stage for further scrutiny and possible amendments. Meanwhile, Epe residents expressed optimism and gratitude, hoping for swift progress and eventual implementation of the proposed medical center.

The Federal Medical Center is expected to enhance medical research, training, and healthcare services, transforming the healthcare landscape

in Epe.

The healthcare infrastructure in Epe has long been inadequate, with residents often traveling long distances for medical care.

Establishing the center will bring specialized healthcare services closer to the community, improving overall health outcomes.

The center will also create job opportunities, boosting the local economy and attracting healthcare professionals to the region.

As the bill progresses, stakeholders will engage in consultations to ensure the medical center meets the community's needs.



Lagos Clarifies Ban On Danfo, Korope Buses Along Lekki-Epe Roads

By Mohammed Adekola

The Lagos State Government has clarified plans to ban Danfo and Korope buses along the Lekki-Epe corridor starting from October 1, 2024.

According to the Special Adviser on Transportation to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Transportation, Sola Giwa, in a statement on Sunday, the move is part of the state's Bus Reform Initiative aimed at enhancing public commuting and better serving the residents of Lagos.

Giwa, who was reacting to media reports that Danfos would be banned in Lagos, explained that the initiative will introduce mass transit buses for the Lekki-Epe corridor. He stated that Danfo buses that meet the standards of the Vehicle Inspection Service will operate as mid-capacity



buses.

Korope buses that also meet the standards will be integrated into the First Mile Last Mile services to serve the interior roads along the stretch from Obalende/CMS to Ajah. The Special Adviser emphasised that the

current state of bus operations on the corridor is chaotic, and the need to regulate and integrate the informal transport sector into the State's Bus Reform Initiative is necessary.

He warned that any

operator who contravenes the regulations will be fined and will forfeit their vehicles if they ignore the notice of their fines. He added, "Designated routes will be assigned, and compliance will be strictly monitored.

"Passenger comfort is a

top priority; therefore, an e-ticketing system will be introduced." Giwa disclosed that a stakeholders' meeting held on June 27th, which included heads of Transport Unions, key Transport Operators, officials

from the State's Ministry of Transportation, and the Special Adviser and Permanent Secretary of Transportation, addressed all doubts and concerns, and a communique was signed.



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LASUSTECH Community Mourns Adeola, 100-Level Student

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH) community is mourning the loss of Aresho Okikiola Adeola, a 100-level Chemical Engineering student who passed away on July 11, 2024. Okikiola's untimely death occurred shortly after she complained of a stomach ache.

According to her uncle, Mr. Fashakin Adewale, Okikiola had been experiencing fever and was treated, showing signs of recovery. However, in the early hours of Thursday, July 11, she reported a stomach upset and cold, which rapidly worsened and affected her breathing. "Before we knew it, she had passed away," her uncle recounted. "She just left, just like that."

Her classmates, who described her as a good friend and a pure-hearted individual, attended her burial in large numbers. Among the lecturers present were Dr. Fadayini Oluwafemi, Mr. Fakunmoju Folajuwon, Assistant Director of Students' Affairs, and David Gabriel, Chairman of the Student Consultative Assembly. Mr. Fashakin Adewale described Okikiola as brilliant and impactful, saying, "She made an impact on everyone she met." He added that she had been recovering from a fever before her sudden death.

During the burial, Comrade Gabriel David



Oluwasegun, Chairman of the Student Representative Council, paid tribute to Okikiola, saying, "It is with great pain and sorrow that I

stand before you today, on the day of her burial, to pay tribute to our dear colleague. I recall that she was one of the few students who

participated in our artificial intelligence revolution program and boot camp. Her dedication and enthusiasm were

evident in her attendance and graduation from the program, which showed her seriousness and commitment."

Mr. Fadayini Oluwafemi, a lecturer in Chemical Engineering, remembered Okikiola as a calm and focused individual who always minded her business. He advised students to recognize that life is in stages and to prioritize internal values.

Ayomide Uthman, Head of Class for Chemical Engineering, expressed his shock at the loss of his colleague, saying, "To be honest, I'm still in shock. I didn't expect to lose her so soon, especially since I've only known her for less than 8

months. She was a kind and friendly person, always building others up. Her passing is a reminder to be grateful to God in every situation we find ourselves in."

Mr. Fakunmoju Folajuwon, Assistant Director of Students' Affairs, expressed his condolences, saying, "God gives and takes. Our only hope is in God." He advised students to put their hope in God and give their lives to Christ.

