

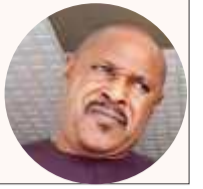
Got A Story?
Call
08032178602

To Place
Adverts,
Call
08025378799

Why I Married
Myself - Denrele
Edun Pg.14

HIV Response: LSACA
Trains Traditional
Attendants on
PMTCT Pg.6

Saheed Balogun's Family
Confirms Cause of
Daughter, Zeenat's
Death Pg.37



Echoneews

www.echoneews.ng

A publication of Echoneews Newspapers Limited

Monday 22nd June - Sunday 28th June 2026

LAGOS MAINTAINS LOW UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 5.5% -STUDY Pg. 2&4



Feyisayo Alayande

LASU Emerges LASEPA 2026
Inter-Tertiary Institutions
Environmental Summit Pg.5

FG Targets 40 Million Homes,
N600bn Boost With Digital
TV Expansion Pg.13

Traditional Leaders,
Security Chiefs Unite
to Strengthen
Safety in Lekki Pg.13

Opeyemi Gifts
Elderly Corn Seller
N100,000, Employs
Homeless Man Pg.23

How a Dawn Security
Exposed Growing Threat
to Igbogbo-Oreta
Community Pg.32

Chioma Ajunwa Foundation Sets For Major Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign Pg.36

Lagos Maintains Low Unemployment Rate at 5.5%-Study

By Kunle Awosiyan

A recent study by the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) has revealed that Lagos State continues to maintain one of the lowest formal unemployment rates in Nigeria, standing at approximately 5.5 percent.

The study, conducted by the LSETF Research and Policy Team through a comprehensive analysis of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Annual Labour Force Survey, however, noted that youth underemployment and dependence on the informal sector remain significant challenges in the state.

The findings contrast sharply with earlier reports that placed Lagos' unemployment rate significantly higher. According to the study, the lower figure reflects changes in labour force measurement introduced by the National Bureau of Statistics in line with the resolutions of the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS).

Under the revised methodology, an unemployed person is defined as someone who did not work at all or worked for less than one hour during the seven-day reference period preceding the survey. Based on this criterion, Lagos recorded an unemployment rate of 5.5 percent in 2023, slightly higher among men (5.6 percent) than women (5.5 percent). The Executive Secretary of LSETF, Feyisayo

Alayande said the agency has played a critical role in reducing unemployment and supporting entrepreneurship over the last decade.

According to her, LSETF has facilitated the creation of more than 320,000 jobs and disbursed over 15 billion in loans and startup support since its establishment in 2016. "Since 2016, LSETF has been breaking down the barriers between ambition and opportunity for Lagos residents through loans, skills training and startup support," she said.

The agency disclosed that it has helped preserve about 173,000 jobs, supported more than 20,000 businesses through financial interventions, and provided assistance to over 82,000 small businesses.

In addition, more than 30,000 young people have received skills training, while over 1,200 technology startups have benefited from support programmes. The Fund also reported a loan repayment rate of 94.53 percent.

Despite the low official unemployment figure, the study highlighted widespread underemployment across several demographic groups. According to the report, underemployment rates rise to as much as 37.14 percent in some socio-economic categories. It further revealed that approximately 40 percent of Lagos workers operate within the informal economy.

The majority of these workers, representing over 76 percent, earn less than 50,000 monthly through largely unregulated activities such as street vending, waste recycling and transportation services. The report also cited localized studies in areas such as and , which linked high youth

unemployment to rising crime rates and the growth of underground economic activities. A separate labour market assessment noted that high living costs, low wages and lengthy commuting times have compelled many residents to seek supplementary income sources beyond their

primary employment.

The study observed that Lagos has experienced a significant labour force recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the state's working-age population declined slightly by 4.6 percent between 2020 and 2023, dropping from

9.07 million to 8.66 million people, the labour force expanded by approximately 1.5 million individuals during the same period. According to the report, Lagos recorded a labour force population of 6.43 million in 2023, representing a 27.6 percent increase compared to the COVID-19 period.

Although this remains about one million below the pre-pandemic labour force figure of 7.2 million recorded in 2018, the state appears to be steadily returning to pre-COVID employment levels.



Unemployment Rate

5.5%



Loans

₦15 Billion

With 94.53% Loans Repayment



Jobs Created

320,000

Preserved About 173,000 Jobs
Provided Assistance to over 82,000
Small Businesses



Business Support

20,000

Provided Assistance To Over 82,000
Small Businesses.



Trainings

30,000 youths

Over 1,200 technology startups

A new Lagos is in the works

The future is loading!

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



Lagos State Internal Revenue Service

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

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

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



Lagos Maintains Low Unemployment Rate at 5.5%-Study

Continued From Page 2

Young people aged between 15 and 34 years account for the largest share of Lagos' labour force, representing 42 percent or approximately 2.7 million workers. Those aged between 15 and 24 years constitute 19 percent of the labour force.

The report described this demographic structure as a major opportunity for Lagos to harness youthful creativity, innovation and entrepreneurial energy.

However, youth unemployment remains a concern. The study showed that youth unemployment stood at 10 percent in 2023, slightly below the national average.

Female youths were disproportionately affected, recording an unemployment rate of 10.2 percent compared to 9.8 percent among males. Women accounted for 54 percent of unemployed youths in the state. The report called for targeted empowerment programmes that specifically address barriers facing women and young people.

Analysis of youths not engaged in education, employment or training revealed that secondary school leavers



Feyisayo Alayande

accounted for 81.1 percent of the category.

Post-secondary school leavers represented 10.3 percent, while primary school leavers accounted for 8.6 percent.

The report recommended tailored intervention programmes designed to address the unique needs of different educational groups.

Private Sector Remains Major Employer

Consistent with its position as Nigeria's commercial centre, Lagos continues to rely heavily on the private sector for job creation.

The report found that 87.5 percent of wage earners in the state work in the private sector, while only 12.5 percent are employed in the public sector.

This compares favourably with the national average, where 74.4 percent of wage earners are employed by the

private sector.

While employment levels have improved, the report cautioned that employment does not necessarily translate to economic security.

According to data

from the , about 58 percent of employed Nigerians were classified as moderately or extremely poor as of 2023.

The report emphasized that the one-hour benchmark used

in measuring employment only captures participation in income-generating activities and does not assess whether earnings are sufficient to meet basic living standards.

LSETF's Mandate

Employment Trust Fund Law of 2016, LSETF serves as a key instrument for job creation, entrepreneurship development and economic empowerment in

Lagos State.

The Fund was created to invest 25 billion in supporting residents to grow micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and acquire

employable skills, with the broader objective of reducing unemployment and promoting inclusive economic growth across the state.

LASU Emerges LASEPA 2026 Inter-Tertiary Institutions Environmental Summit

The Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) held the grand finale of the 2026 Inter-Tertiary Institutions' Environmental Summit 2.0 Debate Competition at the Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium, Secretariat, Ikeja, Lagos, bringing together students, policymakers, environmental experts, and stakeholders to deliberate on the theme: "Combating Transboundary Pollution in Lagos State: A City-Level Intervention or National Efforts."

Speaking at the event, the Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on the Environment, Engr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu, commended LASEPA for its unwavering commitment to youth engagement and environmental advocacy.

Engr Rotimi-Akodu, who was represented by a Director in the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Onasanya Fatai, described the initiative as a strategic platform for nurturing environmentally conscious, innovative, and solution-driven young leaders. He congratulated all participants, particularly the finalists, for their insightful contributions to discussions on environmental sustainability.

He reaffirmed the commitment of the Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration to environmental sustainability through the T.H.E.M.E.S+ Development Agenda, where Health



and Environment remain critical pillars. He highlighted ongoing government initiatives, including the reintroduction of the Monthly Environmental Sanitation Exercise and other environmental programmes designed to promote a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient Lagos.

Engr Rotimi-Akodu further urged LASEPA to sustain its efforts in pollution control, environmental protection, and ecosystem preservation, describing the Agency's role as critical to public health and sustainable development. He also called on market associations, students, youth groups, hospitality operators, event centres, nightlife establishments, and residents to actively participate in environmental sanitation and sustainability initiatives.

Encouraging young people to remain focused and committed to positive values, he advised them to shun social

and embrace opportunities that prepare them for leadership and national development. He concluded by congratulating the winners and participants while urging all stakeholders to continue supporting initiatives that advance environmental sustainability and climate resilience in Lagos State.

Also speaking at the event, Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Mr. Tolani Sule, emphasised the need for collective action and strategic collaboration in addressing environmental challenges confronting Lagos State and the nation at large.

Mr. Sule, represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tertiary Education, Mr. Adeniran Kasali, noted that issues such as pollution, climate change, waste management, and ecosystem degradation are increasingly complex and often transcend city, State, and national boundaries,

making coordinated responses essential.

According to him, effective environmental governance requires strong partnerships among local governments, State agencies, Federal institutions, private sector stakeholders, academic communities, and citizens.

Mr. Sule commended LASEPA for creating an avenue that brings together policymakers, researchers, students, environmental experts, and development partners to explore practical strategies for addressing emerging environmental challenges.

In his address, the General Manager of LASEPA, Dr. Babatunde Ajayi, highlighted measures taken by Lagos State in response to the Ogiyo pollution incident, noting that environmental monitoring and surveillance have been significantly strengthened across affected areas and industrial corridors.

According to him, the Agency has doubled

the number of monitoring devices deployed along the border corridor and introduced early-warning systems capable of detecting changes in key environmental parameters and alerting authorities in real time. He explained that these proactive measures are aimed at improving environmental oversight, facilitating rapid response, and preventing future pollution incidents.

The General Manager identified stronger environmental regulation and enforcement as the most urgent priority, advocating enhanced collaboration between federal authorities, state governments, and environmental agencies to effectively address industrial pollution, especially within the Southwest region of Nigeria.

The debate competition featured six finalists who emerged from the preliminary rounds held at the LASEPA Conference Room,

Secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja on June 9th, 2026.

The finalists were Yakub Abdullahi Eniola, Igbinosa Delight Nosa, Fajana Olamide Mary, Daniel Oluwatise Akinkuowo, Aderinto Esther Oluwatobiloba, and Ndukaire Onyinyechi.

Following keenly contested debates on the summit theme, the competition was narrowed down to three finalists: Fajana Olamide Mary (LASU), Yakub Abdullahi Eniola (UNILAG), and Daniel Oluwatise Akinkuowo (UNILAG).

At the conclusion of the final round, Fajana Olamide Mary of Lagos of the Department of Mass Communication, Lagos State University (LASU) emerged as the Overall Winner, receiving a grand prize of 2 million and other gift items.

Yakub Abdullahi Eniola of the University of Lagos (UNILAG) emerged as the First Runner-Up, winning 1 million and other gift items, while Daniel Oluwatise Akinkuowo of UNILAG secured Third Place, receiving N500,000 and additional gift items.



HIV Response: LSACA Trains Traditional Attendants on PMTCT

The Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA) has intensified efforts to eliminate new HIV infections among children and improve maternal health outcomes through a sensitisation programme for Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) on the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV and Universal Safety Precautions.

The training, held at the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) in Ikeja, brought together Traditional Birth Attendants from across Lagos State to enhance their knowledge and capacity in HIV prevention, safe delivery practices, infection prevention and control, stigma reduction, and appropriate referral mechanisms for pregnant women living with HIV.

Declaring the programme open, the Chief Executive Officer of LSACA, Dr. Folakemi Animashaun highlighted the critical role Traditional Birth Attendants play in maternal and child healthcare, particularly at

the grassroots level, where they often serve as the first point of contact for pregnant women seeking care and guidance.

"You are not just birth attendants; you are trusted counsellors, community leaders, and protectors of life. The influence you have on the health decisions of women and families is significant, and we must continue to work together to ensure that every mother and child is protected from HIV," she said.

Dr. Animashaun explained that the sensitisation programme was designed to strengthen participants' understanding of HIV prevention, safe delivery practices, infection prevention and control measures, stigma reduction, and referral pathways that safeguard mothers, newborns, and healthcare providers.

"No woman should be denied care because she is HIV positive. HIV testing should form part of routine antenatal investigations, and where a pregnant woman tests positive, she

should be promptly referred to appropriate healthcare facilities for comprehensive care and treatment", she stated.

She further disclosed that participants were selected through a collaborative process involving the Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board and community stakeholders to ensure broad representation and effective dissemination of knowledge across communities.

"We work closely with traditional structures at the grassroots level to identify participants, monitor knowledge transfer, and obtain feedback. This approach ensures that the impact of the programme extends beyond this training and reaches the communities that need it most", she added.

Reaffirming the Lagos State Government's commitment to ending HIV as a public health threat, Dr. Animashaun called for stronger collaboration between Traditional Birth Attendants and the formal healthcare system through

timely referrals, adherence to universal safety precautions, and the dissemination of accurate health information.

"Through collaboration, early referrals, strict adherence to universal precautions, and accurate information sharing, we can significantly reduce new HIV infections among women and children while promoting safer delivery practices across our communities," she said.

She, however, encouraged participants to actively engage in discussions, share experiences, ask questions, and apply the knowledge gained during the training to improve maternal and child health outcomes within their communities.

Also, speaking at the event, Mrs. Adebambo Olushola, one of the facilitators, stressed the importance of professionalism, ethical conduct, and confidentiality in the discharge of duties by Traditional Birth Attendants. She urged participants to uphold clients' privacy,

particularly regarding HIV status, while encouraging pregnant women to access HIV testing, counselling, and treatment services.

One of the participants, Prince Mari Tajudeen, commended the Lagos State Government and LSACA for organising the sensitisation programme, describing it as timely, informative, and impactful. "We have gained valuable knowledge that will improve the quality of care we provide to pregnant women and newborns. We are committed to applying these lessons in our daily practice to safeguard the health of mothers and children in our communities," he said.

The sensitisation programme forms part of LSACA's ongoing efforts to strengthen community-based HIV prevention interventions and ensure that every pregnant woman in Lagos has access to quality healthcare services that support the birth of healthy, HIV-free children.

Lagos Launches Operation Bio-Shield Campaign Against Ebola

... Says No Confirmed Ebola Case in Nigeria

... Urges Residents to Stay Vigilant, Avoid Panic

The Lagos State Government has launched a statewide Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) public awareness campaign tagged "Operation Lagos BioShield", as part of proactive measures to strengthen preparedness and prevent the importation of the deadly disease into the State amid ongoing outbreaks in parts of East and Central Africa.

In a press statement issued on Saturday, the State Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, reassured residents that there are currently no confirmed cases of Ebola Virus Disease in Lagos State or anywhere in Nigeria, stressing that the campaign was designed to promote public awareness rather than respond to an existing crisis.

"This campaign is not a response to a crisis. It is a proactive measure to strengthen public awareness, preparedness, and prevention," Abayomi stated, noting that the initiative reflects the State Government's commitment to safeguarding public

health through early action and strategic communication.

The Commissioner disclosed that the current outbreak affecting parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda involves the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus, for which there is presently no widely available licensed vaccine or specific antiviral treatment, making prevention and early detection the most effective response tools. According to him, "Prevention, early detection, rapid isolation, and supportive medical care remain our most effective tools," adding that public understanding of the disease is essential in limiting its spread and preventing unnecessary fear within communities. Abayomi explained that Ebola is not transmitted through casual contact, emphasising that the virus spreads through direct contact with the blood, bodily fluids, or contaminated materials of an infected person who is already ill. He noted that accurate information would help preserve social cohesion by

discouraging stigma and misinformation.

"As Nigeria's commercial capital and a major regional transport hub, Lagos maintains extensive air, land, and maritime connections with the rest of Africa and the world," he said, revealing that both the Federal and Lagos State Governments are working closely with aviation, maritime, border health and public health authorities to strengthen surveillance and screening protocols at all points of entry.

He further announced that the Ministry would, over the coming weeks, intensify public enlightenment through a comprehensive education campaign focused on Ebola prevention, symptoms, reporting channels and protective measures tailored for homes, schools, workplaces and communities across the State.

The Commissioner urged Lagos residents to rely only on verified information and actively support efforts aimed at protecting public health. He advised individuals returning from affected countries who develop symptoms such as fever,

weakness, vomiting, diarrhoea or unexplained bleeding to immediately contact emergency lines 112 or 767, or reach the State Epidemiologist on +234 802 316 9485, while avoiding unnecessary

contact with others pending medical guidance.

Recalling the State's successful containment of Ebola in 2014, Abayomi expressed confidence in Lagos' capacity to respond effectively to any future threat. "Through strong leadership, effective surveillance, rapid response, and the

collective efforts of healthcare workers and residents, our State successfully contained Ebola and protected millions of lives. Today, we remain prepared, vigilant, and committed to safeguarding the health of every Lagosian. Together, we will keep Lagos safe," he declared.

Lagos Holds World Robot Olympiad, Selects Team For National Competition

The Lagos State Government, through the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, has successfully concluded the Lagos State Finals of the World Robot Olympiad (WRO), with the theme: "Robots Meet Culture" a competition designed to promote innovation, creativity, critical thinking, and technological excellence among students across the State. The event, which took place on Wednesday, 10th June at the Education Resource Centre, Ojodu, Lagos, brought together outstanding young innovators from public schools, who competed in various robotics challenges: Robot Mission; Robot Sport; Future Innovators and Future Engineers, aimed at demonstrating their skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The competition served as the platform for selecting Team Lagos, which will represent the State at the National finals and subsequently at the International level.

In her keynote address at the event, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Mrs. Abisola Dokunmu-Adegbite commended the participating students, teachers, parents, and the Department of Science and Technology in the

Ministry for their commitment to advancing technology-driven education in Lagos State.

The Permanent Secretary, represented by the Tutor-General / Permanent Secretary of Education District VI, Mrs. Mojisola Christiana Yusuf, stated that the young science enthusiasts should be cultural innovators. They should be ready to build designs that can solve African problems.

According to her, the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu remains committed to equipping students with the knowledge and skills required to thrive in the 21st century.

She noted that the World Robot Olympiad provides a unique opportunity for students to develop problem-solving abilities, teamwork, innovation, and digital competencies that are essential for future careers.

The Permanent Secretary further encouraged the participants to continue pursuing excellence, stressing that the competition was not only about winning but also about learning, collaboration, and innovation.

At the end of the keenly contested event, Igbo Owu Senior Secondary School and Akoka Junior High School, Akoka emerged winners in the

senior and junior categories of the Robot Mission challenge.

The Army Cantonment Senior Girls Secondary School, Ojo, in the Robot Sport (General), while in the Future Innovators, Lagos State Model College, Meiran, and Eva Adelaja Junior Girls, Bariga, took the first positions in the Senior and Junior categories, respectively.

Eva Adelaja Senior Girls, Bariga also emerged as the winner of the Future Engineers (General) category.

The winning teams will represent Lagos State at the World Robot Olympiad National Finals, where they will compete with other top-performing teams from across the country for the opportunity to represent Nigeria at the International Championship.

The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening STEM education and fostering innovation among learners through strategic programmes and partnerships that prepare students for future opportunities in technology and related fields.

Other TG/PS present include Dr. (Mrs.) Idowu Oyetola, Education District I; Mr. Omotayo Layemo Sanni, Education District II and the CEO, Global Education Media, Mr. Durotimi Adeboye, among others.

STOP EBOLA VIRUS

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

How does Ebola spread?

Animal (Bushmeat) to Human

Ebola is a disease that initially spreads from animals to humans through the handling, slaughtering, or consumption of infected bushmeat.

ADVERTISE IN

Echonews

DIGITAL NEWSPAPER



ADVERT RATES

| COLOUR PAGE | | BLACK & WHITE | |
|--------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| FULL PAGE | N250,000 | FULL PAGE | N200,000 |
| HALF PAGE | N145,000 | HALF PAGE | N115,000 |
| QUARTER PAGE | N70,000 | QUARTER PAGE | N55,000 |

Subscribe | Advertise | Partner

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

Got A Story? Call / Whatsapp 0803 217 8602 To Place Adverts, Call 0810 568 4363

Education District II Holds Capacity Building Seminar

The Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary, Education District II, Mr. Omotayo Layemo Sanni has reiterated the importance of positive work ethics in enhancing service delivery within the education sector. He made this known during the One-Day Capacity Building Seminar for Non-Teaching Staff (NTS) on Grade Levels 01–06, held at the Immaculate Heart Comprehensive School Hall, Maryland. The seminar, themed "Improving Service Delivery Through Positive Work Ethics," was organised to strengthen the capacity of non-teaching personnel and equip them with the knowledge, skills, and values required for



effective service delivery. In his address, Mr. Sanni emphasised that non-teaching staff play a vital role in the smooth administration and overall success of schools. According to him, their contributions complement classroom instruction and help create a conducive environment for teaching and learning.

He encouraged participants to take full advantage of the training by actively engaging in all sessions and applying the knowledge acquired to their daily responsibilities. He expressed confidence that the seminar would enhance productivity, improve workplace relationships, and foster a culture of excellence across

schools and offices within the District. The Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary further reaffirmed the commitment of Education District II to continuous staff development and capacity building, stressing that investment in human capital remains critical to achieving the goals of the education

sector.

Earlier in her welcome address, the Director, Administration and Human Resources, Mrs. Mojisola Adeyemi-Fashola, highlighted the significance of professionalism, accountability, integrity, teamwork, diligence, punctuality, and proper appearance in achieving excellence in service delivery and promoting efficiency within the public service. She noted that the seminar was timely and commended participants for their punctuality and commitment to learning and professional development. Also speaking at the event, the State Chairman of the Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU), Mr. Taiwo

Abass, urged participants to take the seminar seriously and make the most of the opportunity to improve their performance and career growth. The seminar featured seasoned facilitators, including Mr. Kunle Adegbesan, who delivered a session on Public Service Rules; Dr. (Mrs.) Olusola Adenekan, who spoke on Respect for Authority and Organisational Structure, and Mrs. Adéla Bankole, who addressed Professional Behaviour in Government Offices. Other sessions focused on professional ethics, dress code, personal development, and the need for a positive mindset change in the workplace.

Randle Hospital Honours Outgoing Medical Director

Staff and management of Randle General Hospital, Surulere, on Thursday held a surprise send-forth ceremony in honour of the outgoing Medical Director/Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Olumide Sojinrin, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the growth and development of the hospital. The brief but emotional ceremony also provided an opportunity to formally welcome the new Medical Director/Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Lateefat Omolara Agbaje, following the transfer of Dr. Sojinrin to another health facility. Speaking at the event, Dr. Agbaje described her predecessor as a leader whose remarkable contributions and dedication to service deserved celebration.

According to her, Dr. Sojinrin left an indelible mark on the hospital through his commitment to quality healthcare delivery, infrastructural development and the strengthening of public confidence in the hospital. She noted that under his leadership, Randle General Hospital witnessed significant growth and attained new heights in patient care and service delivery. "Dr. Sojinrin set a standard of excellence that inspired the entire workforce. Beyond building a legacy, he built people, empowering staff members and fostering a culture of professionalism and teamwork," she said. The new Medical Director expressed confidence in the solid foundation laid by her predecessor and



assured members of staff that she would build on the achievements recorded during her predecessor's tenure while taking the hospital to greater heights. In his response, Dr. Sojinrin expressed profound appreciation to members of staff for their unwavering cooperation, support and dedication throughout his tenure. Reflecting on his years of service, he commended the workforce for maintaining a cordial and harmonious working

relationship, noting that there was never any issue that degenerated into a misunderstanding requiring external intervention. According to him, the atmosphere of cooperation, tolerance and mutual respect among staff contributed significantly to the successes recorded during his administration. He also acknowledged the passion and commitment of healthcare workers in the hospital, assuring them that their sacrifices

and contributions would not go unrewarded. Dr. Sojinrin expressed delight that the hospital would now be led by a highly competent and experienced professional. He described Dr. Agbaje as a seasoned administrator with an impressive track record of excellence, adding that her appointment gave him immense joy and confidence in the future of the hospital. The outgoing Medical Director further took time to appreciate every department and unit within the hospital for their support and collaboration during his tenure. According to him, the achievements recorded under his leadership would not have been possible without the collective efforts of staff working in a friendly, supportive and conducive environment.