The LASUSTECH community remembers Okikiola Adeola as a dedicated and impactful student whose presence will be deeply missed.

LASUSTECH Students Participate in World Tree Planting Day

By Nurudeen Adebayo

On July 17, 2024, students from Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH) participated in a global initiative to promote environmental sustainability by marking World Tree Planting Day.

Mr. Samuel Adeshina Shoyiga, Deputy Speaker of the Youth Parliament, visited the university to support the initiative and emphasize the importance of environmental awareness among students. A frangipani plant, also known as the Sacred Tree, was planted at the university's Entrepreneurship Education



Development (EED) center, symbolizing the institution's commitment to environmental sustainability and wealth creation.

Students gathered to witness the planting and learn about the significance of tree planting.

The project was organized by Mr.

Shoyiga, Mr. Lamina Azeez, Chief Executive Officer of Waves Media Limited, and Mr. Abdulkabir Ogunjimi Olamide, President of the National Association of

Ikorodu Division Students. It aims to empower the next generation of environmental leaders and promote sustainable practices.

Mr. Shoyiga highlighted the importance of environmental sustainability and wealth creation, stating, "I'm passionate about turning places into wealth and creating programs that show students how to create wealth beyond traditional jobs."

Mr. Azeez expressed his delight in being part of the event, referencing a quote, "The tree you sit under today was planted by someone you don't know." He added that he felt privileged to plant a tree that would benefit future generations.

Saheed Flags Off Construction of 1,200 Capacity Mini Stadium

Kehinde Adeleye

In a momentous step towards community development, Kosofe Constituency II residents can now look forward to a new Mini Stadium in the Ayedere community.

The ground-breaking ceremony, attended by prominent figures, saw lawmaker Mr. Femi Saheed and his colleague, Mr. Abiodun Orekoya, collaborate to ensure that the 1,200-capacity stadium would be built with the utmost consideration for the surrounding school and community.

In an effort to ensure a harmonious balance between sports and education in Ayedere community, Mr. Femi Saheed and Mr Abiodun Orekoya worked hand-in-hand with the project's overseer, Engr Adeleke Peculiar, to guarantee that the new Mini Stadium would be built without compromising the functionality of the neighboring school. This exemplary cooperation and understanding resulted in the construction of an 8-class duplex building

and a water system, which would not only enable the Mini Stadium to be built but also enhance the infrastructure of the school itself. While addressing the gathering, Mr. Femi Saheed explained that the Mini Stadium would not only be a hub for discovering fresh talent in sports but also a valuable resource for maintaining a healthy balance between education and extracurricular activities for the youth in the community. He expressed his

heartfelt gratitude to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Speaker Mudashiru Obasa for recognizing the potential of his constituency and granting them the esteemed sporting facility.

"I am a happy man today because we are delivering dividends of democracy to our people. This facility when completed will discover new talents, boost our youth sporting activities and engage them in a better way. Let us thank Mr capable, Governor

Babajide Sanwo-Olu and my amiable Boss, Speaker Mudashiru Obasa for graciously approving this stadium for us. If you continue to vote for our party, more development will continue to fall in as Chairman of Ikosi-Isheri LCDA, Princess Samiat Bada had also approved the construction of road leading to this place", Mr. Femi Saheed said. The lawmaker also thanked his counterpart, Hon Abiodun Orekoya and other stakeholders who worked hard to bring the stadium to his

constituency.

The stadium is among the ten mini stadia constructions going on in Lagos. The 1,200 capacity and 9-side field with artificial turf would be completed in six months with a total budget of a billion naira.

Mrs Adekanye, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education thank Mr. Femi Saheed for his unmatched achievements in education and sport development. She believed the sporting edifice will improve students psychomotor knowledge complementing the efforts of the teachers for easy assimilation.

Other dignitaries who graced the event were Hon Olalekan Fatodun, Director of Sports; Mr Babatunde Soneye, Executive Secretary, Kosofe LGEA; Engr Banjo Mojeed, Representative of SUBEB Chairman/Project monitoring department; Engr Sonibare Olaleke, Director of Engineering, Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education; Mr Olatunji, Director of School Administration, District 2; Alhaji Shamsudeen Asubiaro, Baale of Ayedere community; Alhaji Ali Olatunbosun, APC Chairman, Ikosi-Isheri LCDA and many more.



Akinsanya Urges Youths To Embrace Vocational Education

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of the House Committee on Public Accounts (Local), Mr. Nureni Akinsanya, on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day 2024 has called on young people in Mushin Constituency I to focus on developing their skills, not just for their personal advancement but also for the greater good of Lagos State. His statement, themed "Youth Skills for Peace and Development," underscored the vital role that skilled youth play in driving social

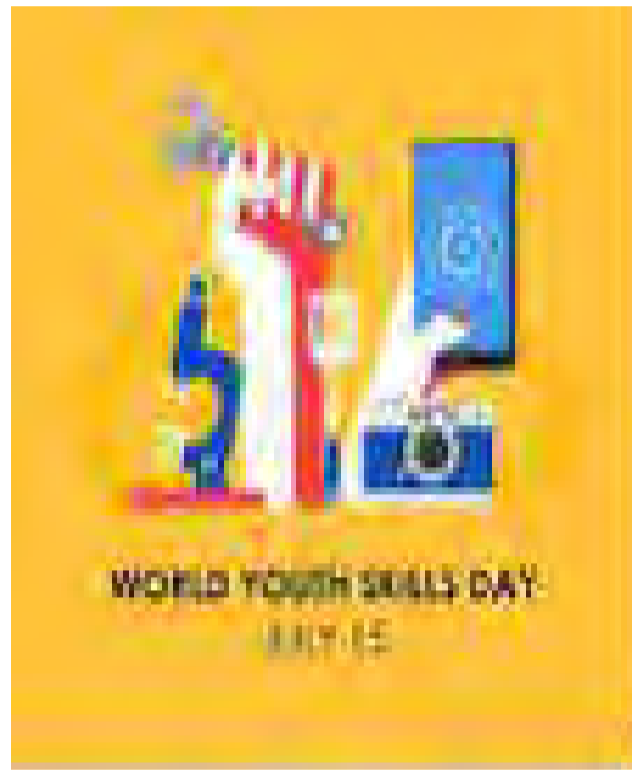
and economic progress. Akinsanya urged young people to consider how their individual development can contribute to a prosperous and harmonious society. "Investing in youth skills is crucial for achieving sustainable development goals and promoting peace, especially in the face of current challenges," the statement said. "Everyone must collaborate to support our youth by providing opportunities for technical, vocational, and entrepreneurial

training." Akinsanya highlighted his achievements in nominating several young people for various skills development programs offered by the state government. He also emphasized his efforts to empower youths and women through skills training programs to enhance their businesses and achieve financial independence. "Recently, my office nominated youths for participation in programs like the Butchers Academy, WAPA, and other entrepreneurial

initiatives aimed at transforming them into

agents of change," he stated. and also gave

some employments in civil service, and some numerous projects like road rehabilitation around his constituency. "The responsibility doesn't solely lie with legislators, local governments, or the Lagos State government. It's crucial for the private sector and individuals to work together by harnessing young people's potential through education and vocational training. This collaboration will pave the way for a more prosperous and peaceful future for all."



Mushin Odi-Olowo Agenda Presents New EXCO To Ajala

Kehinde Adeleye

In a bid to solidify relationships between key stakeholders and community development initiatives in the Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Mushin Odi-Olowo Agenda (MOA) paid a visit to the council chairman, Mr. Rasaq Olushola Ajala. The Chairman of MOA's Board of Trustees, Mr. Noah Oshifeso, highlighted the organization's desire to forge a stronger bond with the local government and reaffirmed their dedication to supporting various community development projects. "We are here today to

introduce our new executives and to assure you of our commitment to supporting your administration's efforts in developing our community," Mr. Oshifeso said. "We believe that by working together, we can achieve greater impact and improve the lives of our people." Comrade Olusoji Adeleye, a Board of Trustee member of Mushin Odi-Olowo Agenda (MOA), introduced the new executives to the Chairman and management team of Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA, fostering stronger ties between

the organization and the community. While expressing gratitude to the Chairman, Mr. Rasaq Olushola Ajala, for his impressive infrastructural, healthcare, educational, and social amenities initiatives, Comrade Adeleye highlighted the positive impact these projects have had on the community. Highlighting the MOA's contribution to community development, President Comrade Muritala Salami enumerated several key initiatives undertaken by the organization, such as

capacity-building programs for its members, which aimed to enhance their ability to disseminate information effectively and positively impact the community. In response, Chairman Rasaq Olushola Ajala expressed admiration for MOA's dedication to the well-being of the people and its commitment to complementing the local government's efforts. The Council Boss took the opportunity to highlight the achievements of his administration, which included road rehabilitation, healthcare provision, and education support.