Also speaking at the ceremony, the Head of the Dental Department and Chairman of the Welfare Committee, Randle General Hospital, Dr. Adeluola Masan, lauded the leadership qualities and administrative capacity of Dr. Sojinrin. She observed that overseeing three healthcare facilities - Randle General Hospital, Surulere; Maternal and Child Centre (MCC), Gbaja, Surulere, and Femi Gbajabiamila General Hospital, Iyem, Surulere - was a highly demanding responsibility. Dr. Adeluola Masan noted that Dr. Sojinrin successfully navigated the complexities of his role as the CEO of the hospital and recorded meaningful achievements that positively impacted the hospital and its stakeholders.

Health District V Advances Environmental Standards Through Waste Management Training

In furtherance of efforts to promote a safe, clean and healthy environment in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S+ Agenda of the Lagos State Government, the Lagos State Health District V organised a capacity-building training programme for Sanitarians across the District on Healthcare Waste Management at Primary Health Care Centres (PHCs).

The training, themed "Healthcare Waste Management at Primary Health Care Centres in District V," was held on Thursday, 11th June 2026, at the Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA) Secretariat.

The programme was facilitated by Sanitarian Ahoton Thona Jameson, Director of Environmental Health Services and Head of Department, Ikorodu North LCDA, who delivered a comprehensive presentation on healthcare waste management practices.

The session covered key areas including waste classification and segregation, collection and storage procedures, transportation and handling, treatment and disposal methods, safety precautions, the roles of Environmental Health Officers and the importance of compliance with established healthcare waste management guidelines.

Speaking during the training, the Permanent Secretary of Lagos State Health District V, Dr. Oladapo Asiyambi said effective healthcare waste management



remains a critical component of infection prevention, environmental sustainability and quality healthcare service delivery.

He charged participants to serve as change agents in their respective Primary Health Care Centres by promoting compliance with healthcare waste management protocols and environmental health standards.

According to him, the District must continue to distinguish itself through excellence, professionalism and adherence to best practices in service delivery.

"Let the world begin to see that Health District V is different. We must change the narrative in our various facilities by ensuring that our environments are

clean, safe and conducive to quality healthcare delivery," he stated.

Dr. Asiyambi further urged participants to share the knowledge they had acquired during the training with their colleagues, stressing that continuous learning and collaboration are essential for institutional growth and improved healthcare outcomes.

The Permanent Secretary also reminded participants of the need to engage appropriately with designated healthcare waste management service providers, noting that the Lagos State Government has made adequate provisions for the collection and disposal of waste generated across Primary Health Care

facilities in the State. He encouraged Environmental Health personnel to maintain professionalism in the discharge of their duties and intensify efforts towards improving environmental conditions within healthcare facilities and surrounding communities.

To further enhance environmental cleanliness, Dr. Asiyambi directed that the Iyana-Iba axis should record significant improvement within the next three months. He also advised participants to communicate operational needs through their respective Heads of Department, particularly regarding the provision of waste bins, containers and disposal bags required for effective

waste management. The Permanent Secretary further called on participants to justify the confidence reposed in them by the Lagos State Government, especially with the reintroduction of the monthly environmental sanitation exercise. He emphasised the need for commitment, visibility and measurable impact in sanitation activities across communities within the District.

The training reinforced the critical role of proper healthcare waste management in preventing the spread of infections, protecting healthcare workers and patients, reducing environmental pollution and promoting

sustainable healthcare practices.

Participants expressed appreciation to the management of Lagos State Health District V for the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills, pledging to implement the lessons learnt and contribute towards maintaining cleaner, safer and healthier Primary Health Care facilities across the District.

The programme reflects Health District V's commitment to building the capacity of its workforce, strengthening environmental health practices and fostering safer healthcare environments across Primary Health Care facilities within the District.

Profile of Temitope Funsho

Temitope Funsho is a seasoned entrepreneur, business executive, leadership coach, mentor, researcher, and public speaker with extensive experience in the financial services, entrepreneurship, and leadership development sectors. She is passionate about empowering individuals, building sustainable enterprises, and promoting community transformation through mentorship, education, and strategic leadership. She holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons.) in Microbiology from the University of Lagos, an MBA in Business Administration with specialization in Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship from Covenant University, M. Sc. Business Administration, Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management Major from Babcock University, a Diploma in Leadership from the African Leadership Development Center, Covenant University, an Advanced Leadership Certification from Day Star Academy, and Leadership Certification in Mentorship Principles at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, North American. She is a Certified USA Marriage and Family Counselor from The Institute of Marriage and Family Affairs (TIMFA) now TIMFA University, United States of America. She is also a Fellow of the Association of Economists and Statisticians of Nigeria (FAESN), Temitope is the MD/CEO of Startup Universal Ltd and the Executive Director/Director of Studies at Startup Entrepreneurship and Leadership Academy Limited. She previously served as Country Manager at Basam Trust Limited, an international financial and logistics company with its head office based in the Republic of Ireland. As an advocate for entrepreneurship and human capital development, she serves as Executive-in-Residence at M I V A Open University, where she bridges practical business realities with academic learning for MBA students. She also contributes her knowledge as a Business Mentor and Consultant at FATE Foundation. Over the years, Temitope has received several recognitions for leadership, youth development, mentorship, and community impact. One such award is, "Leadership Award of the Year" awarded by The Iconic Brand Award (TIBA) now TIBA Africa. She is also the Founder and Convener of Shekinah Hour, a widely recognized quarterly non-denominational empowerment seminar focused on entrepreneurship, leadership, career development, relationships, moral values, and youth empowerment,



Temitope Funsho

through which thousands of young people have been impacted.

Driven by her passion for societal development and nation-building, she founded several impactful initiatives including:

- The Male Child — a platform dedicated to promoting responsible

upbringing and mentorship for the male gender.

- Women of Excellence in Business, Industry and Ministry (WEBINM) — a network focused on empowering women for leadership and transformational impact.

- Entrepreneurship

Mentoring Session with Temitope Funsho — a mentorship platform established to support aspiring and existing entrepreneurs with practical business guidance and sustainability strategies.

Temitope is also an international conference speaker,

published writer, and author of the book "Efficacy of Praise and Thanksgiving". Beyond her professional engagements, she is deeply committed to mentorship, leadership development, and community service. She is a strong lover of the Gospel and the Word of God!

Lagos Judiciary Honours Late Legal Icon, Odunlami

The Lagos State Judiciary recently held a special court session in honour of the late Mr. Godwin Oladeinde Odunlami at the Ikeja High Court, Ikeja, Lagos. In his address, the Chief Judge of Lagos State, Hon. Justice Kazeem Olanrewaju Alogba described Odunlami as a lawyer of integrity, discipline, and diligence whose contributions significantly advanced the legal profession in Nigeria. Justice Alogba revealed that Pa Odunlami was born on 12 February 1935 in Abeokuta. He attended Olowogbowo Methodist School and King's College, Lagos. He married Flora Ayodele Thompson in 1961, after which they travelled to the United Kingdom, where he earned a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of

London and was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn. He further highlighted that after returning to Nigeria in 1972, Pa Odunlami was called to the Nigerian Bar and built a distinguished legal career as a lawyer, Notary Public, and respected legal practitioner. He served on the Nigerian Bar Association's National Executive

Committee from 1977 to 1992 and chaired the NBA Lagos Branch Centenary Committee, which organised the profession's centenary celebration in 1986. Justice Alogba also said that Pa Odunlami was known for his advocacy skills and attention to detail, he taught at the Nigerian Law School, Lagos,

between 1985 and 1987, mentoring many young lawyers who later became judges and Senior Advocates of Nigeria. In 1997, he and his wife established the Literacy and Numeracy Centre in Agbado, which later evolved into the Flora and Godwin Educational Foundation. Through its

educational and vocational programmes, the foundation supported about 70 graduates. A devoted Christian, Pa Odunlami, served the Methodist Church in various capacities, including Choir Secretary and later Patron of church organisations. Also speaking at the session, the Lagos State Attorney-

General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro, represented by the Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Mr. Oyenuga Hameed Olanrewaju, described Pa Odunlami as a legal luminary whose impact and legacy will continue to inspire generations of legal practitioners.



FG Targets 40 Million Homes, N600bn Boost With Digital TV Expansion

[AtumeTerfa](#)

The Federal Government has unveiled plans to accelerate Nigeria's digital television transition, targeting 40 million households and an estimated 600 billion economic impact through the expansion of digital broadcasting services across the country. The initiative is aimed at increasing access to modern television technology, improving broadcast quality and unlocking new opportunities within Nigeria's creative and media industries. Officials said the digital TV rollout is expected to create jobs, attract private investment and strengthen the country's broadcast ecosystem by moving viewers away from analogue transmission to



more efficient digital platforms. The project is being driven through the Federal Government's digital switch-over programme, which seeks to provide wider access to free-to-air digital television services while encouraging the growth of local content production and distribution. Stakeholders in the

broadcasting sector said the transition will significantly transform the industry by improving signal quality, expanding channel availability and creating new revenue streams for content creators, advertisers and technology providers. The government also highlighted the economic potential of the

initiative, noting that a successful digital migration could generate substantial value through equipment manufacturing, broadcasting services, advertising growth and technology-driven innovations. The rollout is expected to benefit millions of Nigerians, particularly in underserved communities, by providing greater

access to information, education and entertainment programmes. Industry experts, however, stressed that achieving the ambitious targets will require sustained investment in infrastructure, affordable access to digital devices and stronger collaboration between government agencies and

private-sector operators. The Federal Government said it remains committed to completing Nigeria's digital television migration agenda as part of wider efforts to modernise the communications sector, grow the digital economy and position broadcasting as a major contributor to national development.

NNPC, Total Energies Turn to Drone Innovation in Fight Against Methane Leaks

[AtumeTerfa](#)

Nigeria's energy sector is embracing new technology as the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd.) and TotalEnergies expand their collaboration to curb methane emissions through the use of advanced drone monitoring systems. The partnership marks a major step towards improving environmental management in oil and gas operations, with both companies deploying cutting-edge tools designed to detect and track methane leaks more efficiently across production facilities. The specialised drones are equipped with high-tech sensors capable of identifying methane emissions in real time, enabling operators to quickly locate leaks, assess risks and take corrective measures before they contribute further to environmental pollution. Methane, a key component of natural gas, has become a major focus in global climate action because of its significant contribution to warming the atmosphere. Energy companies worldwide are increasingly investing in technologies that can reduce unintended releases of the gas during exploration and production activities. NNPC Ltd. said the adoption of innovative monitoring solutions reflects its commitment to improving operational standards, strengthening environmental responsibility and supporting Nigeria's transition towards cleaner energy practices. TotalEnergies, which has implemented methane reduction programmes across its global operations, said the technology will improve the accuracy of emissions measurement, increase transparency and help accelerate efforts to minimise the carbon footprint of oil and gas activities. The latest move builds on the companies' wider sustainability agenda, which includes improving facility efficiency, reducing routine emissions and adopting digital solutions to modernise energy operations. Energy analysts say technologies such as drones, satellite surveillance and artificial intelligence are reshaping the way oil-producing nations manage environmental challenges. They noted that these tools can help operators meet international emissions standards while maintaining energy production. The partnership comes at a time when Nigeria is seeking to strengthen its position as a major energy supplier while responding to global demands for cleaner and more responsible oil and gas production. With the deployment of advanced drone technology, NNPC and TotalEnergies are positioning innovation as a key driver in Nigeria's efforts to reduce emissions, improve sustainability and build a more environmentally conscious energy sector.



EU Backs Nigeria's Rise as Africa's Digital and Creative Powerhouse

[AtumeTerfa](#)

Nigeria is being positioned as a major force in Africa's digital and creative transformation, with the European Union recognising the country's growing influence in technology, innovation and cultural industries. The EU Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Gautier Mignot, said Nigeria's youthful population, expanding technology ecosystem and vibrant creative sector give the country the potential to lead Africa's digital revolution and shape the continent's future economy. According to the envoy, Nigeria's strength lies in its combination of entrepreneurial energy, digital talent and creative excellence, which have continued to attract global attention and investment. He noted that sectors such as technology, film, music, fashion and digital services are becoming key drivers of economic growth and international engagement. The EU has continued to deepen its partnership with Nigeria through programmes aimed at strengthening digital infrastructure, innovation capacity and skills development. Under the Global Gateway strategy, the bloc has supported initiatives focused on secure connectivity, digital public infrastructure, entrepreneurship and advanced digital skills. Stakeholders say Nigeria's creative economy has also emerged as one of the country's strongest global assets, with Afrobeats, Nollywood and other cultural exports expanding the nation's influence beyond Africa. The European Union has reiterated its commitment to supporting Nigeria's creative industries through collaboration and investment. Experts believe that with improved infrastructure, stronger intellectual property protection and continued investment in talent development, Nigeria could become a leading hub for digital innovation and creative entrepreneurship across the continent. The country's expanding startup ecosystem, growing pool of young professionals and increasing adoption of digital technologies have positioned it as a key market in Africa's technology landscape. The EU's renewed engagement reflects a broader push to strengthen cooperation with Nigeria in areas including digital transformation, science, innovation and human capital development. Both sides have continued discussions around partnerships that can accelerate research, technology transfer and economic growth. As global demand for digital skills and creative content continues to rise, Nigeria's role as a technology and cultural powerhouse is expected to grow, reinforcing its ambition to become a central player in Africa's next phase of economic transformation.

CBN Expands Oversight of Crude Exports With New Terminal Allocation

Atume Terfa

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has assigned two additional crude oil export terminals to a pre-shipment inspection company as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen transparency, accountability and efficiency in the country's oil export value chain. The move forms part of a broader review of terminal allocations to Pre-shipment Inspection Agents (PIAs), a system introduced by the Federal Government to improve monitoring of crude oil and gas exports and ensure accurate reporting of export volumes and revenues. According to the revised allocation, the inspection firm will now oversee additional export terminals, expanding its responsibilities in the verification and certification of crude shipments leaving Nigeria.

The CBN said the reassignment takes immediate effect and supersedes previous allocations. The review is part of a wider restructuring exercise covering several export terminals and inspection agents. Industry stakeholders, including the Nigeria Customs Service, the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum

Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), terminal operators and oil-producing companies, have been directed to comply with the new framework. The inspection regime was introduced following the appointment of nine pre-shipment inspection agents

and two monitoring and evaluation agents to strengthen oversight of Nigeria's crude oil and gas exports. The initiative was designed to close reporting gaps, improve revenue tracking and ensure greater accountability in the management of the nation's hydrocarbon resources. Analysts say the latest terminal

reallocation reflects the government's determination to tighten controls around crude export operations at a time when Nigeria is seeking to boost production, maximise export earnings and improve transparency across the oil sector. The reforms are also expected to enhance operational efficiency and

provide more reliable data on crude shipments. The development comes as authorities continue implementing measures aimed at improving governance in the petroleum industry, increasing investor confidence and ensuring that export proceeds are accurately captured within the country's financial system.



UAE Reaffirms Commitment to Deepen Investments and Trade Ties With Nigeria

AtumeTerfa

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has reaffirmed its commitment to expanding long-term investments in Nigeria, signalling renewed confidence in Africa's largest economy and strengthening economic ties between the two countries. The pledge comes amid growing cooperation in key sectors such as infrastructure, energy, logistics, agriculture, technology and financial services, with both nations

seeking to unlock new opportunities for trade and investment. UAE officials said Nigeria remains a strategic partner in Africa due to its large consumer market, abundant natural resources and rapidly growing entrepreneurial ecosystem. They stressed that sustained investment and stronger commercial partnerships would play a crucial role in driving economic growth and job creation. The renewed commitment follows a series of

engagements between government officials and business leaders aimed at enhancing bilateral economic relations. Discussions have focused on increasing trade volumes, attracting foreign direct investment and improving collaboration in sectors critical to Nigeria's development agenda. The UAE has emerged as one of Nigeria's important economic partners, with trade relations spanning aviation,

energy, manufacturing, real estate and digital innovation. Dubai, in particular, has become a major destination for Nigerian businesses and investors seeking access to international markets. Analysts note that improved diplomatic relations between both countries have helped create a more favourable environment for investment, encouraging greater private-sector participation and

cross-border business opportunities. The UAE also highlighted Nigeria's ongoing economic reforms, including efforts to improve the business environment, strengthen infrastructure and attract international capital. These measures, officials said, have enhanced investor confidence and positioned the country as a key destination for long-term investments in Africa. Beyond trade, both

countries are exploring deeper collaboration in emerging sectors such as renewable energy, food security, fintech and digital transformation. Industry experts believe such partnerships could accelerate technology transfer, innovation and sustainable economic growth. As Nigeria continues to pursue economic diversification and attract foreign capital, the UAE's renewed investment interest is expected to provide fresh momentum for bilateral trade, infrastructure development and private-sector expansion. The strengthened partnership underscores a shared ambition to build a more robust economic relationship, leveraging Nigeria's market potential and the UAE's global investment expertise to drive mutual prosperity in the years ahead.



Ojodu LCDA Inaugurates Council Complex, Health Centres

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Segun Odumbaku, has commissioned a new council complex alongside three modern Primary Health Centres as part of efforts to strengthen grassroots governance and improve access to essential services for residents. The newly inaugurated council complex features remodelled administrative blocks, a new executive council (exco) building, a marriage registry, a legislative building, as well as dedicated chapel and mosque facilities, designed to promote efficient administration and inclusiveness within the council. Alongside the administrative infrastructure, three Primary Health Centres located at



Powerline, Akiode, and Gbadamosi were also commissioned. The facilities are fully equipped with modern medical equipment and staffed with qualified healthcare personnel to deliver quality and affordable healthcare services to residents. During the

commissioning, Hon. Odumbaku described the projects as a reflection of his administration's commitment to people-centered governance and sustainable development. He noted that the delivery of both administrative and health infrastructure was deliberate, aimed at improving service delivery

and bringing government and healthcare services closer to the people. "We are intentional about transforming governance at the grassroots. These projects are not just buildings; they represent our promise to improve the quality of life of our people and ensure that no community is left behind," he said. He further

emphasized that access to quality healthcare remains a priority, adding that the new health centres would help reduce pressure on existing facilities while improving response time and service delivery in the affected communities. According to him, his administration will continue to prioritize projects that directly impact

residents, strengthen public institutions, and promote inclusive development across Ojodu LCDA. The commissioning marks another milestone in the council's ongoing efforts to enhance infrastructure, improve healthcare delivery, and deepen good governance at the grassroots level.

Traditional Leaders, Security Chiefs Unite to Strengthen Safety in Lekki

Atume Terfa



area's economic significance in recent years. Stakeholders highlighted the need for continuous public awareness campaigns to encourage residents to report suspicious activities and cooperate with security personnel in efforts to curb crime. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to fostering a secure environment that supports economic growth, attracts investment and improves the quality of life for communities across the Lekki axis. As development accelerates in one of Nigeria's fastest-growing urban districts, traditional institutions and security agencies say sustained collaboration will be essential to ensuring that Lekki remains a safe and thriving destination for residents, businesses and investors alike.

Traditional rulers and security agencies have stepped up efforts to enhance safety and maintain stability in Lagos' rapidly growing Lekki corridor, following a high-level meeting focused on addressing emerging security concerns in the area. The gathering brought together monarchs, law enforcement officials and other key stakeholders to review the security situation across Lekki and develop strategies aimed at safeguarding residents, businesses and critical infrastructure. Participants stressed the importance of stronger collaboration between local communities and security agencies, noting that effective intelligence sharing and

community engagement remain vital tools in preventing crime and responding to threats. The meeting comes as Lekki continues to experience rapid urban expansion, attracting significant investments in real estate, commerce, tourism and industrial development. Stakeholders acknowledged that the area's

growing population and economic importance make security a top priority. Traditional rulers pledged their support for ongoing security initiatives, promising to work closely with law enforcement agencies to promote peace, encourage vigilance and strengthen community-based security networks. Security officials, in turn, reassured residents and investors of their commitment to maintaining law and order through increased surveillance, improved response mechanisms and coordinated operations across the region. Discussions also focused on protecting critical infrastructure, including the Lekki Deep Sea Port, the Dangote Refinery corridor and other strategic assets that have elevated the



Ibeju-Lekki Stakeholders Hold Emergency Summit Over Community Concerns

Community leaders, traditional rulers, youth representatives and key stakeholders across Ibeju-Lekki have convened an emergency meeting to address pressing issues arising from the area's rapid transformation into one of Nigeria's most important economic hubs. The gathering was called amid growing concerns over security, infrastructure, environmental challenges and the welfare of host communities affected by the surge in industrial and commercial

developments within the Lekki corridor. Participants emphasized the need for urgent dialogue and coordinated action to ensure that local residents benefit from ongoing investments, including major projects such as the Lekki Deep Sea Port, the Dangote Petroleum Refinery, the Lekki Free Trade Zone and other large-scale developments reshaping the region. Stakeholders expressed concerns about increasing population growth, pressure on existing

infrastructure and the need for stronger engagement between investors, government agencies and host communities. They stressed that sustainable development can only be achieved when local interests are adequately protected and incorporated into planning processes. Traditional leaders at the meeting called for greater collaboration among community groups to promote peace and unity, while urging developers and public authorities to uphold agreements

relating to employment opportunities, social amenities and community development initiatives. Security issues also featured prominently during discussions, with participants advocating closer cooperation with law enforcement agencies to address emerging threats and maintain stability in the fast-growing district. Community representatives highlighted the importance of improving road networks, healthcare facilities, schools and other public services to keep pace with the

area's expanding population and economic activities. The emergency summit further underscored concerns about environmental sustainability, with stakeholders calling for stricter monitoring of industrial operations and greater attention to the impact of development projects on local ecosystems and livelihoods. At the end of the meeting, participants resolved to establish stronger channels of communication with government institutions and private-sector

Atume Terfa

investors, while advocating policies that promote inclusive growth and long-term prosperity for host communities. As Ibeju-Lekki continues to attract billions of dollars in investments and cement its position as a major economic gateway, stakeholders say proactive engagement and community-focused development will be critical to ensuring that growth translates into tangible benefits for residents across the region.

Eti-Osa Chairman Leads Flood Assessment Tour After Heavy Downpour

AtumeTerfa

The Executive Chairman of Eti-Osa Local Government, Omo'ba (Dr.) Adeola Alimot Adetoro, has undertaken an extensive inspection of flood-prone communities following the heavy rainfall that swept across parts of Lagos, reaffirming the council's commitment to proactive flood

management and environmental sustainability. Accompanied by the Supervisor for Environment, Hon. Fidelis Odufala, the chairman visited several locations within the local government area to assess the impact of the downpour, evaluate drainage conditions and monitor areas

vulnerable to flooding. During the tour, officials observed that major drainage channels were functioning effectively, with water flowing freely through several flood-control routes. Environmental teams were also seen intensifying efforts to clear refuse, silt and other obstructions from drainage systems to prevent

blockages and reduce the risk of flooding. The inspection provided an opportunity for the council to identify critical areas requiring immediate attention and ensure that necessary interventions are carried out swiftly to protect residents, businesses and public infrastructure from

potential flood-related damage. Speaking during the exercise, the chairman emphasized the importance of continuous maintenance of drainage networks, particularly during the peak of the rainy season, noting that effective environmental management remains a key priority of the administration. The assessment comes amid renewed warnings from environmental authorities about the increased likelihood of flooding in low-lying areas as seasonal rainfall intensifies across Lagos State. Residents were also encouraged to support government efforts by avoiding indiscriminate

waste disposal, which often contributes to clogged drainage channels and worsens flooding during heavy rains. The Eti-Osa Local Government administration reiterated its dedication to strengthening flood-control measures, improving environmental sanitation and investing in resilient infrastructure aimed at enhancing the safety and well-being of communities across the council area. As the rainy season progresses, the local government says it will continue to monitor vulnerable locations and implement preventive measures to minimise disruptions and safeguard lives and property.