He reaffirmed his desire to partner with MOA to achieve even greater progress within the community. During his address, Chairman Ajala also provided an overview of his administration's programs and plans, including the rehabilitation of 20 roads and a system for classifying roads for timely maintenance. He commended President Asiwaju Bolaji's long-term policies for prosperity, urging Nigerians to remain patient and assuring them that the country will soon experience a positive shift. Comrade Diipo Akinsete, the

immediate past President, thanked Hon. Ajala for his support and encouragement. They pledged to continue working with the local government to achieve their shared goals for the community.

The meeting ended with a group photograph and a renewed commitment to partnership and collaboration between MOA and Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA. This visit has strengthened the ties between the local government and the community, paving the way for more effective collaboration and progress in the community.

Mushin LG Pledges More Support To Vulnerable People

By Saheed Afolabi

Over 250 elderly people, widows and vulnerable in Mushin community were rewarded with a 10,000 naira token each being a quarterly financial support from the Mushin Local to assist this category of people, who have been on the support list of the chairman since 2017. Representing the council chairman to present the cash token to the beneficiaries, the Vice chairman, Tunbosun Aruwe, posited that the present administration has been

running an inclusive government, taking good care of its citizens including the vulnerable, through financial support distribution of food palliative and free health care outreach for members of the community and market traders on monthly basis.

He emphasised that ageing is inevitable as social and financial provisions play major roles in mental and spiritual well-being of elderly persons in the society.

The vice chairman

appreciated all the guests for attending the event and assured them of government's continuous support to cushion the effect of economic hardship.

All political office holders were in attendance to support the vice chairman in presentation of the cash support for members of the community.

In her welcome address, the supervisor for women affairs and poverty alleviation, Mrs Abosede Adetutu appreciated the council boss for attending to the welfare of the people.



OSHODI

Oshodi-Isole LG Chairman, Oloyede, Reshuffles Cabinet

Kehinde Adeleye

In a bid to enhance service delivery, governance efficiency, and responsiveness to the needs of residents, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, the Chairman of Oshodi-Isole Local Government, has reshuffled his cabinet members.

Oloyede explained that this decision was driven by a desire to prioritize the well-being of the people, improve response times, and guarantee prompt service delivery to the residents of the council area.

In a release made available by his media office, the change of portfolio affects five members of the cabinet viz:

1. Hon. Gideon Balagun is now transferred to Education as Special Adviser from his previous portfolio on Revenue Matters

2. Hon. Abiodun Mamora has now been transferred to Youth and Sports as Supervisor from his previous portfolio of Chieftaincy Matters

3. Hon. Ajoke Onitolo has now been transferred to Civic Engagement as Special Adviser from her previous portfolio of Education.

4. Hon. Jakande Olusegun is now Supervisor for Chieftaincy Matters from his previous portfolio of Youth and Sports.

5. Hon. Obafemi Olamilekan is now Super on Revenue Matters from his

previous portfolio of Civic Engagement

In his communique, Oloyede announced that the reshuffling would take effect immediately, and affected members were required to promptly hand over relevant files to their successors to ensure seamless transition and optimal performance.

He urged all cabinet members, including those affected by the reshuffling, to remain focused and committed to their roles, emphasizing the importance of innovative thinking and programming to enhance the living standards of the residents.

He added a warning that any member found to be underperforming

would face consequences in line with established rules and regulations.

He said; "In our desire to ensure good governance at all levels, we have redeployed five of our supervisors to the departments where they will further serve our people. The redeployment takes immediate effect.

This development is meant to ensure we deliver more as we have been doing on our promises to the people in ensuring even infrastructural development in our dear local government.

"I charge every member of this cabinet to be innovative and initiate programmes that would improve the living standards of our people."

"We will not hesitate to sack any non performing cabinet

member in accordance to the rules of engagement, as you do not have any excuse

not to perform optimally in your various departments."



Salawu Commends Somolu Residents For Their Cooperation

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Somolu LG, Abdulhamed Salawu has lauded the residents of the community for their cooperation in the construction of various infrastructures across

the Local Government. Salawu inspected the ongoing construction of roads and drainages in the Fadeyi axis of Somolu. During his visit, he urged the construction workers to deliver a quality job within few weeks. The council chairman expressed satisfaction

with the progress and praised the residents for their cooperation, emphasizing that Fadeyi is as important and prioritized as any other area in Somolu. Accompanying the Chairman were Alhaji Kabir Raji, supervisor for works and infrastructure, and

council engineer, Femi Osifala. They toured several key project sites, including Kalejaiye Street, Oyebajo Street, and Isaac John Street. Their presence underscored the administration's commitment to closely monitoring and ensuring the quality of

ongoing infrastructural projects.