NULGE Holds Workers' Forum, Commends Johnson

Kehinde Adeleye

The Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), Alimosho Local Government Branch, has convened its second-quarter Workers' Forum, bringing together workers, management and political office holders to review council activities, discuss staff welfare and address issues affecting service delivery. The gathering also provided an opportunity for workers to engage directly with the council leadership on challenges confronting them in the discharge of their duties and ways to improve productivity. Speaking at the forum, the Chairman of NULGE in Alimosho, Comrade Gbenga Afolabi, praised the Executive Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Akinpelu Ibrahim Johnson, for what he described as visible improvements in governance and a sustained commitment to workers' welfare. According to him, the administration has demonstrated a willingness to fulfil many of the promises made to



workers and residents at the beginning of its tenure. "This is truly a government of the people. This is not about unnecessary praise. Most of the promises made during the electioneering period are gradually becoming reality. As workers, we also have a responsibility to reciprocate this gesture by carrying out our duties diligently and ensuring service delivery to our people," he said. Members of the council management team, including the Council Manager, Mr. Lawal Rafiu; the Council Treasurer, Mrs. Yusuf Ogunbakin-Saidat; and the Head of Human

Resources, Mrs. Omobolaji Aborishade, urged staff members to embrace accountability, transparency and dedication to duty. They stressed that internally generated revenue remains critical to the smooth running of government and the provision of essential services to residents. The management team encouraged workers to move away from the mindset that salaries should be expected regardless of productivity and revenue performance, noting that collective efforts are needed to improve the financial health of the council. Mrs. Aborishade and the Council Manager also

informed workers about the forthcoming staff verification exercise, advising employees to ensure they present themselves on their scheduled dates to avoid any complications. Addressing the gathering, Hon. Akinpelu expressed concern over the council's current revenue performance, particularly the output of some revenue collectors. "We are still far below the target captured in our budget, and this is worrisome. On my part, I have fulfilled virtually all the commitments made to workers since we assumed office, but we have not witnessed the level of

improvement expected in our internally generated revenue," he said. The chairman questioned how government could effectively deliver development projects and other dividends of democracy without adequate funding. "Do we want to continue depending solely on federal allocations? If we truly want Alimosho to grow, then everyone must play their part," he added. He reiterated that workers' welfare remains a priority for his administration, noting that efforts will continue to be made to improve staff wellbeing. "Everything concerning workers' welfare has received attention from this

administration, and we are prepared to do even more. But it is unfortunate that some people still treat government work as though it belongs to nobody. That mindset must change if we want to achieve meaningful progress," the chairman stated. The management team, in turn, appealed for the chairman's continued support while assuring him that renewed efforts would be made to strengthen the performance of officers responsible for revenue generation. Workers from different departments also used the forum to raise concerns affecting their daily operations and productivity. Responding to the issues raised, Hon. Akinpelu assured staff members that the administration remains committed to providing the necessary tools, logistics and support needed to enhance their efficiency and sustain the ongoing drive to reposition Alimosho Local Government for better service delivery.

Opeyemi Gifts Elderly Corn Seller N100,000, Employs Homeless Man

An elderly woman who sells roasted corn outside the Akinyele Public Health Centre in Abesan Estate, Lagos, broke down in tears on Monday after the Chairman of Mosan-Okunola Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Akindele Adunni Opeyemi, gifted her N100,000 to support her business. The unexpected gesture came during the chairman's

inspection of the ongoing rehabilitation of the health facility, which has remained abandoned for years. Hon. Akindele, who noticed the elderly trader attending to customers by the roadside, walked up to her stall, helped roast some of the corn and engaged her in a conversation about her business and daily struggles. The woman explained that she purchases a sack of corn for

N17,500 and spends an additional N6,000 on transportation to and from the market. According to her, she makes a maximum profit of about N7,000 in two days, excluding losses from customers who take corn on credit and never return to pay. Moved by her resilience and determination to support her family despite her age, the chairman bought all the roasted corn available at the

stall before making an instant transfer of N100,000 into her account as business support. Hon. Akindele later revealed that what touched her most was the elderly trader's remark in Yoruba: "Wahala mi o jasi asan lori awon omo mi" (My struggles and sacrifices for my children are not in vain). Overwhelmed by the gesture, the woman wept openly and offered prayers for

the council chairman and her administration, while many of those present were visibly emotional. The inspection team included the Secretary to the Local Government, Hon. Abdulhameed Alawaye; Chief of Staff to the Chairman, Hon. Tolutope Falope; Council Manager, Pastor Joseph Abiodun Oladeji; councillors, supervisors, special advisers, members of the council's

Kehinde Adeleye

revenue team and other management staff. In another compassionate gesture during the visit, Hon. Akindele directed that an elderly man who had reportedly been living within the abandoned health centre for more than a decade with his family be employed as a security officer at the facility after learning that he had nowhere else to relocate.

IFAKO IJAIYE

Ojokoro Residents Rejoice Over Rehabilitation of Nureni Yusuf Road

Residents and motorists in the Kola area of Ojokoro Local Council Development Area (LCDA) may soon bid farewell to the frustrations caused by the poor state of Nureni Yusuf Road as rehabilitation work on the long-neglected road gathers pace. The Chairman of Ojokoro LCDA, Hon. (Barr.) Oluyemisi Adenike Rosiji, on Saturday inspected the ongoing project to assess the level of work done and ensure that the rehabilitation meets the expected standard. For many years, the



condition of Nureni Yusuf Road has been a source of concern for residents, commuters and business owners, with potholes and

deteriorating sections making movement difficult and affecting commercial activities within the community. With construction now

under way, residents are hopeful that the project will ease traffic movement, improve safety for road users and boost economic activities in the area. Speaking during the inspection, Hon. Rosiji said her administration remains committed to executing projects that have a direct impact on the daily lives of residents, noting that road infrastructure is critical to the growth and development of a young community. She explained that improving road

networks across Ojokoro LCDA is part of her administration's broader agenda to make communities more accessible, stimulate local businesses and enhance the quality of life for residents. According to the chairman, investment in durable infrastructure goes beyond fixing roads, as it also opens up opportunities for businesses to thrive, supports social interactions and contributes to the overall prosperity of communities. She assured residents that her

Kehinde Adeleye

administration would continue to embark on people-focused projects and sustainable development initiatives aimed at addressing pressing needs at the grassroots and delivering lasting benefits to the people. The rehabilitation of Nureni Yusuf Road is expected to bring much-needed relief to residents who have endured years of difficult commuting conditions and demonstrate the council's commitment to improving infrastructure across Ojokoro LCDA.

Environmental Sanitation: Agbado Oke-Odo CDC Engages LAWMA, PSP Operators

Kehinde Adeleye



In a renewed effort to promote a cleaner, healthier and more livable environment, stakeholders in Àgbàdò Oke-Odo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have met to address ongoing challenges in waste collection and disposal across the community. The meeting, convened by the Community Development Committee (CDC), brought together representatives of the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), Private Sector Participation (PSP) waste operators, and key environmental stakeholders to chart practical solutions to persistent sanitation concerns within the LCDA. The engagement was aimed at strengthening coordination among all parties involved in waste management, improving service delivery, and ensuring that refuse collection across communities is carried out more efficiently and consistently. Also in attendance was the Head of Department, Environment, Àgbàdò Oke-Odo LCDA, who contributed to discussions focused on enhancing environmental management systems and improving operational effectiveness within the council area. Stakeholders used the forum to openly discuss the recurring challenges affecting waste evacuation, while also exploring ways to improve communication, accountability and responsiveness among service providers and community representatives. The meeting was presided over by the Chairman of the CDC, Mr. Ernest Olabowale Kasunmu, alongside members of the CDC Executive Committee, who reaffirmed their commitment to working closely with relevant agencies to ensure a more structured and sustainable waste management system. They emphasized that collective responsibility remains key to achieving a cleaner environment and encouraged stronger collaboration between residents, community leaders and waste operators. The stakeholders expressed optimism that the outcomes of the meeting would translate into improved sanitation services and a healthier environment for residents across Àgbàdò Oke-Odo LCDA.



Folawiyo Targets Increased Revenue With Acquisition Of New Buses

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Lagos Island East Local Council Development Area (LIELCDA), Mr. Muibi Folawiyo, has announced the procurement of new buses for the council's revenue staff as part of efforts to intensify revenue generation and accelerate infrastructural development across the area. According to the chairman, the buses will significantly improve the mobility of revenue officials as they engage with traders, business owners, and residents to ensure compliance with local levies and dues. "My LIELCDA administration

bought buses for Revenue Staff in order to intensify revenue drive to boost infrastructural development projects," Folawiyo said. He reaffirmed his administration's commitment to strengthening the council's Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) to sustain ongoing and future

infrastructural projects. "These buses are needed to help mobility of revenue staff within the city in engaging with traders, business owners and residents to ensure compliance with local levies and dues. " My administration has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the

council's internally generated revenue (IGR) to sustain the ongoing infrastructural development projects across the local government area. " The chairman stressed the critical role of timely tax and levy payments in delivering essential services to the people. " I emphasized the

importance of prompt payments and stating that the funds generated are crucial for delivering essential services, improving public infrastructure and fostering economic growth within the community." Folawiyo urged all stakeholders to fulfill their civic responsibilities by making payments directly into the designated accounts of the local government, warning against practices that could lead to non-compliance. " I urged all stakeholders to fulfill their civic responsibilities by making payments directly to the designated accounts of the local government to avoid issues related to non-compliance." The initiative is expected to enhance the efficiency of revenue collection while ensuring transparency and accountability in the process.

Folawiyo Provides Update On Road Construction

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Lagos Island East Local Council Development Area (LIELCDA) has provided updates on the road construction going on at Oshodi Street. The road construction has recorded significant progress in its ongoing project, with the laying of paving stones and related construction works reaching an advanced stage. Folawiyo said the development, which commenced recently, underscores his administration's dedication to infrastructural improvement across the council area. "Laying of paving stones and other constructional works reaching an advanced stage at Oshodi Street Lagos Island East LCDA," he



said. Folawiyo explained that the project aligns with his administration's broader vision for enhanced infrastructure in the area. "The development

which had commenced recently is in furtherance of my LIELCDA administration's unwavering commitment to infrastructural development in

the council area." The project has now entered a critical phase, with the deployment of a stone base and paving stones. This foundation is expected to guarantee

durability and long-term performance of the road. "The project has reached a significant phase, with the stone base and paving stones already

deployed an important stage that ensures proper foundation, durability and long-term road performance." In addition to the road surfacing, streetlights are scheduled for full installation along the stretch to boost visibility and improve safety for residents, particularly during nighttime hours. The chairman described the initiative as part of his administration's sustained efforts to upgrade infrastructure, drainage, and mobility within the community. "This project reflects my LIELCDA administration's continued commitment to improving infrastructure, drainage and mobility within the community a clear demonstration of the achieves blueprint of my administration."

Folawiyo Warns Defaulting Marketers, Reassures Residents On Transparent Revenue Collection

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Lagos Island East Local Council Development Area (LIELCDA), Mr. Muibi Folawiyo, has reassured residents that all revenue collection processes will remain transparent, fair and people-friendly, ensuring that every penny collected will be used for the upliftment of Lagos Island East LCDA. "In a strong message to non-compliant traders, the chairman warned of strict enforcement measures. "Defaulting marketers are warned to desist from such acts forthwith as their shops will be sealed to drive enforcement." Folawiyo appealed to all residents,



traders, and business owners to fulfill their civic obligations by paying directly into the local government's designated accounts. "I want to appeal to all concerned to

please pay their people." This latest revenue to the council's account directly for it to run effectively in providing more infrastructural development and sustain projects for the ongoing

development initiatives across Lagos Island East LCDA. The administration has acquired operational buses for revenue staff to enhance mobility and engagement with the public.

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe, has reassured residents of his administration's unwavering commitment to providing quality and accessible healthcare, as demonstrated by the successful Free Medical Outreach held at Total Filling Station, Agege Motor Road, Mushin Bus Stop. The well-attended outreach brought healthcare services directly to the grassroots, with hundreds of residents, traders, market men and women benefiting from a comprehensive range of free medical services. These included health education and counseling, blood pressure checks, blood sugar tests, HIV screening, tuberculosis (TB) screening, family planning services, free medical consultations, and the dispensing of essential drugs. As part of the programme, the Aruwe Vision+ Initiative also offered free eye screening and distributed prescription glasses to beneficiaries, significantly improving vision and eye health for many participants. Qualified healthcare professionals provided consultations and



Aruwe Assures Mushin Residents Of Unhindered Access To Quality Healthcare

administered free medications where necessary. Speaking during the outreach, the Chairman emphasized that access to quality healthcare is a top priority of his administration and assured residents that this commitment

remains firm. "Good health is the foundation of a productive and prosperous community. Our administration will continue to implement programmes that bring essential healthcare services

By Saheed Afolabi
 closer to the people, especially those who may not have easy access to medical care." He reiterated that preventive healthcare measures such as regular screenings and health education are vital to

reducing disease burden and building a healthier, more productive Mushin. Aruwe expressed gratitude to the team of healthcare professionals who made the outreach a success and urged

residents to take full advantage of all government-sponsored health programmes. Beneficiaries lauded the Chairman's efforts, describing the initiative as timely, impactful, and a clear demonstration of responsive leadership.

Aruwe Urges Mushin Residents To Stop Dumping Waste in Drainages

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Tunbosun Aruwe, has called on residents to support government efforts in curbing indiscriminate waste dumping in water channels, as his administration intensifies flood prevention measures across the area. As part of the ongoing flood control drive, the council evacuated silts along Onitire Street by Odo-Eran, Itire, following the recent desilting of drainage channels in the area. The exercise aims to ensure the free flow of storm water and prevent the re-blocking of the drainage system with waste materials. Aruwe

reaffirmed his administration's commitment to proactive environmental management and

sustainable flood prevention strategies. He stated that while the government is doing

its part through regular desilting and prompt evacuation of debris, the full success of these efforts depends on the

cooperation of residents. The Chairman urged residents and business owners to maintain proper waste disposal

practices and desist from dumping refuse into drainage channels. Residents and business owners in the area have

commended the timely intervention, noting that it will significantly improve drainage efficiency and reduce flood risks.



Jakande Urges Security Operatives To Be Proactive In Safeguarding Schools



of State Services (DSS), paramilitary agencies, the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), Community Development Associations (CDAs), traditional institutions, and other key stakeholders. Discussions focused on the security architecture around the council's 28 public primary schools, 10 junior and secondary schools, and the local study centre. Jakande emphasized the need for a coordinated and proactive security framework to ensure the safety of pupils, students, teachers, and school personnel. Jakande noted that prevailing national security challenges require local authorities and security agencies to stay ahead of potential risks rather than reacting to incidents. He stated that security is a collective responsibility and called on operatives to heighten surveillance and collaboration with school authorities and community leaders. As part of the resolutions from the meeting, schools across the LCDA will now benefit from enhanced security surveillance during and after school hours through increased inter-agency collaboration.

The Chairman of Odi Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Mr. Seyi Jakande, has urged security operatives and

relevant agencies to remain vigilant and proactive in protecting educational institutions across the

council area. This call was made during a strategic security stakeholders' meeting convened and presided over by the

Chairman, aimed at strengthening school safety and preventing potential threats to lives and property, particularly within the

education sector. The meeting brought together representatives of the Nigeria Police Force, Military, Department

Jakande Assures Residents of Reliable Healthcare

By Saheed Afolabi



The Chairman of Odiolowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Mr. Seyi Jakande, has assured residents of his administration's commitment to delivering reliable and high-quality primary healthcare services across the council area. The assurance came as the

Chairman conducted a comprehensive inspection tour of seven Primary Health Centres. The facilities visited include Ayantuga, Kajola, Kayode, Anikulapo, Ajisegiri, Awolowo, and Coker. During the tour, Mr. Jakande

engaged directly with medical staff, reviewed operational procedures, examined staff records and attendance. He interacted with patients, assessed facility standards and readiness. At the 24-hour Ayantuga

centre, he evaluated its capacity to provide uninterrupted services, while the newly completed Kayode centre was inspected for commissioning readiness and its expected impact on the community. Speaking during the inspection,

the Chairman explained his administration's focus on accessible, efficient, and patient-centred healthcare. "Our people deserve healthcare that is both accessible and reliable. These inspections help us identify strengths and

address gaps," he said. He assured residents that the findings from the tour will be used to further strengthen service delivery, improve accountability, and ensure all health centres operate at optimal levels to meet the needs of the people.

How a Dawn Security Exposed Growing Threat to Igbogbo-Oreta Community

By Emmanuel Daniji

For months, residents and business owners along the Igbogbo-Oreta Road corridor lived with growing anxiety. Stories of robberies, theft, burglary and suspicious movements had become increasingly common in conversations across the Morekete area of Oreta. Many residents feared that criminal elements were gradually establishing a foothold within the community, threatening the peace and security that families and businesses depend on. On Monday morning, those concerns prompted a decisive response. In a coordinated security operation led by the Executive Chairman of Igbogbo/Baiyeku Local Council Development Area (IBLCDA), Omo'ba Hammed Olalekan Aroyewun, security operatives uncovered what authorities described as a suspected criminal hideout concealed within a cluster of makeshift structures in the Morekete axis of Oreta. The operation, carried out in collaboration with the Joint Task Force (JTF) under the leadership of Commander Dare Igbasan, resulted in the arrest of several suspects and the recovery of illicit substances, dangerous weapons and other items believed to be connected to criminal activities. For many residents, the operation represented



more than just another security exercise. It was a response to months of fear and uncertainty. According to reports, intelligence gathered by security agencies indicated that the makeshift settlement had become a meeting point for individuals allegedly involved in various criminal activities within and around the community. Residents and traders had reportedly raised repeated alarms over increasing incidents of robbery, burglary and anti-social behaviour, urging authorities to intervene before the situation escalated further. Acting on the intelligence received, Chairman Aroyewun mobilized security personnel for an early morning operation designed to dismantle the illegal structures and prevent the location

from serving as a base for criminal operations. What security operatives discovered during the raid raised serious concerns. Among the items recovered were quantities of marijuana, codeine, crystal methamphetamine and tramadol, substances commonly associated with illicit drug use and trafficking. The security team also recovered a bulletproof vest, an axe and several items suspected to have been stolen from victims of criminal activities. Authorities confirmed that several suspects apprehended during the operation have been transferred to relevant security agencies for further investigation and possible prosecution. Speaking after the exercise, Chairman Aroyewun described the discoveries as deeply

troubling and indicative of a security threat that required immediate intervention. According to him, the location had evolved beyond an environmental nuisance into a potential centre for criminal activities capable of undermining public safety within the council area. "We cannot allow any part of our community to become a safe haven for criminal elements," the chairman stated. He emphasized that the protection of lives and property remains one of the primary responsibilities of government and assured residents that his administration would continue to adopt proactive measures aimed at combating crime. Aroyewun noted that the success of the operation highlights the importance of intelligence gathering

and cooperation between residents, local authorities and security agencies. He explained that many successful security interventions begin with information provided by vigilant members of the public. The chairman therefore urged residents to remain observant and continue reporting suspicious activities within their neighbourhoods, assuring them that all information shared with authorities would be treated with confidentiality. According to him, community participation remains one of the most effective weapons against criminality. Security experts have long maintained that local intelligence often plays a critical role in preventing crimes before they occur, particularly in densely populated urban communities where criminal elements attempt to blend into everyday activities. Beyond the arrests and recoveries, authorities have also commenced investigations into individuals responsible for erecting or facilitating the use of the structures allegedly linked to criminal activities. Officials warned that anyone found harbouring, assisting or enabling criminal operations within the council area would face the full weight of the law. The council administration further disclosed that similar intelligence-led

operations would continue across various parts of Igbogbo/Baiyeku LCDA as part of broader efforts to safeguard public spaces and strengthen community security. For many residents, the operation has renewed confidence in local security efforts. Several community stakeholders described the raid as a timely intervention that sends a strong message to individuals seeking to use the area for unlawful purposes. They noted that beyond the immediate arrests, the operation demonstrates the willingness of local authorities to respond decisively to credible security threats. As communities across Lagos continue to confront evolving security challenges, the Morekete operation serves as a reminder that crime prevention requires a combination of proactive leadership, effective law enforcement and active community involvement. For the residents of Oreta and surrounding communities, the hope is that Monday's operation marks the beginning of a safer environment where families can live without fear and businesses can thrive without the shadow of criminal activity. And for authorities, it reinforces an enduring lesson in modern policing: when intelligence, vigilance and swift action come together, communities stand a better chance of staying one step ahead of crime.

Benson Leads Legislative Push to Modernise Nigeria's Defence Architecture

As Nigeria continues to navigate an increasingly complex security landscape, lawmakers at the National Assembly are intensifying efforts to strengthen the country's defence institutions through far-reaching legislative reforms aimed at enhancing military effectiveness, professionalism and national security. At the centre of these efforts is the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Defence, Rep. Babajimi Adegoke Benson, who has described the defence-related bills currently before the National Assembly as critical measures designed to reposition Nigeria's Armed Forces for emerging security realities. The lawmaker, who represents Ikorodu Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, made the remarks following a two-day public hearing organised by the House Committee on Defence, which brought together key stakeholders from across the nation's security and defence ecosystem. The high-profile hearing was officially declared open by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, PhD, and attracted the participation of the Honourable Minister of Defence, senior military officers, heads of security agencies, government



parastatals, veterans' groups, civil society organisations, policy experts and other stakeholders committed to strengthening Nigeria's security framework. For many observers, the gathering reflected the growing urgency surrounding national security discussions and the need to align existing defence structures with contemporary challenges confronting the nation. Speaking after presiding over the hearing, Rep. Benson emphasized that evolving security threats require corresponding reforms in governance, legislation and institutional capacity. According to him, Nigeria's defence architecture must continue to adapt to meet both present and future security demands. "Over the past two days, I have had the privilege of presiding over a very productive Public

Hearing organised by the House Committee on Defence on several critical Bills aimed at strengthening Nigeria's defence architecture and enhancing the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces," Benson stated. The lawmaker noted that the changing nature of modern security threats demands a proactive approach to policy formulation and institutional reform. "As a nation confronting increasingly complex and evolving security challenges, it is imperative that our laws, institutions and policies keep pace with contemporary realities," he added. At the heart of the proposed legislation, according to Benson, is the desire to build a more capable, professional and efficient military institution that can effectively fulfil its constitutional responsibilities while meeting global standards. He explained that the bills

under consideration seek to address several critical areas, including military professionalism, personnel welfare, training, research and strategic coordination among the nation's armed services. "These proposed legislative reforms are designed to strengthen military professionalism, improve personnel welfare, enhance military education and training, deepen inter-service coordination, promote strategic research and innovation, and ensure that our defence institutions are better positioned to fulfil their constitutional responsibilities," he explained. Security analysts have often argued that modern defence systems require continuous review and adaptation, particularly as nations confront emerging threats ranging from terrorism and cybercrime to transnational organised crime and technological warfare. The public hearing provided stakeholders with an opportunity to scrutinise the proposed bills, contribute expert recommendations and identify areas requiring further refinement before the legislation progresses through the National Assembly. Rep. Benson expressed satisfaction with the quality of contributions received during the deliberations, describing the discussions as constructive, solution-oriented and reflective

By Emmanuel Daniji

of a shared commitment to strengthening Nigeria's defence sector. According to him, the broad participation witnessed during the hearing demonstrates the value of inclusive governance and collaborative policymaking. "I am particularly encouraged by the quality of engagement witnessed throughout the hearing. Deliberations were robust, enlightening and solution-driven, with stakeholders providing valuable insights and practical recommendations that will enrich the legislative process and ultimately strengthen the Bills under consideration," he said. The committee chairman further stressed that effective legislation is often the product of collective input from citizens, experts and institutions directly affected by such laws. "This engagement once again demonstrates the importance of public participation in lawmaking. The best laws are often those shaped by the collective wisdom, experience and contributions of the people they are intended to serve," he noted. He also extended appreciation to participants who submitted memoranda and contributed to discussions during the hearing, describing their involvement as

crucial to achieving meaningful reforms. "I sincerely thank all stakeholders who honoured our invitation, submitted memoranda and actively participated in the discussions. Your contributions have further strengthened our resolve to pursue legislative reforms that will bolster national security, enhance institutional effectiveness and contribute to a safer and more secure Nigeria," Benson stated. As deliberations continue and the legislative process advances, stakeholders say the proposed reforms could play a significant role in modernising Nigeria's defence institutions and improving their capacity to address contemporary security challenges. For a nation seeking to strengthen stability, protect its citizens and safeguard national interests, the outcome of these reforms may prove critical in shaping the future effectiveness of its defence sector. And for Rep. Benson and members of the House Committee on Defence, the mission remains clear. "Together, we will continue to build a defence sector that is responsive, resilient and capable of meeting the security demands of the entire country," he affirmed. As Nigeria confronts the realities of a rapidly changing security environment, the success of such reforms could determine how effectively the nation responds to the challenges of today while preparing for those of tomorrow.