In addition to the primary inspection team, Salawu was joined by Mike Oikeh and Deacon Femi Taiwo. The presence of these influential figures highlighted the collaborative effort involved in the projects.

The team was also accompanied by Council Leader, Yomi Osunkoya and councilor representing Ward H-Fadeyi, Kingsley Ihehen. The inspection further included the Secretary to the Local Government, Ayodele Afolabi, as well as supervisors for various critical sectors such as Agriculture, Social and Community Services, Health, Environment, WAPA, Budgets, Statistics, and Research & Planning. Special Advisers on Tourism and

ICT were also present, showcasing the comprehensive approach of the local government towards infrastructure development.

Chairman of the Somolu revenue committee, Mr Adebola Banjoko was also part of the inspection team. His involvement signals the importance of financial oversight in ensuring that resources are effectively utilized for the benefit of the community.

The collaborative visit demonstrates the administration's commitment to fostering development and improving the quality of life for residents across all areas of Somolu



The chairman of Somolu LG, Abdulhamed Salawu has pledged to construct Owolabi Balogun Street to a remarkable quality standard which will stand the test of time.

Salawu highlighted the local government's commitment to enhancing road networks and ensuring timely project delivery.

Accompanied by the supervisor for works and infrastructure, Alhaji Kabir Raji, and the council engineer, Femi Osifala, Salawu emphasized the importance of completing the construction of Owolabi Balogun Street within six weeks.

The chairman instructed the team to ensure that contractors adhere to this timeline, stressing the need for efficiency and quality in the work

Salawu Promises To Build Standard Road at Balogun Street

By Saheed Afolabi

being carried out.

"We are committed to delivering this project on time and to the highest standards," Salawu said.

"Our goal is to improve the infrastructure for the benefit of our residents."

Following the completion of Owolabi Balogun Street, the construction team will commence work on the adjoining Fatai Kadir Street. This phased approach aims to minimize traffic congestion, disruption and ensure continuous progress in the local government's infrastructure development plans.



PalmPay sustains zero transfer fees on fintech app to enhance financial inclusion

By Rasaq Adebayo

A leading fintech company, PalmPay, said it has maintained unlimited free transfers to all banks on its app for all its users as an effort to drive financial inclusion across Nigeria. According to the company, the feature which was introduced earlier in the year has been allowing users to make transfers to all banks within the country without incurring any bank fees. Speaking, the PalmPay's Managing Director, Chika Nwosu, stated: "We are committed to ensuring smooth and easy transactions with our free transfer feature. This shows our

dedication to providing accessible and affordable financial services to our over 30 million users and every Nigerian. We believe everyone should have access to affordable financial services." He noted that PalmPay is dedicated to driving economic empowerment in Nigeria by offering top-tier products such as money transfers, bill payments, credit services, and savings through its app and mobile money agents. "Users can send and receive money seamlessly, pay bills effortlessly, shop with ease, and earn discounts and cashback while performing these transactions. "By eliminating

transfer fees to all banks on its app, PalmPay has empowered its millions of customers to enjoy endless fund transfers to family and friends, pay their bills seamlessly, and manage their finances more effectively. PalmPay is a leading Africa-focused fintech platform committed to driving economic empowerment in Africa. "Through its secure, user-friendly, and inclusive suite of financial services, PalmPay brings top-tier products into the pockets of every day Nigerians. With this, we are able to drive financial inclusion. "It offers money transfers, bill payments, credit services, and



Chika Nwosu

savings on its app and via its mobile money agents. "Since launching

in Nigeria in 2019 under a Mobile Money Operator license, the

platform has grown to over 30 million app users as part of its cashless payment ecosystem," he stated.

Zoho, a global technology company, is partnering with She Code Africa (SCA), a leading non-profit organisation dedicated to empowering and upskilling African women in tech. With this partnership, Zoho will conduct Train the Trainer sessions for SCA Academy trainers to introduce them to Zoho Creator, the company's low-code app development platform. The trainers will subsequently train more students, associated with SCA, to build powerful applications using

Zoho partners with SCA to upskill women in tech through specialised training

low-code to solve actual business problems. Speaking, the Country Head, Zoho Nigeria, Kehinde Ogundare, said the upskilling sessions will be provided as part of the 'Young Creators Program' (YCP) run by Zoho Creator. "As part of the programme, Zoho will host 30 female trainers from the SCA Academy and will conduct a three-day in-depth training

session about building enterprise-grade applications with low-code technology. "The training will take place at the Zoho office in Lagos, Nigeria. The trainers will also receive free access to the Creator platform for one year, along with training material. "At Zoho, we believe in supporting local communities by upskilling and hiring local talent, empowering local

businesses with our technology, and promoting responsible and sustainable development. Our growth strategy, known as transnational localism, embodies these values. In continuation of this commitment to support progress at the grassroots, we are partnering with She Code Africa to equip Nigerian students with critical tech skills," he said.