LASU Scholar, Anjorin Attains Expands Legacy in Virology and Infectious Disease Research



By Emmanuel Daniji

In every community, there are individuals whose achievements transcend personal success and become a source of collective pride. For residents of Imota in Ikorodu Division, one such figure is Associate Professor Abdul-Azeez Adeyemi Anjorin, a distinguished scientist, researcher and academic whose journey from a Lagos suburb to the forefront of global infectious disease research continues to inspire a new generation of scholars. That journey reached another significant milestone recently as Lagos State University (LASU), Ojo, elevated Dr. Abdul-Azeez Adeyemi Anjorin to the rank of Associate Professor of Medical Virology, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to teaching, research, mentorship and scientific advancement. For many within the academic community, the promotion represents more than a career advancement. It is a celebration of years of dedication to scientific research, public health advocacy and the pursuit of solutions to some of the world's most pressing

infectious disease challenges. A native of Imota in Imota Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Anjorin has steadily built a reputation as one of Nigeria's leading voices in virology and infectious disease research. Before his elevation, he served as the Head of the Department of Microbiology at Lagos State University, where he played a pivotal role in strengthening academic standards and institutional development. Among his notable accomplishments was leading the department through the successful attainment of full accreditation from the National Universities Commission (NUC) during the 2023/2024 accreditation exercise, a feat widely regarded as a major achievement for the institution. Beyond the walls of LASU, Anjorin's influence extends across international scientific and research networks. He currently serves on the Training and Career Development Committee of the World Society for Virology, where he contributes to initiatives aimed at nurturing emerging

virologists and strengthening global scientific collaboration. His expertise has also earned him a seat on the Governing Board of the Middle East, Eurasia and Africa Influenza Stakeholders Network (ME'NA-ISN), a platform dedicated to advancing influenza research, policy development and public health preparedness across multiple continents. Recently, he was elevated to the position of *Senior Collaborator for the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Programme* at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington, United States, a recognition reserved for researchers contributing significantly to global health data and disease burden assessments. His professional commitments also include serving as an Executive Council member of the African Virologists Network and the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA), where he continues to promote scientific excellence and research innovation among emerging scholars. Within Lagos State University, Anjorin remains actively involved in institutional development as a member of the university's Board of the Directorate of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship. Driven by a passion for multidisciplinary research, he founded the *African Infectious Disease Multidisciplinary Research and Grant Initiative (AFIDMURG)*, a

platform designed to promote collaborative research, capacity building and grant acquisition in infectious disease studies across Africa. He also leads the *Respiratory and Other Viruses Research (ROVIR) Team*, which focuses on advancing understanding of viral diseases and strengthening public health responses through evidence-based research. His scientific journey has been shaped by extensive local and international training experiences. Anjorin was awarded the prestigious *Global Virus Network (GVN) Emerging Leaders in Virology Scholarship*, which provided advanced training opportunities at globally respected institutions, including the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, and the United States National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda. He further enhanced his expertise through specialized training at the Bacterial and Viral Bioinformatics Resource Center (BV-BRC) at Argonne National Laboratory and the University of Chicago in Illinois, United States. His international academic exposure also includes a training fellowship at the World Health Organization's Influenza Reference Laboratory at the Luxembourg Institute of Health, participation in the ISIRV/Christian Medical College Respiratory Virus School in Vellore, India, and a fellowship under the INGS Africa Science Advice Skills Development Programme. Academically, Anjorin's credentials reflect

years of rigorous scholarship and commitment to excellence. He earned a PhD in Medical Microbiology (Virology) from the University of Lagos in 2020, having previously obtained a Master's degree in Medical Microbiology (Virology) from the same institution in 2011. His academic foundation was built at Lagos State University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology in 2008 after earlier earning a Higher National Diploma in Science Laboratory Technology (Microbiology) from Yaba College of Technology in 2004. Throughout his academic and professional journey, his contributions have attracted numerous awards, scholarships and recognitions. These include multiple Lagos State University Conference Grants, the European Scientific Working Group on Influenza Young Scientist Grant, the TWAS-ROSSA and Nigerian Young Scientists Sponsored Conference Award, and the Luxembourg Ministry of External Affairs and Cooperation Fellowship for Microbiological Research. He was also a beneficiary of the Federal Government's TETFund Academic Staff Training and Development Scholarship, the University of Lagos Muslim Alumni PhD Scholarship in Medical Sciences, and the Lagos State Postgraduate Scholarship. Long before his emergence as a respected scientist, Anjorin demonstrated a commitment to

excellence and service, receiving the NYSC Merit Award from the Yobe State Government and the Best Corps Member Award at the Federal Government Girls College, Potiskum. Reacting to the promotion, the Executive Chairman of Imota LCDA, Hon. Benson Sunday Ayodele, described the elevation as a well-deserved recognition of Anjorin's scholarly accomplishments and unwavering commitment to academic excellence. According to the council chairman, the achievement reflects not only the professor's personal dedication but also the immense potential that exists within communities like Imota. "It is with immense joy and profound honour that I celebrate and congratulate Dr. Abdul-Azeez Adeyemi Anjorin on his well-deserved promotion to the rank of Associate Professor," Ayodele said. He noted that Anjorin's accomplishments continue to serve as an inspiration to students, researchers and young professionals aspiring to make meaningful contributions to society through education and innovation. For many residents of Imota and members of the academic community, the promotion represents a moment of pride and affirmation. In an era where infectious diseases continue to shape global health conversations, scholars like Associate Professor Abdul-Azeez Anjorin remain at the forefront of efforts to advance scientific understanding, strengthen health systems and prepare societies for future challenges. From the classrooms of Lagos to research institutions across continents, his story reflects the power of education, perseverance and purpose-driven scholarship. And as he enters this new phase of his academic career, many believe his most impactful contributions may still lie ahead.

Why I Married Myself-Denrele Edun

Nigerian media personality and actor, Denrele Edun, has opened up on why he symbolically "married" himself while marking his 45th birthday, describing the gesture as a celebration of survival, growth and self-acceptance. The entertainer, born

Kehinde Adeleye

Adenrele Oluwafemi Edun, sparked widespread reactions online after sharing a video on social media on June 13, where he announced the unconventional self-marriage ceremony. In a follow-up message shared via his Instagram story on Tuesday,

Denrele explained that the decision was not about theatrics but about honouring his personal journey through years of challenges and triumphs. Reflecting on turning 45, he said the milestone represented a moment to appreciate the only constant presence in his life — himself. "Till

death didn't do us part. So I married myself. After 45 years of chaos, glitter, survival, reinvention, controversy, resilience, heartbreak and triumph, I remain the greatest love story I've ever known," he wrote. He added that the symbolic union represented embracing every version of himself

that had shaped his life and career. "I am the bride and the groom. And I am marrying every version of myself that fought to get here. Today, I marry the only person who never left my side: ME!" he declared. Known for his flamboyant personality and bold fashion style, Denrele

concluded by describing himself as "The Bride. The Groom. The Happily Ever After." His announcement has continued to generate reactions online, with many fans praising the message of self-love, resilience, and personal acceptance as he marked the milestone birthday.

Davido, Dauda Rarara Clash Over Comments on Insecurity

Kehinde Adeleye

Afrobeats superstar David Adeleke, popularly known as Davido, has called on prominent Hausa singer Dauda Rarara to speak more openly on Nigeria's worsening insecurity, insisting that silence and political bias only worsen the country's challenges. The exchange follows Davido's appearance at the FIFA World Cup 2026 Countdown Concert in Los Angeles on June 10, where he wore a customised jacket bearing the inscription "Bring Them Home" alongside the names of over 40 schoolchildren and teachers abducted in Oyo

State. Rarara, in a video shared on his Facebook page, criticised Davido's action, describing it as "barbaric" and arguing that it risked portraying Nigeria negatively on the international stage. He also accused the move of politicising a sensitive national issue. "I do not usually react to issues like this, but what Davido did was barbaric," Rarara said. "How can you promote insecurity-related issues to the whole world in a way that damages the country's image?" He further questioned Davido's intentions, suggesting political undertones and warning against the internationalisation



of security matters, adding that such issues should be handled with caution and proper understanding of the facts on the ground. Rarara also claimed that public commentary on insecurity could sometimes play into the hands of criminal groups

and insisted that national security matters should not be turned into political tools. Responding on social media platform X, Davido quoted Rarara's post and fired back with a brief reply, "Debidooo," in what appeared to be a mocking reference to the