"Launched globally in 2022, the Young Creators Programme is a training program aimed at equipping future business leaders with advanced digital skills and fostering innovation in technology. "The programme brings value by providing access to Zoho Creator's powerful platform to help participants build custom applications in a simple and seamless manner without

extensive programming knowledge. Beyond skill development, the program boosts confidence, fosters personal growth, and opens doors to further opportunities in the technology industry. "The programme has trained more than 2000+ students on Zoho Creator globally, enabling participants to earn program completion certificates and exciting prizes," he added.

"The 'Young Creators Programme' aims to bridge the technical skill gap and support talent-building for our youth who will be the next generation of leaders and professionals. We are glad to partner with Zoho to help our trainers learn the latest advancements in low-code technology, and then pass on the knowledge to our other students," said Maryblessing Okolie, Community Manager.

Bada Unveils Young Talents at Mayoress Football Academy

Kehinde Adeleye

Princess Samia Abolanle Bada's Mayoress Football Academy is a shining example of how sport can empower young athletes and transform lives. With its tireless efforts in discovering and nurturing talent, the academy has made waves in the sporting community and beyond. At the core of this success lies the infectious passion for sport that breathes life into every aspect of the academy. From rigorous training sessions and tactical drills to competitive matches, the Mayoress Football Academy provides a platform for young athletes to polish their skills, realize their potential, and, ultimately, shine on the big stage.



While the Mayoress Football Academy takes great pride in supporting its young players, what truly sets it apart from the rest is its unique dedication to nurturing the true force behind every victory - the coaches. Recognizing that coaches are the heart and soul of any successful team, the academy invests heavily in their well-being and

professional development. Not only are coaches given competitive compensation, but they are also rewarded with a monthly allowance, a gesture of gratitude for their tireless efforts in shaping the next generation of sporting champions.

The Coaching Crew comprises of Head Coach, Prince Richard Agbachi Asst Coach, Ajayi Olugbenga Julius, Goalkeeper Trainer, Aminu Samuel, Asst Goalkeeper Trainer, Festus Adewole, Physiotherapist, Mutiu Adetola Adeniyi, Assistant Physiotherapist, Olajide Obi

Mayoress Football Academy's commitment to nurturing talent

transcends the football field and extends to the lives of its players, exemplifying the transformative power of Princess Samia Abolanle Bada's vision. In recognition of the financial difficulties faced by many promising athletes, the academy provides a monthly allowance to thirty members of its team. This allowance not only serves as a motivational tool but also helps alleviate any financial stress that may hinder their progress in the sport.

The academy's holistic approach has yielded impressive results, both in terms of team performance and individual player development. The team has won four Trophies and twenty competitions.

With a firm belief that the team is destined for greatness, Mayoress Football Academy continues to push boundaries and defy expectations. By nurturing a culture of sport enthusiasm, providing unwavering support to coaches and team members, and fostering an environment where young talents can thrive, the academy is primed to go places and leave an indelible mark on the world of football. Over forty trainees have graduated from the Academy since 2021. The Chairman of great vision and compassion has always believed in the power of sport to transform lives and create opportunities for the youth.

NPFL: Ikorodu City Resumes Training Ahead Of Next Season

By Saheed Afolabi

Newly promoted Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) side, Ikorodu City FC have resumed training sessions ahead of the new season.

The Oga Boys spent three seasons at the NNL before gaining promotion to Nigeria topflight football.

The Lagos FA Cup champions held their first training sessions ahead of Preseason hostilities at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena, Onikan as they prepare for their elite status in the NPFL.

The Bright Ozebagbe tutored side took a break after the excruciating and fatiguing 2023/2024 NNL season where they gained promotion to the NPFL for the first time in their history.

Ikorodu City are rumoured to be pencilled down to take part in the annual ValueJet Cup in Ikenne which will start on July 24 and end on the 31st of the same month.

Ikorodu City, Nasarawa United, El-Kanemi Warriors and Beyond Limits secured promotion to the NPFL from the NNL.



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