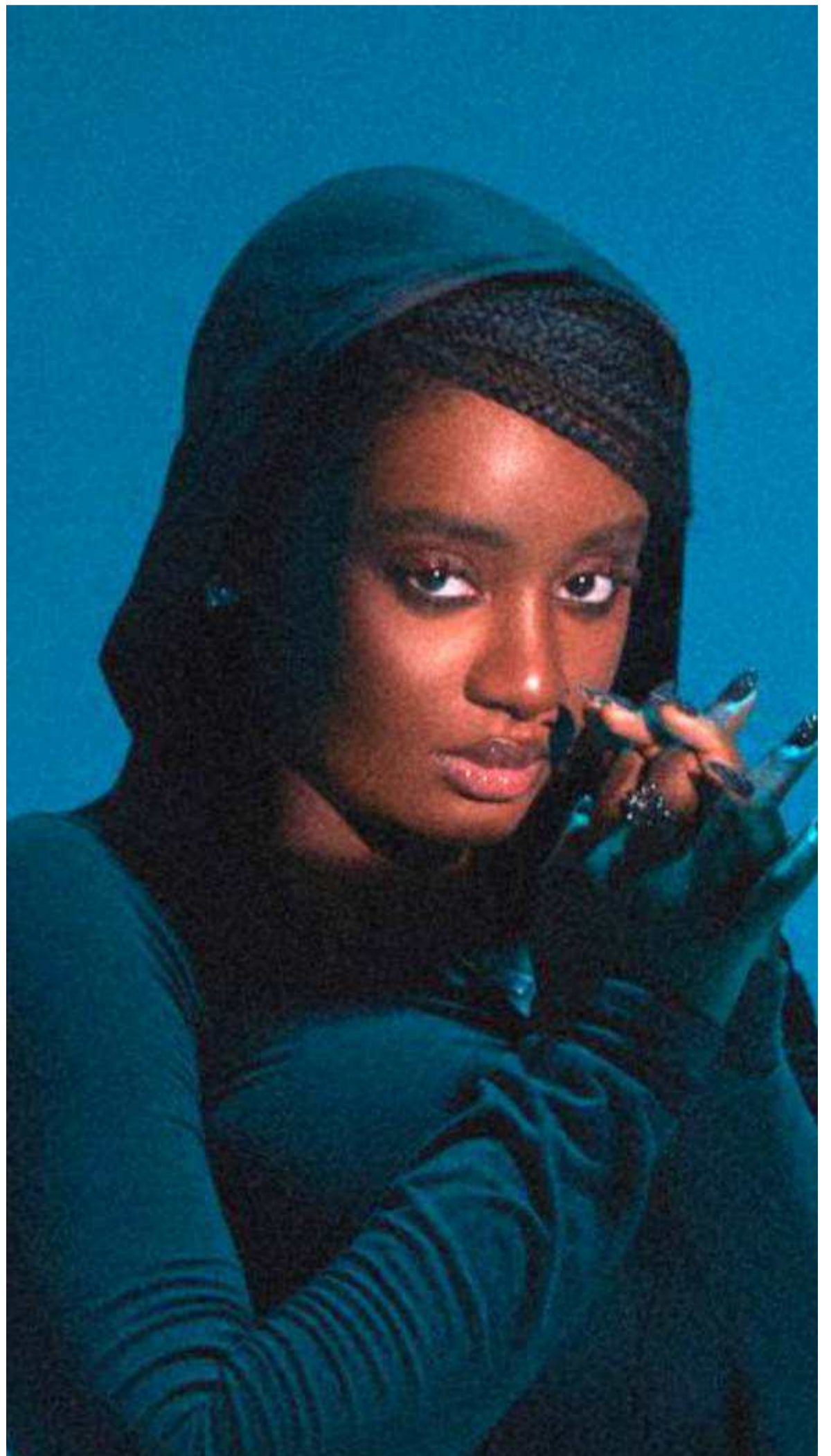
singer's political affiliation. He argued that prioritising political interests over national welfare undermines progress, urging public figures to focus on truth and national interest rather than partisan sentiments. "Every Nigerian should not stay silent about the insecurity plaguing the nation, nor should they prevent others from voicing their concerns," he said. Davido added that true patriotism requires placing national interest above politics, while calling for greater accountability and empathy in addressing insecurity challenges across the country.

I've No Plans to Get Married - Bloody Civilian

Kehinde Adeleye

Nigerian singer Emoseh Khamofu, popularly known as Bloody Civilian, has spoken about how her career as an artiste has shaped her worldview and shifted her perspective on some of the traditional values she grew up with. The Taraba-born singer made the revelation during a recent episode of the Not Just On podcast, where she discussed family expectations, cultural norms, and personal choices. She explained that becoming an artiste exposed her to different ways of thinking, making some of the conventional expectations placed on women in her background less appealing to

her. According to her, one of the major areas of disagreement with her family is marriage, which she says she has no current plans for. Bloody Civilian noted that her family often expresses concern and pressure regarding her marital future, without fully understanding that it is not a priority for her at this stage of her life. "One thing my family still does not understand about being an artiste is the fact that certain conventional things that they expect of a woman from the North are just simply not things that I am excited to do," she said. Her comments have since sparked conversations online around culture, personal choice, and evolving expectations placed on young women in society.



Emoseh Khamofu

Saheed Balogun's Family Confirms Cause of Daughter, Zeenat's Death

[Kehinde Adelewe](#)

The family of veteran Nollywood actor Saheed Balogun has confirmed the cause of death of his late daughter, Zeenat Balogun, revealing that she died from complications

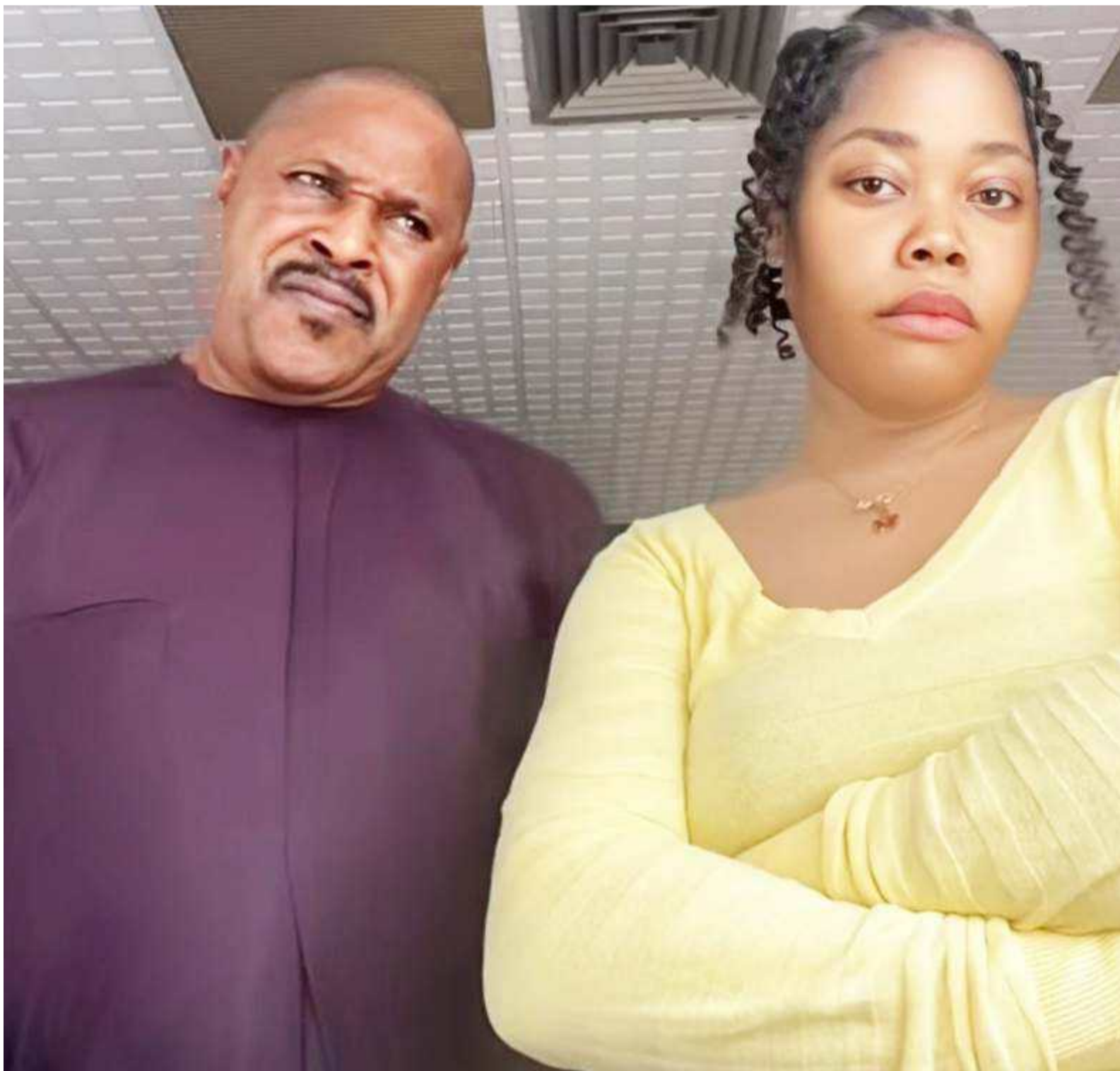
related to sickle cell disease. Zeenat, who was the actor's first daughter and also an actress, passed away in October 2024, a development that sparked widespread

reactions and questions from fans and the public at the time. The cause of her death was made public by her stepbrother, Kahlid Balogun, who shared details in a tribute posted on social media

while commemorating her posthumous birthday. Sharing a video montage of family members, colleagues and friends celebrating her life, Kahlid reflected on her strength and resilience while

battling the condition. "We only die when we are forgotten. Today, the Balogun family remembers and celebrates the life of our beloved firstborn, Zeenat Balogun, on her posthumous birthday," he wrote. He added that despite the challenges she faced, she lived

with courage and left behind lasting memories for those who knew her. "Though her journey was marked by the challenges of sickle cell anaemia, she faced every battle with remarkable strength, courage, and grace, leaving behind memories that continue to inspire us every day," he added. He further noted that the tribute also served to mark World Sickle Cell Day, aimed at raising awareness about the condition and honouring others still battling it. "As we honour her birthday, we also commemorate World Sickle Cell Day through this tribute video—raising awareness, celebrating resilience, and remembering the countless warriors fighting this condition. Zeenat may no longer be with us physically, but her love, light, and legacy remain forever alive in our hearts," he said. Zeenat was the first child of Saheed Balogun from his previous marriage to Sherifat before his later marriage to actress Fathia Balogun.



Chioma Ajunwa Foundation Sets For Major Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign

By Saheed Afolabi

Nigeria's first Olympic gold medalist, Chioma Ajunwa, through the Chioma Ajunwa Foundation, has announced a comprehensive programme to commemorate the 2026 United Nations International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, with a strong appeal for collective action to combat substance abuse among Nigerian youths. The main event is scheduled to hold on Friday, June 26, 2026, by 10:00am at the Police College, Ikeja, Lagos State. The United Nations observes June 26 annually to promote global cooperation in building drug-free societies through prevention, education, and rehabilitation. This year's commemoration is expected to be one of the largest anti-drug advocacy gatherings in Nigeria, drawing eminent personalities and stakeholders. Senator Prince Ned Nwoko will serve as Chairman of the programme. The Special Guest of Honour is the Consul



General of the of Honour. The Vice event will feature and criminality. The agencies, diplomatic of the People's Republic of Chairman of the sporting activities campaign seeks to missions, traditional China, while the occasion is the designed to highlight foster stronger rulers, faith-based Deputy Consul Chairman of Ajeromi- sports as one of the collaboration among organisations, and civil General of the Ifelodun Local most effective tools for government society groups in the German Embassy in G o v e r n m e n t steering young people institutions, law fight against narcotics Lagos will be a Guest Area. Organisers said the away from drug abuse e n f o r c e m e n t and substance abuse.

Bukola Olopade Defends NFF Leadership Amid World Cup Miss

By Scheed Afolabi



Director General of the National Sports Commission, Bukola Olopade, has thrown his weight behind the leadership of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) despite widespread criticism following the Super Eagles failure to qualify for the 2026 FIFA World

Cup. Olopade insisted that he would not support any undemocratic attempt to force a change in the federation's leadership, noting that the current board has recorded several notable achievements that should not be overlooked. "I will not

push for a change of leadership undemocratically," Olopade said. The NSC boss argued that assessing the NFF solely on the World Cup qualification outcome would be unfair, as the federation has made significant progress in other areas. "They have done a lot of good work that should

not be overlooked." Olopade highlighted the continued success of the Super Falcons as clear evidence of development in Nigerian football. "The Super Falcons have continued to achieve success." He also pointed to the Super Eagles' commendable

performances at the Africa Cup of Nations, finishing second in 2023 and third in 2025. "The national teams have still delivered notable results." While acknowledging the disappointment of missing the 2026 World Cup, the NSC Director General urged stakeholders to consider the bigger

picture in evaluating the federation's performance. "We must look at the bigger picture." Olopade's backing comes as the Gusau-led NFF administration continues to face intense scrutiny and pressure to return Nigeria to the global stage and maintain competitiveness in African football.



For News Round Lagos Read Echoneews

Read Echoneews Online
 Subscribe for Echoneews Whatsapp E-Copy
 www.echoneews.ng @ Publisher@echoneews.ng

Published by Echoneews Newspapers Limited

21, Ona Iwa Mimo Street, Ori Oke Bus Stop, Ejigbo, Lagos. www.echoneews.ng Email: echoneews1111@yahoo.co.uk
 Managing Editor: Obe Rasheed • Editor: Kunle Awosiyan Circulation: Opeyemi Akinlade • Adverts: 08025378799